

Public Document Pack

Cabinet

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

Meeting date
Tuesday, 10 July 2018

Meeting time
10.30 am

For further information please contact
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County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
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4 July 2018

The use of Welsh by participants is welcomed. If you wish to use Welsh please inform us by noon, two working days before the meeting

AGENDA

1.	MINUTES
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting held as a correct record.
(Pages 5 - 12)

2.	APOLOGIES
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To receive apologies for absence.

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.	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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To consider the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services.
(Pages 13 - 42)

5.	FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FORECAST AS AT 31ST MAY 2018
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.
(Pages 43 - 56)

6.	CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD TO 31ST MAY 2018
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.

(Pages 57 - 62)

7.	SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA REVIEW
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To consider a report by County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language and County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.

(Pages 63 - 72)

8.	WELSH GOVERNMENT TARGETED REGENERATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
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To consider a report by County Councillor Martin Weale, Portfolio Holder for Economy and Planning.

(Pages 73 - 150)

9.	CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2017-18 QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.

(Pages 151 - 184)

10.	DRAFT RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.

(Pages 185 - 400)

11.	TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2017/18
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.

(Pages 401 - 410)

12.	SCHOOLS SERVICE SAFEGUARDING POLICY
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To consider a report by County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, Portfolio Holder for Learning and the Welsh Language.

(To Follow)

13.	COMMISSIONING COMMERCIAL AND PROCUREMENT STRATEGY
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To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.

(To Follow)

14.	CORRESPONDENCE
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To receive such correspondence as in the opinion of the Leader is of such urgency as to warrant consideration.

15.	DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING
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To note the delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

(Pages 411 - 412)

16.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
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To consider the Cabinet forward work programme.

(Pages 413 - 418)

17.	EXEMPT ITEMS
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The Monitoring Officer has determined that category 3 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules applies to the following items. His view on the public interest test (having taken account of the provisions of Rule 14.8 of the Council's Access to Information Rules) was that to make this information public would disclose information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

These factors in his view outweigh the public interest in disclosing this information. Members are asked to consider these factors when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.

18.	IMPROVEMENT AND ASSURANCE BOARD MINUTES
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To receive the minutes of the Improvement and Assurance Board meeting held on 30 May 2018.

(Pages 419 - 426)

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER -
COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2018**

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

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

In attendance: County Councillors G Breeze, DR Jones and J Williams.

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor James Evans.

2.	MINUTES
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The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd May 2018 as a correct record.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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County Councillor Stephen Hayes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 7 Business Rates High Street Rate Relief.

4.	FINANCIAL OUTTURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018
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Cabinet considered the financial outturn report for the year ended 31st March 2018. The final outturn position was an underspend of £3,682k. The final outturn had been significantly improved due to Welsh Government providing additional monies for a number of services totalling £3.184m, including £1m to help support the council's continuing transformation work.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance explained that in delivering the outturn position, consideration had been given to the balance between the use of capitalisation, a prudent level of reserves and the subsequent demand on future year budgets. It was important that the council's reserves were protected and a prudent approach adopted given the financial challenge. This approach had secured an increased level of general reserves at year end of £8.7m representing 5.40% of total net revenue budget excluding Schools and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

Savings of £8.327m had been delivered, 71% of the £11.780m target and a slight decline on the 79% delivered in 2016/17. Unachieved savings of £3.4m had been mitigated by underspends elsewhere in the service areas but these remained a pressure going forward within the service budgets.

The report noted alternative efficiencies put forward by the Place Directorate that required Cabinet approval:

- Additional savings on Waste contracts and the extra income achieved from the Design Team utilised to mitigate other savings which were un-achieved within Highways, Transport and Recycling, total £365k.
- Savings from property rationalisation and increased income from the rental of other properties utilised in respect of income from workshops and Ladywell house of £135k not be achieved due to insufficient capacity within the workshops portfolio and the renovation of Ladywell House.

The report also included proposals for the creation of a number of specific reserves:

- Regional Transport monies £310k
- Builth/ Llandrindod Schools Deficit – £200k in addition to the £800k already agreed (total reserve of £1,000k required)
- Mid Wales growth fund – £150k
- Transformation grant for future demands – £1,000k
- HOWPS accrual for outstanding work – £185k

There was an overspend of £842k in the Schools Operational budget due to Home to school/college transport and severance pay resulted in outturn overspends of £314k and £573k respectively. Redundancy costs of £1.5m were originally funded against a planned use of reserve of £800k and £291k core budget. Instead of the reserve draw down, £605k of the transformational redundancies would be funded by capitalisation matched to capital receipts and the balance left within the service offset against the underspend.

RESOLVED	Reason for decision
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the contents of the report are noted by Cabinet. 2. That the setting up of the specific reserves proposed in section 4.5 of the report be approved. 3. That the proposed for achievement of savings by the Place Directorate by alternative means set out in section 3.6.1. be approved. 4. The use of capitalisation to fund school transformation redundancies as set out in section 8.3 be approved. 	<p>To outline the end of year financial position and the Council's financial performance.</p>

Cabinet considered the Capital Programme Outturn report for 2017/18. The revised Capital Programme after accounting for approved virements of £4.1m was £82.233m (£86.359m at start of year). The actual spend to the end of 31 March 2018 was £61.625m, representing 75% of the total budget. Many of the projects were yet to be completed and virements would be required to carry forward budgets to 2018/19 where appropriate.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
<p>1. That the contents of the report are noted by Cabinet.</p> <p>2. That virements as set out in section 2 of the report be approved and where necessary recommended to Council for approval.</p>	<p>To outline the capital budget position as at 31st March 2018.</p> <p>To ensure appropriate virements are carried out.</p>

6. SCHOOL BUDGETS 2018-19

Cabinet was advised that as at the 31st March 2018 there were twenty three schools with cumulative deficit balances totalling £3.71m. This compared with thirty four schools with deficits as at the 31st March 2017 with cumulative deficits of £2.2m. The cumulative deficit of school budgets placed a significant risk on the Authority's overall reserve. There had been a significant decrease in the level of cumulative reserves held, a deficit position of £0.434m. The reserves held at the 1st April 2017 totalled £0.485m, a reduction in the overall balance held by schools between the financial years of £0.919m. Finance, HR and Schools Service officers were working closely with all schools to review curriculum plans and drive down costs wherever possible to reduce deficits.

County Councillor DR Jones presented the findings of the Education Scrutiny Group and noted with concern that the situation continued to get worse despite Powys being amongst the highest funders of schools in Wales. Scrutiny was concerned that changes called for by Scrutiny and by the Wales Audit Office had not been implemented and that deficits from schools that had closed had been passed to the Council. Scrutiny was also concerned that too much faith was being put in the fair funding review which would not be ready until December 2018.

The Leader and Director of Education thanked Scrutiny for their work. The Director of Education explained that there was rigorous support and challenge to schools in deficit from HR, Finance and the Schools Service that was starting to pay dividends. He acknowledged that the review of the school funding formula would not create additional funding but it would address issues of equity and transparency which would help compliance work with schools in deficit. Finally he noted that in the months and years ahead decisions would be required on the organisation of schools in the county to secure greater resilience. Cabinet recognised that this was a corporate issue for the whole Council and noted that an additional £6m had been put into schools budgets.

The Portfolio Holder for Education and the Welsh Language referred to the huge costs of home to school transport and ALN which needed to be driven down. She stressed that fiscal probity should be top of the list of responsibilities for school governors and that passing a deficit budget should be unacceptable.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
1. That all planned budgets with a cumulative surplus at 31 March 2019 are approved	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools
2. That the clawback mechanism for 2017-18 to the schools named in Section 4 of the report should apply, pending reasons for the surplus being in excess of the position being submitted to cabinet	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools
3. That all schools that are potentially subject to clawback for 2018-19 as set out in Section 4 have their budgets re-assessed after spending plans have been submitted.	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools
4. That the proposed budgets for the following schools, who have planned cumulative deficit balances in 2018-19, are licensed: Primary: Llanfihangel Rhydithon CP Llangedwyn C in W Special: Brynllwarch Hall	To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools
5. That the budgets for the following schools remain or are placed in an unlicensed position. Primary Schools: Brynhafren CP School Llanerfyl C in W Foundation School Llanfechain C in W Llansantffraid C in W Controlled School Pengloddfa CP School St Mary's Roman Catholic Aided School Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Secondary Schools	To comply with the Authority's Scheme for the Financing of Schools

<p>Brecon High School Builth Wells High School Crickhowell High School Ysgol Maesydderwen Llanidloes High School Ysgol Bro Hyddgen Welshpool High School Llandrindod Wells High School</p> <p>Special Schools</p> <p>Ysgol Cedewain</p> <p>The Authority will continue to work closely with these schools to reduce the deficits over the next three years, with regular meetings support to ensure improved budget recovery plans. Schools and their governing bodies will be reminded of the need to comply with Notices of Concern, and the consequences of the withdrawal of delegation, which will be implemented for non-compliance within an agreed timeframe</p> <p>Schools in deficit will have regular support, in addition to the financial surgeries that continue in the summer, autumn and spring terms. Action plans are being put in place following meetings with the Schools, and a RAG rate will be given to Schools in order for the Authority to ensure those Schools with an amber and Red RAG rating are scrutinised as failure to comply with the constitutional mechanism we have in place jeopardises the education provision for today's and tomorrow's children and young people.</p>	
<p>6. Financial surgeries continue in the autumn and spring terms and schools are reminded of the possibility of claw back.</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools</p>
<p>7. Existing Loans are monitored.</p>	<p>To comply with the Authority's scheme for the financing of schools</p>

7.	BUSINESS RATES HIGH STREET RELIEF 2018-19
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County Councillor Stephen Hayes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the meeting whilst it was being considered.

Cabinet was advised that the amount of funding provided by Welsh Government grant for the high street rate relief scheme had been reduced and the maximum relief available per property in 2018-19 would be £750, which was half the maximum relief available in 2017-18.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<p>1. That a Business Rates high Street rates relief scheme 2018-19 be established in accordance with section 2 of this report.</p> <p>2. Ratepayers that received high street rates relief in 2017-18 and remain in occupation as at 1 April 2018 automatically be granted this relief for financial year 218-19.</p> <p>3. New applications for Business Rates high street rates relief 2018-19 under the scheme referred to above shall be delegated to and determined by the Portfolio holder for Finance in consultation with the Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer.</p>	<p>To adopt a high street rates relief scheme for financial year 2018-19 that meets the requirements to maximise funding available, to support local businesses seeking rate relief and complies with Welsh Government guidance.</p>

County Councillor Hayes returned to the meeting.

8.	21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME - WELSHPOOL PRIMARY PROJECT AND YSGOL CALON CYMRU
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Cabinet was advised that the former Ysgol Maesydre building had been listed by Cadw and that this had resulted in new designs having to be developed for Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng. The re-design had resulted in an increase in estimated cost of the overall project to £16,794,385, which was an increase of £3,816,591 from the funding agreed in the Full Business Case, due to:

- Re-design costs and costs associated with remodelling a listed building;
- Economies of scale no longer achievable due to the schools now being built sequentially rather than concurrently;
- Further site investigation on the Salop Road site (the Welshpool CiW Primary School site) identified that the topsoil needs to be removed and re-filled, due to a historical use of the land.

Cabinet was asked to consider increasing the funding allocation for the Welshpool Primary Schools Project to £3,816,591 to be split between Band A and Band B of the 21st C Schools Programme, and to utilise any unallocated funding in Band A to support capital investment in Ysgol Calon Cymru.

County Councillor Graham Breeze spoke as a local member to ask the Cabinet not to support the proposal until Scrutiny had been given the opportunity to look at the reasons for the additional costs. He wanted further information on the brief given to the developers and an explanation of the extra funding allocated to Ysgol Calon Cymru.

The Portfolio Holder for Education and Welsh Language cautioned against anything which would delay the works, but was advised that a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee could be convened quickly to report back to the next meeting of Cabinet on 10 July.

RESOLVED that, subject to the views of Scrutiny	Reason for Decision:
Cabinet approves an increase in the budget for Welshpool Schools Project to £16,794,385 to be split between Band A and Band B.	To enable the two schools to be built in Welshpool therefore improving the learning environment for pupils.
Cabinet approves that any unallocated funding in Band A is invested in improvements at Ysgol Calon Cymru.	To improve facilities for pupils in a major Schools Transformation project.

9. ESTYN IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE OUTCOME

Cabinet noted that as a result of the improvement conference held in April, Estyn did not require any specific action from the authority other than it delivers on its improvement plans.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That Cabinet notes the content of the outcome of the Estyn Improvement Conference as set in Appendix A to the report and requires the Director of Education to update the existing improvements plans to reflect decisions and actions agreed at the conference.	As part of ongoing scrutiny and assurance.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

This item would be dealt with as a delegated decision and was therefore withdrawn.

11. SCRUTINY REPORT ON GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS REVIEW

Cabinet received the Scrutiny report on the Council's preparations for the General Data Protection Regulations. The Portfolio Holder would be required to respond within two months.

12.	IMPROVEMENT AND ASSURANCE BOARD MINUTES
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Cabinet received for information the minutes of the Improvement and Assurance Board held on 25 April 2018.

13.	CORRESPONDENCE
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There were no items of correspondence received.

14.	DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING
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Cabinet received details of delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

15.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
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Cabinet noted the forward work programme. It was confirmed that there would be a meeting on 31 July and the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care advised that he would be bringing a paper on PPD to that meeting.

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

Powys County Council Director of Social Services Annual Report 2017 - 2018

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Director's Summary of Performance
3. How Are People Shaping our Services?
4. Promoting and Improving the Well-being of Those We Help
 - (a) Working with people to define and co-produce personal well-being outcomes that people wish to achieve
 - (b) Working with people and partners to protect and promote people's physical and mental health and emotional well-being
 - (c) Taking steps to protect and safeguard people from abuse, neglect or harm
 - (d) Encouraging and supporting people to learn, develop and participate in society
 - (e) Supporting people to safely develop and maintain healthy domestic, family and personal relationships
 - (f) Working with and supporting people to achieve greater economic well-being, have a social life and live in suitable accommodation that meets their needs
5. How We Do What We Do
 - (a) Our Workforce and How We Support their Professional Roles
 - (b) Our Financial Resources and How We Plan For the Future
 - (c) Our Partnership Working, Political and Corporate Leadership, Governance and Accountability
6. Accessing Further Information and Key Documents

1. Introduction

This annual report is set in a very different context to other local authorities in Wales, and in many ways, is a new start for us in Powys.

Over the past 12 months we have been responding to a very challenging situation following an independent review of both our children's and adults' services. This report sets out the challenges and how we intend to respond, with leadership and purpose, positive actions, and resources.

We know that Powys County Council needs to change and improve. In the delivery of children's social services, we have fully accepted the findings of the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) (previously known as the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)) report published in October 2017 and the intervention by Welsh Government. They found that we had failed to meet the high standards children and families in the county should expect and deserve. The report raised serious issues about how we provide Children's Services for the most vulnerable children in Powys; delivering improvements requires all the Council to make this a priority.

The Council is committed to safeguarding children and adults in Powys. Our programme and plans have been approved by the Cabinet and by the Assurance Board, and it will provide direction for deep and sustainable change and improvement to services for children, families and vulnerable adults in Powys.

The programme will build on the strengths of our staff who have been resilient and committed in the face of many challenges. We recognise that, to be effective, Social Services must be able to call on a wide range of corporate support services and so we will drive improvements across the whole Council working collaboratively to ensure that the service can deliver its duties.

The improvements are already underway across all our services for Children and Adults. We will ensure that we have in place services of which everyone can be proud where we can provide a safety net for those in harm's way, responsive services for people to achieve the best possible outcomes that they need, and good advice and support to improve the well-being of people in Powys.

In leading this agenda, we know that we need to build resilient communities, helping people to be as independent as they can, ensuring that as peoples' needs change so too can we in being more responsive and agile in responding to those needs.

I'd like to thank all our staff for what they have done with us so far. We know we are on an improvement journey, and I am confident that together we will deliver our overall strategy of a healthy and caring Powys.

Councillor Rosemarie Harris
Leader of Powys County Council

2. Director's Summary of Performance

These past 12 months have been extremely challenging for social services in Powys and for our Council. We have gone through an external inspection of both our adults and children's services which have highlighted several failings in the way services are planned and delivered, and as a consequence we have been working to put things right.

As an organisation, we have been achieving important milestones in our improvement journey since the inspection of Children's Services in 2017 – both those set for us and those services we have identified and planned. It has taken a considerable amount of collective effort and working collaboratively across the Council and with Partners. In terms of outcomes, there have been real benefits to some children and families and adults who use services. However, it is still early and some of our work to date has confirmed that we are seeking to make progress from a very low starting point in important areas such as professional practice and corporate ownership of service priorities.

On the other hand, there have been encouraging signs about our capacity to deliver positive change at pace while dismantling some of the obstacles that could get in the way. We can begin to demonstrate that Social Services are firmly established as a political and corporate priority and that good foundations are being laid. Again, this is tempered by realism about how far we need to travel. In adults' services we have been willing to learn from previous inspections and from best practice across Wales in applying the Social Services and Well-being Act along with other legislative requirements. I am pleased to report that that we have worked hard to ensure that:

- Individuals are engaged in a "What Matters" conversation at an early stage.
- Social care practice is becoming grounded in a more asset/strengths-based model.
- Infoengine and its ongoing development have extended the reach of information, advice and assistance services (IAA) significantly in many rural parts of Wales, including Powys, giving people access to more information.
- We are better at sharing information with our Safeguarding Team and Community Connectors working in the same environment as the information, advice and assessment teams
- Additional funding, in particular the Welsh Government's Integrated Care Fund has allowed us to commission pilot projects and develop new services which are more outcome focused, for the most part in the third sector. This approach to the IAA service encourages diversity and respect for communities through use of a wide range of third sector organisations, with an understanding of the local culture and requirements.

Looking ahead, we have produced a work programme to improve our children's, adult services and all our services over the next few years, and this annual Director's report is one way that we can be accountable to people in Powys for the steps we will make in each year to reach our overall aims of:

- **Supporting families** to stay together and reduce the need for children to be looked after by the Local Authority, by focusing on services which provide timely help, build on family's strengths and prevent greater problems arising.
- **Managing risk** confidently and effectively when providing support to families

where children and young people need to be safeguarded or they are judged to be on the 'edge of care' by making sure that their needs are accurately assessed and met effectively, with positive outcomes for them. This includes supporting families to avoid children becoming accommodated unnecessarily and by making private arrangements within their wider family networks so that children become looked after by the council only where this is clearly in their best interests.

- **Securing a flexible and affordable mix of high quality placements** for children who are looked after, adults who require care and support and their carers to meet the diverse range of their individual needs and circumstances;
- **Giving children and young people clearly planned journeys through care and into adulthood** which remain focused on achieving care and support plans, prevent drift, enable them to be reunited with family and friends where possible, have stable placements and exit the care system with good prospects for improved life chances.
- **Supporting adults and carers who require care and support**, where timely assessment and the right level of care and support is available to adults who require this support
- **Providing support to adults** by making sure their needs are accurately assessed and met effectively, with positive outcomes for them. This will be in a strengths based approach which will involve re-connecting with their community networks and supporting carers to continue to care for their relative. Risk management needs to take into account the capacity of the individual to make specific decisions in terms of their lives, and decisions need to be made in compliance with legislation in terms of best interest where deemed appropriate;
- **Promoting independence and self-care wherever possible**, to work alongside partners, especially health, to ensure that individuals with complex care needs have the assessment they require under legislation and ensure that appropriate provision is available to meet their needs if required and wherever possible the use of technology is used to mitigate risk, promote independence and enable individuals to remain in their own home for as long as possible.

Everyone has worked hard over these recent difficult few months. We have accepted the CIW recommendations from inspections, we have developed plans and have invested appropriately to support improvements to service delivery. Thanks to the hard work of staff, corporate colleagues, partner organisations and the political support we are beginning to deliver some significant improvements albeit that there is still much to do to reach the standards we aspire to for the residents of Powys.

Alison Bulman
Director of Social Services

3. How Are People Shaping Our Services?

Communicating and engaging with the public is important to how we shape the services people need and collectively evaluate how well we perform in delivering care and support to those who need it. Engaging and consulting on service development and delivery is crucial to delivering what the people of Powys require. We are eager to hear about the services we already deliver and how we can support adults and children better. This is important for all our services and those who access them. In some areas we have done well to engage adults but need to improve how children are able to voice their opinions to the decisions that affect them.

Adult Social Care specifically developed an Engagement Strategy during the year and it is now in its final period of consultation prior to implementation.

We have made good progress towards gaining a good understanding of residents' needs to inform our plans for service improvement. Considerable engagement work has been undertaken in developing the Health and Social Care Strategy, the Powys Well-being Assessment and the Population Needs Assessment, along with our individual integrated thematic commissioning strategies.

In particular, in Adult Services, service users have been involved in strategic reviews such as the Review of Day Time Opportunities for Older People, in contract monitoring and in our service user forums. We have developed and consulted with stakeholders on an engagement strategy for adult social care and this has recently been finalised in order to implement fully during 2018.

We have opportunities for young people to reflect and inform on service development i.e. we have a young people's safeguarding group and have had presentations by young people to Powys Safeguarding Group. We have re-launched the Corporate Parenting Group during this year and plan to have more engagement with young people going forward.

However, a Child Practice Review, completed in January 2018, identified several key areas for learning which have helped to shape our improvement programme and plan for children and young people. During 2018 we will create a new Charter for Children in Powys in conjunction with other agencies.

The Child Practice Reviewers met with a group of young people, to help gain a clearer understanding of their experiences as a young person in care, leaving care or getting ready to transition into adulthood. All the young people spoke of their very real fears about leaving care and gaining their independence. They wanted their corporate parents and current carers to look after them as they would their own children - being caring and caring enough to challenge them.

At a corporate level, the Council itself has focused on developing a better understanding of how residents see social care contributing to wellbeing outcomes, gathering information through our Community Connectors, for example, who are a good source of local intelligence.

At a service level, our internally and externally commissioned services collect compliments, comments and complaints and report these to us on a regular basis for us to discuss them with our service providers

The following table shows how many complaints and compliments were received during the year:

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Compliments
Children Services	97	8	9
Adults Services	85	5	45
Total	182	11	54

What are our priorities for next year and why?

As part of our overall plan to deliver a more effective council across all our services we will:

- prioritise residents and communities
- ensure residents are heard through ongoing communication and dialogue to involve them in decisions that affect them, and for us to understand the impact of what we are trying to do
- co-produce a new Charter for Children in Powys in conjunction with other agencies.
- ensure communities are engaged in a timely and meaningful manner which informs decision making and also helps us to understand how “what matters” to people informs our service development
- be open and transparent and communicate in plain Welsh and English
- publish information in an accessible way
- County and Community Councillors are well informed and actively engage with residents.

4. Promoting and Improving the Well-being of Those We Help

(a) Working with people to define and co-produce personal well-being outcomes that people wish to achieve

Understanding “what matters” in our conversations with people is crucially important in placing the individual at the centre of what we do and how they are engaged in defining their own outcomes. This is a golden thread that runs throughout our services, and is important in understanding one of the guiding principles of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

What did we plan to do last year?

In last year’s Annual Report we set out a number of priority actions to support how we can work with people to help them achieve their outcomes, namely that we would:

- Build upon our current prevention and early help services
- Carry out a 24 month pilot of a 24/7 floating support community warden service which would provide rapid response to lifeline alarms, based on the successful *Home Based Support* model developed in Rhayader.

- Ensure that we would have nine Community Connectors in Powys with good links to the voluntary sectors, to help signpost people to a range of advice and support.

How far did we succeed and what difference did we make?

- We worked with the 3rd sector to develop our preventative services.
- We developed home based support services in East Radnorshire with the 3rd sector and in Llanidloes and Llandrindod. These early intervention and prevention pilots will be evaluated at the end of the second year.
- In association with the Powys Teaching Health Board we commissioned Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations to employ nine Community Connectors.
- We worked with Powys People Direct (PPD) to develop access to the service and information advice and assistance.

Our aim is to ensure straightforward and timely access to good quality and accurate information so that individuals can make informed decisions about how to achieve what matters to them. We have used our single point of access, Powys People Direct (PPD), both to provide information, advice and assistance and also to receive social care enquiries from the public and professionals. Enquiries have been responded to online and by telephone, and to meet the needs of children, families and adults for a timely and proportionate early contact response, we have increased capacity in PPD.

However, we recognise that we have not been able to respond to calls as effectively as we would have liked and, therefore, we need to undertake significant work in 2018 to support call answering in a timely manner and to ensure that those requiring support receive it swiftly.

During 2017/18 1,327 adults contacted us for information, advice and assistance. Of these individuals who contacted us in the first half of the year 90% have not contacted us again within six months

The council is always seeking to improve the way it communicates with residents, with up to date information and advice that is easily accessible for all. There have been significant changes over the last decade in how we communicate with our public, and digital technology has enabled and challenged us to do things differently. You can now access up to date information via a desktop, tablet or smart phone pretty much wherever you are via all kinds of apps including YouTube, Twitter, Facebook etc, but is it truly accessible for all?

As a rural county in mid Wales, we offer a broad range of information in both Welsh and English via our website and printed materials, however this didn't address the third language here in the UK, British Sign Language.

British Sign Language (BSL) was recognised by the government as a language in its own right in March 2003. BSL is the first or preferred language of an estimated 87,000 Deaf people in the UK. In Wales, around 4,000 people are deaf. BSL is a visual-gestural language, with its own grammar and principles, which are completely different from the grammatical structure of Welsh and English.

Our aim was to improve the way deaf people access information in Powys by interpreting a number of social care pages with a trained interpreter. The initial scope

was to interpret just social care information as the project was part funded by the Delivering Transformation Grant from Welsh Government. However it was felt the interpretation work should go much wider to include information that Powys residents are most likely to want interpreted into BSL. So a quick look over the web analytics identified our most visited webpages, these included; recycling and rubbish, applying for a job, applying for benefits; and other important pages in relation to safeguarding.

The Active Offer

In order to implement the Active Offer effectively Powys County Council has:

- Amended systems and processes to enable staff to ascertain and record service users' first language and other languages spoken. These are mandatory questions at point of referral:
 - *“What languages do you speak?”*
 - *“What is your first language?”*
- Ascertained and recorded staff's linguistic skills in Welsh.

Our next steps are to:

- Promote the allocation of Welsh speaking staff to work with Welsh speaking service users where possible.

In order to attain a baseline understanding of current provision and to be able to measure growth or decline in the provision we have adopted the following measure from June 2018:

- Percentage of Welsh Speaking service users who receive an assessment from a Welsh speaking member of staff (ALTE Level^[1] 4+).

Whilst the baseline data demonstrates that there is significant improvement required, this measure will be used to promote maximisation of the active offer and drive forward improvement in this area. The long term aim is to provide the Active Offer to at least 90% of Welsh speaking service users.

All Service plans and strategies, including joint Health and social care strategies, reflect Welsh language needs and Planning/Commissioning for delivery of Services.

Welsh language service provision is included in all new contract specifications, service level agreements and grant funding processes. This is regularly contract monitored.

Workforce

The Council has adopted a revised Welsh Language and Recruitment Policy which places an expectation on managers to assess requirements for individual posts and teams with respect to linguistic skills. Frontline services should aim to reflect the language profile of the community served within its workforce.

In order to achieve this we have removed the essential\desirable criteria within job descriptions and adverts and have adopted the Association of Language Testers Europe (ALTE) Framework (1 -5 linguistic skills) for all posts. If appointees do not have

the minimum level 1 skill, they are required to undertake a 10 hour online welsh language course as part of their induction.

We are working in partnership with the Health Board to become the pilot site for the National Centre for Learning Welsh to Adults' web based linguistic skills assessment software.

We have supported approximately 8 individuals during 2017 to undertake the Intensive Working Welsh training. One student working within the Single Point of Access for Social Care has successfully completed the training and is now able to answer calls in Welsh to service users contacting Social Services. We are producing a film to share on You Tube to celebrate her success and to promote the training.

We continue to meet in partnership at the Powys Promotion Challenge and Support Group which recently received a Special Commendation for Leadership at the More than Just Words Showcase Event in 2017.

BrowseAloud is software that turns text on the internet into spoken word in any language. This software was procured and implemented in 2018. All information is available in Welsh and English by default and all third sector contracts place bilingual information requirements on providers.

An online database developed by Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) called InfoEngine provides comprehensive information on community support networks, including the third sector. InfoEngine is used by both Children's and Adult Social Care staff to share information with the public and it is freely available online for those seeking information, with active links from the Council's own website. Through PAVO, the Council has commissioned computer programmers to develop a link between InfoEngine and Dewis, the national well-being database, so that information from both systems is regularly shared and updated. Providing access to information is really important if we are to give people the opportunity to help themselves by access what they need.

Case Study

Client has lived in Powys moved here from out of county. His wife passed away several years ago. He is very lonely and would like some company and a friend.

Connector involvement – what mattered to the client?

During the initial phone conversation the client admitted he was struggling a bit with being on his own and trying to sort things out. He had received a bill which he hadn't paid so debt collectors had been in touch. His debt issues had started after he was unable to pay for his wife's funeral. The connector contacted Welfare Rights who said they had exhausted the options they felt were available to him. The connector introduced him to the idea of *Floating Support* and he agreed to a referral to Compass. Compass made several visits and supported client to apply for an affordable loan through the Cambrian Credit Union.

During their visits they saw how exhausted the client became when preparing food and climbing the stairs to his second floor home. They will be working with him to look at alternative housing options. Meanwhile the connector referred him to Powys Befriending Services for their lunch club. He has attended recently for the first time and was chatting away to the others in the room and is keen to keep attending. During a follow up call

with the client, he said that he was overdue a check-up of his pacemaker as he was unable to make the appointment at Hereford Hospital because he had no way of getting there. The connector introduced him to Community Transport and left him with details of this service and of the Non-Emergency Patient Transport for times when this might be an option.

Client is managing much better at home now and Compass continue to offer support. The stress and concerns about the outstanding bill and finances are now alleviated with the support of the Cambrian Credit Union. The client is able to access the Powys Befriending lunch club, this not only provides the client with a regular hot meal but enables the client to meet people and engage with people to combat his loneliness.

(PAVO Community Connectors Report Quarter 4 2017-18)

One of our priorities has been to build the capacity of our Community Connectors, in partnership with our local health board. During 2017/18 the Council commissioned PAVO to employ Community Connectors who are based within multi-disciplinary teams in the wider community and support PPD on a rota basis. The Community Connectors provide information, advice and assistance, support individuals to gain access to their local community facilities, as well as working with communities/local groups to ensure that activities are accessible. Their roles continue to develop but the evidence from case studies demonstrates that they are facilitating independent community living and that many individuals do not require formal social care as a consequence of being signposted to local community-based options as part of the assessment process.

Measure	FY 16/17	FY17/18
Community Connector referrals	1,196 -	1,710 +43%
Percentage of people that said Community Connectors helped to deliver 'what mattered' to them	-	85%

Adult Social Care is also striving to adopt good practice in terms of listening and giving carers time to participate in assessments in their own right, along with providing a timely response to assist them in their caring role. There have been delays in carers assessments being undertaken in some areas because of staffing capacity. However, the data is currently showing a significant increase in the percentage of carers being offered an assessment which is up to almost 95%. However, we recognise that there is more we should be doing to identify carers.

Where required, specialist assessments such as mental capacity act assessments, sensory impairment/deaf-blind assessments or Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards assessments are undertaken either as part of the assessment or in conjunction with it to ensure client engagement and to ascertain the care and support required. The Emergency Duty Team, which operates out of hours, provides proportionate assessments depending on identified needs for those in crisis or emergency situations.

The ability to provide timely assessments and reviews has varied across the county, reflecting recruitment and retention challenges in some areas of Powys. The Community Team supporting older people in the south of Powys for example has been affected by staffing instability. We have been relying on agency social workers and occupational therapists. In the short-term, an external organisation has been commissioned to undertake assessments on behalf of the Council to eliminate the backlog of work and this is having a positive impact. Annual reviews in adult services remains a challenge but we have started to make some progress in delivering this area

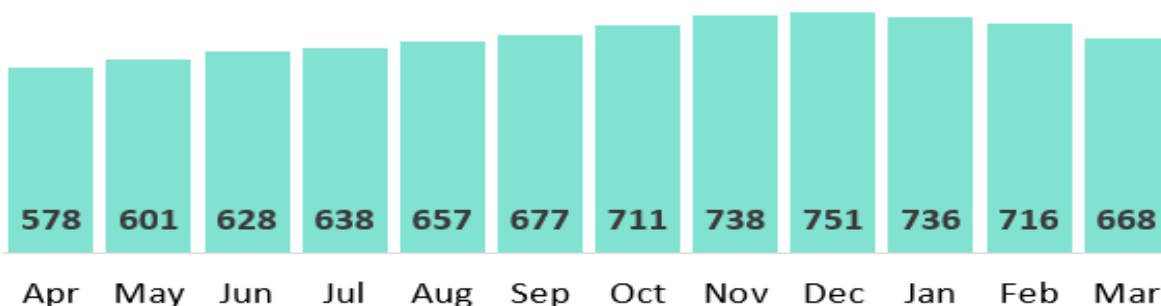
of performance. The Council has been working closely with Powys Teaching Health Board to manage winter pressures in adopting a team approach to dealing with urgent assessments, supporting flow within both hospital and community systems.

There is evidence of significant co-production in care and support planning, especially with people who use direct payments, but reviews do not always demonstrate involvement by all relevant parties or challenge whether the services provided will achieve the best outcome possible. The introduction of controlled workloads and investment in staff will enable a change in practice and appropriate support and training will be provided to ensure this happens. Team management structures have been designed to ensure structured and timely oversight of decision-making in care planning and review processes but capacity issues have made this more problematic in some areas.

For those children in need of care and support plans, there are many good examples of outcome-focused care planning which consistently reflects the outcomes of the assessment and the views of the individuals and their families/advocates. People are actively involved in planning and delivery of their care and support and they are supported to identify what matters to them and how they might achieve their personal wellbeing outcomes. These outcomes are clearly described and the actions to achieve them are identified.

We have seen an increase in the numbers of Children who require care and support plans since April 2017. However, this has been steadily reducing since the high of 751 in December.

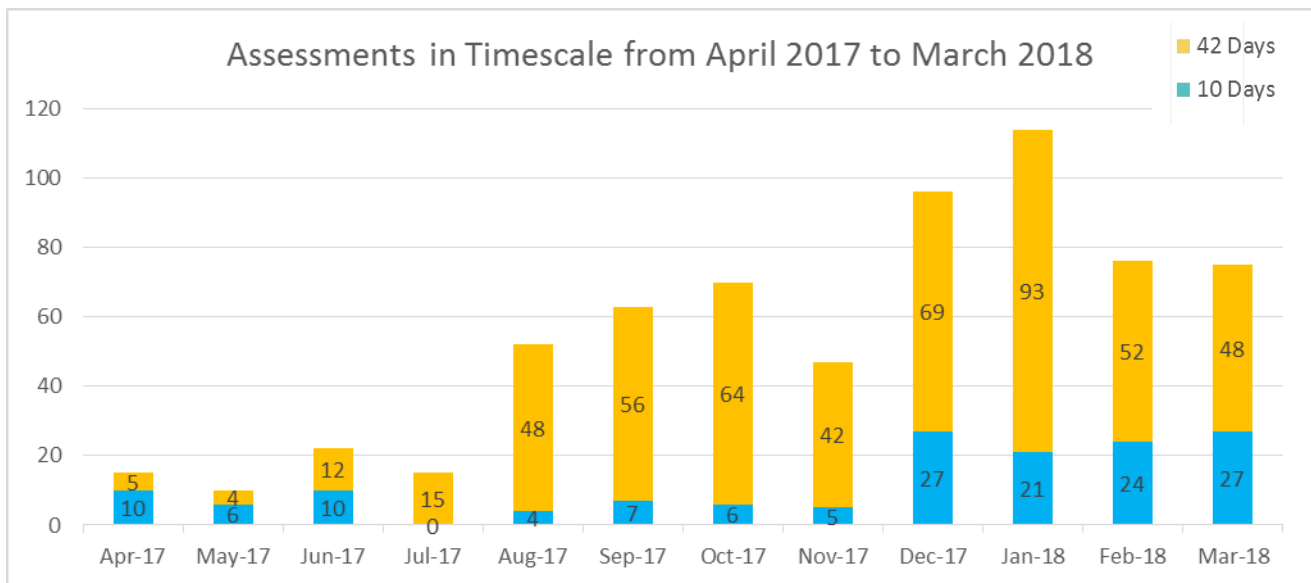
No. of Children with a Care & Support plan since April '17



The Council is determined to achieve 100% compliance for completion of assessments for Children within the statutory timescale of 42 days. However, noting that it is coming from a very low base of 53% completion in April, May and June 2017. In January 2018 we saw a significant improvement to 72% of assessments being completed within timescale and this has increased further to 86% for February 2018, and 96% for March 2018. This takes us past the 90% target set for March 2018.

It should be recognised that during 2017/18 we were above the Welsh average for 2016/17 of 90.8%, but accept that there is still considerable room for improvement. The Service continues to make every effort to deliver its aspirations of 100% compliance. This is monitored by the Leader of the Council on a fortnightly basis and exceptions are challenged to be understood.

The table below shows the number of assessments completed within either 10 days or 42 days.



Children who have care and support plans receive regular visits from their social worker. All looked after children are placed in appropriate regulated settings and receive statutory visits from their social workers. All children’s cases are allocated to qualified social workers.

What are our priorities for next year and why?

As part of our priority setting for 2018/19 we recognise that there are a range of challenges to address and have identified the following priorities, we will:

- Address the difficulties in recruiting to specific posts (including the Contact and Safeguarding Specialist Social Worker). Developing a workforce strategy which will enable us to support, develop and retain our existing workforce. Look to provide a flexible and agile working environment. Provide consistent and strong leadership across the service.
- Review our access arrangements promoting self-service and channel shift wherever appropriate. Ensuring we have the right model to meet the demands on the service. Promoting a culture of getting it right the first time for people who contact us.
- Review the end to end customer journey/experience and ensure that each step adds value and that our systems are lean and agile.
- Streamline data collection as not all the information is in one place and the IAA service needs greater co-ordination across third sector organisations.
- Work with professionals to develop their understanding and respect for the importance of IAA in enabling the local population to make informed decisions and take personal responsibility for their health and wellbeing.

- Address the need to build a culture which routinely meets the expectations of the Social Services and Well-being Act and other legislation which encourages co-production and reduced dependence.
- Address the challenges of the WCCIS system and IT in terms of inputting data, version control and building reports.
- Examine how best to respond to demographic pressures in respect of significantly older adults who are generating additional demand.

(b) Working with people and partners to protect and promote people’s physical and mental health and emotional well-being

What did we plan to do last year?

In the 2017/18 Directorate Plan we stated that we would:

- Engage people who use services in their evaluation and development

How far did we succeed and what difference did we make?

As a Council we have a range of responsibilities to protect and promote the physical mental health and emotional well-being of the children in our care, ensuring that they can be supported through community mental health services when needed and access services through local dentists and GPs. In the year 2017/18 the percentage of children seen by a registered dentist within three months of becoming looked after was 60.32% (60.0% in 2016/17) and 77.9% (68.6% in 2016/17) of children registered with a GP. In the past 12 months we have continued to support children and young people’s emotional health and wellbeing through the joint-commissioning of counselling services for young people.

Early intervention and preventative services are at the heart of the Adult Social Care strategy and the development of our joint Health and Care Strategy. Ensuring that Children have the best start in life and working to protect and promote people’s physical health, mental health and well-being which requires flexibility and innovation in providing services early enough to make a difference.

Alongside the Community Connectors, the Council also provides or commissions a range of services to promote and support peoples’ health and wellbeing:

Reablement

This service supports individuals who have recently experienced a loss of function where they need support to either regain or adapt to become as independent as possible. The evidence suggests that a high proportion (over 70%) of the people who receive a reablement service subsequently do not require ongoing care provision or have fewer care needs, therefore helping people to be more independent.

Home Based Support

A 24/7 rapid response technology enabled care (TEC) and floating support service have been merged. We are also able to provide short periods of domiciliary care to those who need some support to get back on their feet. This is currently being piloted and evaluated in three areas across Powys - Llanidloes, Presteigne and Rhayader (where the current service is being extended to include Llandrindod Wells).

Home Based Respite / Sitting Service

Carers advise that sitting services enable informal carers to undertake regular tasks while continuing to provide care and support and enables independent living/sustainable caring.

Befriending Services

These are used to support vulnerable and isolated individuals to access community activities with a trusted company for a short period of time until they are comfortable and confident in attending alone or with newly-made friends. In an evaluation report commissioned by PAVO of its Befriending Service, older people in Crickhowell described a positive impact on reducing loneliness and isolation.

Community transport services

Mobility is essential to independent living in a sparsely populated and large county. Adult Social Care financially supports a number of schemes across the county to ensure that vulnerable and disabled individuals can engage in community activities.

Community-based dementia support

This is provided by a newly-established local Powys wide service called Dementia Matters Powys (DMP). It works with communities to set up their own self-help groups based on the 'Meeting Centre' model which is designed to provide early support to those who have dementia and their carers. DMP also supports the broader development work of the Alzheimer Society in establishing dementia friendly communities.

The Supporting People Funds have enabled community early intervention on a significant scale, which integrates with Adult Social Care. Of the 1627 people reported as receiving support in the period from July-October 2017, 675 have been on a settled even keel and haven't needed to make demands for active support.

What are our priorities for next year and why?

During 2018/19 we will:

- Aim to put in place a more uniform approach to integrated assessment, requiring a strong commitment by both the Council and the health board to improve how we address peoples' physical, mental health and emotional needs
- Continue to deliver progress on securing a more sustainable workforce at the frontline.

(c) Taking steps to protect and safeguard people from abuse, neglect or harm

What did we plan to do last year?

During 2017/18 we said we would:

- Deliver benefits of older people's integrated care teams; rolling out to next planned areas
- Deliver benefits of integration children's disability service

How far did we succeed and what difference did we make?

The Safeguarding Team is located within PPD at the front end of service provision, ensuring a consistent approach to dealing with enquires. We have experienced staff on hand to support contact officers to screen information, with all enquiries forwarded to experienced designated lead managers. This screening is an essential component in the single point of access. It follows the All Wales Procedures and facilitates a proportionate response to enquiries with individuals who are at risk of moving into the safeguarding arena, as evidenced by the positive feedback from the "light touch review" of safeguarding in 2017.

There has been renewed emphasis within the Council on corporate safeguarding. Given the complex legislative context, it is essential that safeguarding activity undertaken by different parts of the Council is underpinned by an explicit and comprehensive policy which is well understood by all those who may need to apply it. This helps to ensure clear strategic direction, greater effectiveness and strong lines of accountability as well as common standards and transparent practice.

The Council has adopted a Corporate Safeguarding Policy which:

- sets out the steps that the Council will take to protect and safeguard residents at risk; and
- provides guidance for all Councillors, employees, volunteers and contracted service providers on what to do if they suspect a child or vulnerable adult may be experiencing harm or is at risk of harm.

Our Corporate Safeguarding Group will monitor the delivery of the policy, and it will be chaired by the Chief Executive and will include the relevant Cabinet members. In taking a robust and strategic approach to safeguarding it will:

- ensure that the Council operates effectively in providing guidance and has robust management and assurance processes and controls for safeguarding children and adults at risk
- help the Council carry out its statutory duties in relation to safeguarding at a corporate, service and partnership level
- drive improvements in safeguarding policy and practice.

Quarterly reports on adult safeguarding activity are submitted to Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. These demonstrate effective management oversight and good use of specialist expertise. The reports include aggregated information about referrals, case

conferences, strategy meetings and the way in which allegations of abuse, mistreatment or poor practice by professionals and carers are taken seriously.

Case Study

Tim lived in a 24 hour supported tenancy for individuals who have a learning disability. Tim was admitted to hospital following a seizure and a stroke.

Working with the medical team, it was discovered that Tim had the wrong medication, which may have led to his illness.

A safeguarding enquiry was instigated immediately while Tim remained in hospital. Powys County Council and the Powys Teaching Health Board worked collaboratively and found that an error had been made at a community pharmacy.

This finding led to a review of the systems of work at the community pharmacy as well as by the supported tenancy service provider. The situation was referred both to regulatory bodies to ensure that lessons are learnt and systems are effective and safe.

A lead coordinator for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards has provided training to a wide variety of practitioners and, in order to reduce the numbers awaiting assessment, the Authority has procured the services of an external expert who is undertaking assessments.

We have increased the capacity of Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs)/Conference Chairs to meet current demand, especially to cater for the increase numbers of Looked After Children. A threshold tool, Quality Assurance Framework and auditing tool have been developed and launched. The service has appointed a full time Quality Assurance Manager which will commence in post in June 2018.

We have re-established the Powys Local Operational Group which operates on a multi-agency basis to co-ordinate the work of the Regional Safeguarding Board and we are ensuring that senior officers make a stronger contribution to the work of the Board.

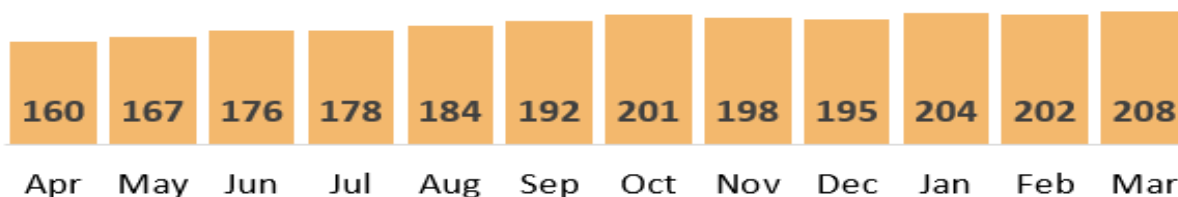
The delivery of the service is focusing on the importance of the basics - ensuring that assessments are completed, statutory visits made within timescales, Case Conferences and Looked After Children reviews held promptly, plans developed and communicated with the family to ensure the child is protected and avoiding drift in fulfilling the plans. We are also increasing capacity in the safeguarding service and developing our edge of care services to ensure that needs can be met, bearing in mind the importance of being able to act quickly to prevent problems getting worse.

The Council has responsibilities to act when children are at risk in the family home. In some cases this means that they are removed for their own safety and well-being. Although we have a lower proportion of Looked after Children (LAC) nationally (82.9 per 10,000 population for March 2018), we have a higher rate than some of our local authority neighbours.

The number of LAC has remained over 200 from January to March 2018.

However, the number of LAC is much higher than at April 2017.

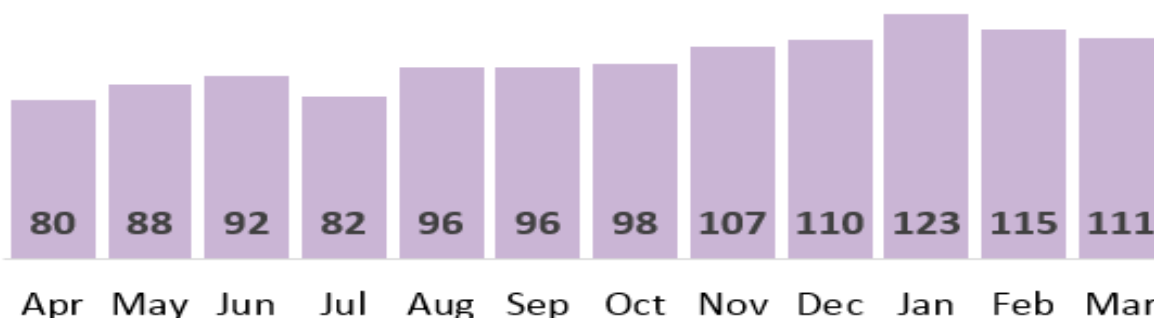
No. of Looked After Children since April '17



One of our important roles is to ensure that we undertake visits to our LAC. The percentage of statutory visits held within the statutory timescale has improved from 49% in January 2018 to 55% in February 2018, and 86% in March 2018. This is however below the target set of 100% and it is recognised that further immediate improvement is required. This will be one of our priorities for 2018/19 going forward.

The service and partner agencies will be adopting over the coming year the “Signs of Safety” model successfully used in other Welsh local authorities and beyond for achieving improved management of risk and a greater emphasis on the family’s strengths and potential for change.

We have been focussed on the impact that we can have on our child population and how the Council needs to perform in responding to those at risk. The number of children on the child protection register has decreased by 12 from January to March but is still far higher than at April 2017.



The number of children added to the register during March 2018 was 8 with 7 children being removed giving a net decrease of 4 children on the register. The average length of time on the Child Protection Register for those removed has reduced from 229 days in January 2018 to 195 days in March 2018.

The percentage of Section 47’s completed in timescale has shown significant improvement increasing from 48.9% at the end of January 2018 to 100% at the end of March 2018.

To keep children safe the service must ensure statutory visits are undertaken at the right time. At the end of January 2018 performance was low at 56%, but has increased to 72% at March 2018. The organisation has set a compliance target of 95% for statutory visits; it is recognised that further and immediate improvement is required. We accept that this is not where we need to be and we will prioritise actions to address this position during 2018/19

What are our priorities for next year and why?

During 2018/19 we will be focussed on delivering a range of outcomes, where we will:

- Increase the percentage of initial core group meetings in respect of children on the child protection register, within timescale
- Ensure that statutory visits for those on the child protection register are undertaken at the right time with a compliance target of 95%.
- Ensure that we achieve the 100% target for statutory visits to LAC and understand any variation to this expectation
- Implement the Regional Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan in Powys and provide additional multi-agency training on CSE and children who are missing.
- Prioritise safeguarding throughout all services and systems, including the front door through the expertise available in the PPD.
- Ensure strong senior management involvement and oversight, and involvement with regional partners to develop consistent pathways
- Strengthen the links between specialist safeguarding staff and care management teams.

(d) Encouraging and supporting people to learn, develop and participate in society

What did we plan to do last year?

During 2017/18 we said we would:

- Develop community-led support and services (e.g. day opportunity services)

How far did we succeed and what difference did we make?

The focus of the new social services legislation is to do more for people in supporting them to access different kinds of support. The aim is to work with partners across the community in Powys to help people to be as independent as possible where they are supported to live the lives they want, participating in those activities that matter to them.

In 2017-18, 51% of adults (197 adults) felt that they could do things which were important to them. 47% (182 adults) felt that they couldn't, or could only do so some of the time. This demonstrates little change over last year (52% (267)). Health and mobility issues were raised as being the main limiting factors.

A third of carers (33% or seven individuals) felt that they can do things that are important to them, with 24% (five individuals) saying this only applied to part of the time. Three carers (15%) said that they couldn't. One comment related to ensuring the day centres remained open while others said that their caring duties were a barrier.

Providing stability in placements for Looked After Children (LAC) is one way that the Council can help to support a key group of children and young people have access to stable placements in our school and participate in society.

In our 2016/17 annual report we outlined how:

- The majority of children and young people (69% or 41 individuals) felt that they can do the things they like to do. The remaining respondents felt that this was the case only part of the time, with parents and time cited as barriers.
- A larger proportion (86%) of children and young people (52 individuals) said they were happy with their family, friends and neighbours. Three young people (5%) said that this was not true for them with comments received relating to the 'meanness' of others.
- The percentage of children with care and support needs achieving the core subject indicator at key stage 2 was 48.15% (33.33% in 2016/17) and was 14.29% (13.64% in 2016/17) at key stage 4.
- The percentage of 'looked after' children who, during the year to 31st March have experienced one or more changes in school during periods of being looked after that were not due to transitional arrangements was 20% (21.2% in 2016/17).

The Percentage of LAC at 31 March 2017 who have experienced three or more placements during the year was 14.8% and remained constant as at the 31st March 2018 at 14.3%.

During 2016/2017 we had 17 care leavers, 64.7% of these were engaged in education, employment or training during the 12th month that they left care. During 2015/2016 we had 16 care leavers, 62.5% of which were in education, employment or training in the 24th month after leaving care.

Powys has 93 identified care leavers aged up to 24. Three of our care leavers experienced homelessness during the 2017/2018 period. With records showing that they experienced 'sofa surfing' and 1 being placed in a B&B.

What are our priorities for next year and why?

Our services will focus on providing people with the right information and advice to enable them to make informed decisions. People will be supported to live as independently as possible and learn or relearn new skills, affording them every opportunity to reduce isolation and encourage re-connection / employment if wished. Use of Technology will be explored to mitigate risk and promote self-directed support. Care Leavers are a particular focus for Children's Services 2018/2019 with the appointment of an Assistant Team Manager in the 16+ project.

(e) Supporting people to safely develop and maintain healthy domestic, family and personal relationships

What did we plan to do last year?

In the 2017/18 Directorate Plan we stated that we would:

- Implement the key milestones in the Assistive Technology strategy

- Implement the Carers Strategy and improvement in carers support

How far did we succeed and what difference did we make?

We know that most children are most likely to thrive and achieve good outcomes if they are cared for within their own families. Preventative services and early help to support children in need and their families should be provided in ways that give them every chance to stay together. Where children cannot be supported within their immediate family, there will be help available for assisting them to make private arrangements within their wider family and friendship networks and, where necessary, to make these arrangements permanent.

For 2017/18 we received a responses from 49 children and young people who undertook our survey. 39 felt that they belonged in the area where they live. 4 felt that this was sometimes the case. 1 person felt that he/she didn't and 2 didn't know. This is consistent with the responses that were received in the 2016/17 survey undertaken, and noted in the Annual Report for 2016/17.

The percentage of children who were supported to remain living with their family was 70.8% (73.9% for 2016/17).

The percentage of 'looked after' children who returned home from care during the year was 37.8% (15.3% for 2016/17).

The same is true for adults in that maintaining the relationships that matter to them is important. Community, family and personal relationships keep people connected and help to keep people engaged.

During 2017/18 we aimed to introduce technology enabled care (TEC) in the form of assistive technology and accessed the Welsh Government's Integrated Care Funding in order to do so. Prior to this action in April 2017 very few people in Powys (almost zero) would have been provided with assistive technology by the County Council.

During 2017/18 we prescribed 893 items of technology to 444 individuals. We have two categories of TEC: Telecare and stand-alone technology for unpaid carers. In terms of the latter, we prescribed 438 items of stand-alone TEC equipment for unpaid carers to look after 257 clients. The total number of carers benefiting would be higher than 257 as some individuals would be supported by more than one carer.

We have set a target to double the number of people using assistive technology within two years from April 2018 onwards.

What are our priorities for next year and why?

Over the coming year we intend to enhance our work with informal carers by providing awareness training, commissioning a carers' rights booklet, and increasing the proportion of identified carers who are offered an assessment. We also intend to work closely with Credu (Powys Carers) to support young carers and to provide effective respite where required.

Whilst the uptake of telecare and the use of technology has increased over the past year, we intend to drive this further and have set ourselves a target of doubling the number of individuals benefitting from TEC over the next two years.

We aim to support individuals to live their lives as independently as possible without social services' interventions and to support people to engage fully with their community. We will do this by investing further into home based support, befriending services, and the community connectors.

(f) Working with and supporting people to achieve greater economic well-being, have a social life and live in suitable accommodation that meets their needs

What did we plan to do last year?

In the 2017/18 Directorate Plan we stated that we would:

- Reablement - Implement practice and process changes enabling reduction in residential care use

How far did we succeed and what difference did we make?

The percentage of all care leavers who are in education, training or employment at 12 months after leaving care was 64.7% (71.43% in 2016/17) and at 24 months after leaving care was 62.5% (50% in 2016/17), and the percentage of all care leavers who have experienced homelessness during the year was 3.2% (2.7% in 2016/17).

There has been a reduction in the use of long-term residential care and nursing home provision, as more people are supported at home to maintain their independence. Staff have responded very effectively to occasions where urgent action has been required, including closure of a residential care home, winter pressures and adverse weather.

Working in an integrated manner with the Powys Teaching Health Board new joint services have been commissioned and a number are now operational. These include an 'intermediate care facility' in Builth Wells called *Glan Irfon*. This is a short-term residential home where people receive rehabilitation and can be supported when leaving hospital or if they require short term support.

It is recognised that a prudent approach means a greater emphasis on prevention and early intervention models. We are using the Integrated Care Fund provide by the Welsh Government to support new developments in order to modernise our offer to the public.

There are promising signs that a more integrated approach to service provision is being developed at both strategic and operational levels in areas such as reablement, Ystradgynlais, Brecon and Machynlleth. In Ystradgynlais, for instance, there is anecdotal evidence that fewer people are moving into care homes and fewer people are requiring domiciliary care following intervention by the multi-agency multidisciplinary team. We intend to undertake an evaluation to understand whether this anecdotal evidence can be supported by qualitative data.

Other services which have been developed in Powys during the last few years include the extra care scheme at Newtown, Llys Glan-yr-afon, which has supported individuals to live independently with care if required. There is some evidence of a reduction in people needing to live in care homes in Newtown following this extra care scheme becoming operational. We have been working also with colleagues in the housing service to develop more extra care schemes and to ensure that there are accommodation options available which provide a home for life.

We have also supported the Shared Lives scheme in Powys and intend, over the coming year to invest further into this scheme to support its further expansion. This service supports individuals who need support to live with families in the community, rather than going into care.

As part of our 'What Matters' conversations we are able to ensure that a person's outcomes and wishes are translated into positive actions to support them to live their lives in a way that maintains their access to their community, families and work. Many people need help in supporting them to live at home, and working with our partners we are able to secure a range of assistance to achieve this.

Case Study

Jane moved to a council bungalow closer to a main town so that she could independently access the community due to feeling isolated in her previous home. Jane had a tumour in her brain stem that left her with left-side weakness and as a permanent wheelchair user with the occasional ability to stand for short periods of time.

We discussed what matters to her and she explained that her key goal was to be able to bake again. Work was undertaken to allow Jane to independently access her powered wheelchair in order to get out of the house. She has regained the motivation and ability to walk to the end of her front path. This is an achievement that Jane didn't ever foresee as possible. As a result, Jane has regained her skills as a baker and is thoroughly enjoying being able to carry out her meaningful activity again.

What are our priorities for next year and why?

As part of our planning for 2018/19 we will:

- Clarify the 'offer' that will be made to children who are looked after and care leavers in line with the request from the Children's Commissioner for Wales.
- Work with the re-established Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) to engage in supporting a variety of initiatives to support children and care leavers
- Work to develop a pipeline of opportunities for supported employment for Adults

5. How We Do What We Do

(a) Our Workforce and How We Support their Professional Roles

We are working in a difficult context but Powys is fortunate to have dedicated and hard-working social care staff who routinely demonstrate commitment and care for the individuals they serve.

Powys however faces a significant long-term workforce challenge because demographic change is leading to an increase in older people (75+) and a decline in the number of people of working age.

Age Group	2014	2019	2029	2039
Working Age (16-64)	77,200	73,500	65,200	56,900
75+	15,100	17,600	24,000	28,200

This is causing recruitment and retention problems for the council as a whole. As part of a “one Council” approach, we acknowledge the need to have the right numbers of people in the right roles with the required capabilities to deliver improvement.

The Council is aiming to respond to how we more effectively deliver:

- Workforce planning
- Attracting and recruiting staff
- Leadership and management development
- Performance management of people
- Workforce development
- Pay reward and recognition
- Professional progression
- Workforce health and wellbeing.

The actions which the Council will take are set out in the Corporate Leadership and Governance Plan and the Social Services Directorate is looking to address similar issues in its Improvement Plans for children’s and adult services. This will help to embed workforce planning as part of the business planning cycle to ensure we are smarter in our planning.

The workforce in Powys are highly skilled and demonstrate an eagerness to improve services. They are also supported by the agile working arrangements which are unique to Powys because of the need to respond to issues around size and rurality. The use of technology to meet staff’s needs is excellent and we will continue to build on this.

As a consequence, in overall terms the in-house social care provider workforce is stable, suitably qualified and competent. The quality of their practice shows that they are intent on improving the lives of people who need support and care. Managers are committed to leading professional practice. Training and support provided to staff at all levels is critically important. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act has led to better strengths-based assessments in partnership with individuals, assisting them to look at all options. Resources (including policies and fact sheets) developed by Powys to support staff in providing quality assessments are complemented by access/links in place to the Social Care Wales Learning Hub.

What did we plan to do last year?

In the 2017/18 Directorate Plan we stated that we would:

- Develop enhanced quality assurance and audit, promoting improvement?
- Enhance systems and processes for learning from complaints and feedback
- Implement timely improvement as a result of regulation and inspection processes
- Implement robust supervision and appraisal processes
- Implement WCCIS

As part of our Corporate Leadership and Governance Plan 2017 – 2020 we have identified a range of challenges that we will address, namely:

- our whole workforce needs to build confidence and become more willing to challenge safely and be assertive;
- that we need to proactively renew staff engagement to improve morale, motivation for change and cultural issues;
- that our leadership needs to be proactive in working with the workforce, creating an environment and culture which enables and supports this while providing appropriate support and guidance; thereby improving morale and motivation for change.

We have recruited 45 agency staff in Children Services to cover vacancies or longer-term sickness absence. On a temporary basis, we have appointed to a number of social worker posts above establishment in order to support staff, reduce caseloads and stabilise the workforce. As well as increasing social worker capacity in front line teams, the Council is also committing to provide additional support staff so that front line practitioners and managers can focus on delivering safe and high quality services to children and their families. This includes strengthening the quality assurance functions (including Independent Reviewing Officers) and increasing capacity in Powys People Direct and the fostering and adoption services.

A workforce strategy is being developed and will be relevant to both children and adult services. Having extra agency staff does increase capacity and experience within the workforce but, if workers change frequently, it can also add to instability for children and families. This too will affect the quality of support as so much of our work relies on relationships. Our priority is to stabilise the workforce as soon as possible. A stable and sizeable core of practitioners and managers, committed to working for Powys, is the key to delivering our statutory responsibilities for the benefit of the county's children and families.

We are committed to equipping staff with the skills they need and to ensuring that additional resources are provided in areas where we need to make most difference. In their recent fieldwork and monitoring exercise, CIW identified some positive steps and early improvements but noted that there is much more work required. Because of this feedback, we will continue to focus on front line practice. The authority has appointed an experienced additional senior manager in Children's Services to add leadership capacity on behalf of the Head of Service. The focus for this role will be to support practice in respect of assessments and in ensuring that:

- children's plans are 'SMART' and effective;
- visits are undertaken in accordance with the child's plan; and
- reviews are undertaken according to the relevant timescales.

During 2018/19 we will be seeking to deliver a range of priorities (as set out in both our Children's and Adults' Improvement Plans for 2017 – 2023) in support of developing improvements in our workforce capacity and capabilities including:

- introduce a staff charter
- ensure that staff comply with their mandatory training requirements
- deliver training qualification opportunities

- secure more effective succession planning

(b) Our Financial Resources and How We Plan For the Future

Many local authorities are experiencing difficulties in setting realistic budgets for children's services and in avoiding overspends at year end. There are some consistent features which make resource management especially challenging. Decisions which affect the type and cost of services to be provided are often outside of the council's control and may be unpredictable – for example, decisions taken by the court in child care cases.

Some individual services are very expensive, where placements for children or adults with especially complex needs can easily exceed £150,000 a year and some will cost substantially more. Expenditure incurred in one year may lock the council into financial commitments for many years to come. To balance the competing priorities of managing service demand, improving quality, meeting higher expectations and reducing expenditure is especially problematic in situations where safeguarding children and adults from harm must be the key factor in decision-making. Additionally, there are many factors making the task even more difficult in recent years: increasing demand for services; new requirements from the Welsh and UK Governments; and the need to achieve budget savings in the face of reducing revenue.

Across Wales, social services have received a large measure of protection during austerity. Over the nine years from 2008/9 to 2016/7, council budgets have fallen by 10% in real terms (that is figures adjusted for inflation). Social services budgets have grown by 5% in real terms during the same period and remained stable over the last year in many local authorities. Thirteen of them did see reductions but Powys was by far the highest.

The end of year position for the Social Services Directorate in Powys in 2017/18 is an overspend of £4.408m, on a net budget of £70.488m. There was an underspend in Adult Services of £1.128m, and an overspend of £5.536m for Children's Services. The unachieved savings within Children's remains at £1.1m. Within the Children with Disabilities residential establishments a saving of £556k was not delivered. A further £388k in relation to partnership working with the Powys Teaching Health Board and third sector in respect of the new model for the delivery of Children's Services has not been delivered nor are there plans in place to progress this saving. The numbers of Looked After Children are at a five-year high (208 children), with a 34 % increase in 2017/18. Demand continues to grow, as does case complexity and use of external placements.

The Council has agreed significant investment in Children and Adult Services for 18/19.

In setting out our strategic direction we have a range of plans to improve services over the next 12 months and beyond.

We have good strategies in key areas such as carers services, substance misuse, telecare, older people, Learning Disability, prevention and early intervention. Others are being developed in respect of domiciliary care, physical disability and sensory loss. There is a Market Position Statement in place for accommodation and domiciliary care.

Operationally we have examples of services strongly grounded in analysis of community need (e.g. Llangynog day centre and Llanfyllin Mencap Service). There is good practice in relation to community engagement and planning for change, such as the population needs assessment and a review of accommodation options.

At a corporate level we know that our Council needs to address a range of challenges to improve how we use our resources and plan, including:

- The significant budget difficulties in the next few years where the Council does not yet have the plan in place to respond
- Savings and staff reductions in key areas that have not been underpinned by a long-term strategic plan for the nature and shape of the Council and the services people need;

(c) Our Partnership Working, Political and Corporate Leadership, Governance and Accountability

Working in partnership our Area Plan identifies which services will receive greatest priority in respect of integrated working between the Council, the health service and others, including:

- Older people with complex needs and long term conditions, including dementia
- People with learning disabilities;
- Carers, including young carers;
- Integrated Family Support Services;
- Children with complex needs due to disability or illness

In line with the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being Act, the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) provides cross sector leadership through a strong and shared commitment to providing seamless and integrated health and social care services for children, young people and adults living in Powys, with a primary emphasis on prevention and early intervention.

To this end, we have developed a high-level, overarching plan called the Health and Care Strategy which sets out the strategic vision and approach to be taken in Powys. The Area Plan will outline the priorities to be delivered over the first 5 years and identify the lead agency for delivery.

The Health and Care Strategy priority areas are:

- Wellbeing;
- Early help and Support;
- Tackling the Big Four;
- Joined up Care.

The RPB will also address the key strategic enablers outlined in the Health and Care Strategy which will help us to develop and deliver the proposed model of care including:

- Workforce
- Innovative environments
- Digital First
- Transforming in Partnership.

Our renewed focus on our corporate leadership and governance through our 2017 – 2020 plan sets out many challenges for us to respond to:

- The Council's vision for the future is currently insufficiently shared and understood by the Council's officers, partners and residents;
- The Council, members and officers, have too often failed to tackle difficult issues. There is a need to be even more open about what the most important issues are and focus on addressing them;
- The Council needs to create a mutually supportive leadership culture. There are examples of blurring of roles between members and officers. The respective roles need to be clear;
- There is a need for the Council's corporate centre to provide stronger, more enabling delegated leadership;
- Whilst there are some good operational partnerships, joint commissioning, improvement and rationalisation work should focus on ensuring that all are focused on improvement priorities and securing impact from their planned work programmes

6. Accessing Further Information and Key Documents

In publishing this annual report, we have relied upon a substantial amount of information, data, progress reports including those that have featured heavily this year following our recent inspections, and surveys.

The annual report identifies the progress of the Council in responding to the wellbeing of those people who need our help and support. This report however is not the only source of information available to members of the public, key partners and service providers.

We have a significant amount of background information that sits behind this report that provide additional detail about what we do and how we do it. Importantly if something is not mentioned in this report as a key priority it doesn't mean we're not doing it, as there is a lot of activity across social services that plays a part in helping us to provide for some of the most vulnerable groups in our community. It's not possible to capture everything which is why we are keen to signpost people to further information.

To access further information about what we do then these are some of the documents that will provide more detail:

- Powys County Council Corporate Leadership & Governance Plan 2017- 2020
- Healthy Caring Powys – Delivering the Vision (Area Plan)
- The Children's Services Improvement Plan 2017- 2020
- The Adult Services Improvement Plan 2018-2023
- The Powys Population Needs Assessment
- The Powys Wellbeing Assessment
- CSSIW Inspection Reports 2017 and 2018

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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET EXECUTIVE

10th July 2018

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies

Portfolio Holder for Finance

SUBJECT: Financial Overview and Forecast as at 31st May 2018

REPORT FOR: Decision / Discussion / Information

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the first update on the projected revenue spend against budget for the 2018/19 financial year and reflects the position as at 31st May 2018, it provides an early indication of the 2018/19 full year financial forecast.
- 1.2 The revenue expenditure outturn against budget is projected to be £7.27m over budget, based on the level of savings delivered to date, this reduces to £3.67m based on assurance that savings will be delivered.
- 1.3 Savings of £3.792m have been delivered to date (31% of the total £12.296m required), this leaves £8.504m yet to be achieved.
- 1.4 The report has been prepared on an exceptions basis, using actual variance against budget to define the RAG (Red, Amber, Green and Blue) status of the services' financial position. The report only highlights those service areas where projections are forecast to exceed the budget provided, or services that have a significant degree of financial risk on the Council, and where corrective action must be taken to ensure a balanced year end budget, and mitigate any risk for future years.

2. Revenue Position

- 2.1 The revenue forecast is summarised in the table below, with a projected overspend of £7.270m, excluding Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Delegated Schools. It is important to note that efficiency savings will be accounted for when they have been delivered, and we maintain this approach to ensure a prudent position. This is reflected in the figures as the majority of savings have not yet been achieved at this early point in the year and is therefore likely to improve as the year progresses.
- 2.2 To counter this prudent approach and better predict the year end position, this year's reporting will also provide a forecast based on the expected delivery of savings. This is only included following assurance from Directors that savings will be achieved or that alternative means of delivery are identified and realistic.
- 2.3 On this basis the projected position will be an overspend of £3.67m.
- 2.4 Both projections are included in the table below.

Summary Forecast by Directorate	Total Working Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under Spend		Variance including expected savings delivery	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%
Social Services	84,225	86,712	(2,487)	(3)	(1,239)	(1.5)
Environment	30,523	32,914	(2,391)	(8)	(408)	(1.3)
Schools	35,975	36,193	(218)	(1)	147	(0.4)
Resources	17,857	17,934	(77)	(0)	(69)	(0.4)
Central Activities	3,277	5,374	(2,097)	(64)	(2,097)	(64)
Total	171,857	179,127	(7,270)	(4)	(3,666)	(2.3)
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	0	(54)	54		54	
Schools Delegated	75,146	75,165	(19)	(0)	(19)	(0)
Total including HRA and Delegated Schools	247,003	254,238	(7,235)	(3)	(3,631)	(1.5)

2.5 The table in Appendix A details the forecast spend by Service, against approved working budget and shows the projected position on both savings delivery and service performance.

3 Reserves

3.1 The total revenue reserves held at 1 April 2018, together with the forecast addition/(use) of reserves during the year and the projected year end balances, as at 31st May, are set out in the table in Appendix C. The revenue reserves held at the beginning of the year totalled £40.3m, with £9.7m held in the General Reserve and Specific and Ring fenced reserves of £27.4m. The forecast use of reserves to support the overall revenue budget during the year, (excluding Schools and HRA) is £9.4m.

3.2 Based on the projections included in this report the overspend position would be financed from the General Fund Reserve. Should the position not change the level of General Fund reserve would fall to £428k or 0.25% of total net revenue budget (excluding Schools and HRA). This increases to 2.3% when the budget management reserve is included. This would not meet the policy set at 3%. With the assurance around the delivery of savings the impact on the General fund would reduce with £5.6m utilised, the yearend balance would then represent 2.5% of the total net revenue budget (excluding Schools and HRA) or 4.9% when including the budget management reserve.

4 Revenue Forecast

4.1 RAG status has been applied to service variance based on the categories below, and those with a variance calculated as "red" have been explained in more detail.

- **Red** Variance above 2%
- **Amber** Overspend of 1-2%
- **Green** +/- 1%
- **Blue** Underspend above 1%

Service Area	Net Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend as a % of Net Budget	Variance RAGB status
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
Children Services	18,503	22,357	(3,854)	(21)	R

Investment of £6.416m has been made in Childrens Services following an adverse inspection; £3.530m for Improvement Capacity and £2.886m to address service pressures. There are £2.208m of undelivered efficiencies; £1.011m brought forward from 2017/18 and a further £1.197m for 2018/19 for which there are currently no plans in place to deliver.

Looked after Children are at the highest levels for a number of years with a predicted overspend of £2.634m, despite investment of £2.463m. Fluctuations in demand and levels of complexity make it a very high risk area which is difficult to forecast, a recent placement of £4,500k per week demonstrates the potential levels of financial risk and we must assure that the appropriate level of support is in place and reviewed regularly.

Agency costs are forecast to the 30th September funded through the improvement capacity monies and in line with the Service plan, therefore if the current levels of agency are maintained beyond this point then this will lead to further financial pressure.

Improvement capacity monies of £775k not yet utilised, along with small underspends across a number of other budget heads, currently mitigate the overspend and the financial pressures above.

Service Area	Net Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend as a % of Net Budget	Variance BRAG status
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
Highways, Transport & Recycling (HTR)	21,064	23,599	(2,535)	(12)	R

The overspend in this area is mainly due to unachieved savings of £1.872m; £1,577m relating to the Commissioning project, £250k logistics project and £45k additional income target as a result of a 3% increase in fees and charges, approved during the budget process. There are a number of projects making up the overall Commissioning target with £832k of the £1,577m estimated to be achieved. The action of re-routing the rounds as part of the logistics project has been carried out, work is currently being undertaken to ascertain the total saving achieved.

A forecast overspend of £100k on training across the HTR service is expected, however, this is currently being reviewed to re-align costs with budget.

Inflationary pressures within Public Transport are projected to result in an overspend of £100k.

Trade Waste and Domestic Waste are forecast to overspend by £250k and £100k respectively, due to a forecast reduction in income from Trade Waste and projected increased fuel costs for domestic waste vehicles.

An increase in materials within the fleet workshops and a shortfall in income due to the transfer of vehicles to HOWPS no longer maintained in-house, resulting in a forecast overspend at year end of £220k.

It is expected that the over spend reported of £2,391k for the Environment Directorate will reduce to £408k by the end of this financial year. It is expected that the £2,003k savings currently forecast as unachieved will reduce to £620k by the end of the year reducing the over spend to £1,008k, with the use of one off grants and capitalisation totalling £600k this would further reduce the over spend to £408k.

Service Area	Net Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend as a % of Net Budget	Variance BRAG status
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
Workforce, OD and Comms	2,310	2,455	(145)	(6.3)	R

The projected overspend in this area relates to unachieved savings, to be found from a new service delivery model and a review of all corporate budget headings. However, no plans are currently in place to deliver this.

Service Area	Net Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend as a % of Net Budget	Variance BRAG status
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
Corporate Activities	3,277	5,374	(2,097)	(64)	R

Third party savings and additional income targets for delivery by the Income and Cost Improvement Board totalling £1.850m are unachieved and remain a pressure in this financial year.

The centrally held budget to cover the cost of the rates for all Council property, is forecast to be overspent by £126k, this is due to the additional funding required for Ladywell House.

It should be noted that insurance is forecast to have a balanced budget by year end, however there are a number of claims, estimated at £1m, which could come into fruition this year and will be charged against the insurance reserve, which is currently £1.587m.

4.2 Other Service areas which are not RAG status RED but due to a high level of scrutiny further information is also provided below.

Service Area	Net Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend as a % of Net Budget	Variance BRAG status
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	

Adult Social Care	65,722	64,355	1,367	2.1	B
<p>The underspend of £1.367m within Adult Social Care takes into account £2.2m of investment which has not been allocated to Service budget headings, this will only be released on presentation of business cases which satisfy criteria set out by full council. In addition £352k to reflect the increase in the Care Home Capital Threshold to £40k, has not been drawn down. This will be released when need can be demonstrated following the completion of client annual financial re-assessments.</p> <p>This growth is offset by unachieved savings of £1.258m. Savings of 13% have been achieved to date, however, there was a known risk around the £400k associated with rightsizing of packages through accelerated reablement, and the service is now working on delivering this through alternative means.</p> <p>The forecast does not account for future demography, learning disability transitions, contractual agreements including uplifts or winter pressures.</p>					
Schools Delegated	75,146	75,165	(19)	0	G
<p>The BRAG rating of Green reflects the projected outturn against budget plans submitted by the Schools. These plans include a significant draw on their delegated reserves.</p> <p>Budget plans across the primary sector expect to draw a net £406k from reserves, £28k in the Special sector. This will be updated monthly going forward.</p> <p>Budget Plans and forecasts received for Secondary schools are projecting a net £1.2m in year draw from reserves.</p> <p>In line with the Scheme for Financing schools, Secondary Schools are required to submit monthly forecast end of year projections. Of the 12 secondary schools 1 school failed to submit the forecast by the agreed deadline and will be notified of the failure to comply with the scheme.</p>					
Schools Services	27,215	27,580	(365)	(1.3)	A
<p>The significant variances within the Schools Service are detailed below:</p> <p>Schools Improvement – a forecast overspend of £227k is expected due to unachieved savings in respect of the change in admission age and the transformation of the 3 year plus provision. Alternative delivery options are being considered by the Service.</p> <p>Home to School Transport – the forecast position is an overspend of £148k including an unachieved saving of £81k.</p> <p>Special other – A £452k underspend is projected in this area, mainly due to additional income from the net effect of inter-authority recoupment.</p> <p>Schools delegated central – a forecast overspend of £193k is expected due to a projected overspend on the contingency for class size protection and £120k unachieved saving relating to small school closures.</p>					

5 Revenue Grants/Virements

5.1 The following sections report the grants to be accepted and virements requiring approval:

5.1.1 Grants

- Welsh Government (WG) Facilitations grant of £21.5k, previously administered by the BSU, so not additional resources.
- Welsh Government (WG) Deprivation of Liberties (DOLS) grant of £14.4k, to assist in the reduction of Best Interest Assessments (BIA's) currently outstanding.
- Welsh Government Communities for Work Plus (CfW+) grant funding of £150k, to enable employability support to be provided to people either in or at risk of poverty who are not eligible for other ESF programmes (including Workways+ Powys). This funding is being provided to all local authorities in Wales and on a year by year basis. Within Powys, the Council is planning to deliver it internally through the recruitment of 2 full-time Community Employment Mentors and one part-time Engagement and Media Support Assistant, as well as allocated time by existing staff.

5.1.2 Virements

- Previous Welsh Government (WG) Independent Living Grant £1.262m has now been rolled into Revenue Settlement (RSG) and needs to be vired to cost centres that are incurring costs following reassessment of clients, which has resulted in a funding pressure of £365k for the Council.
- Transfer the Supporting People budget of £102.2k from Housing Revenue Fund to Adults Contracts and Commissioning based on recent restructure following staff consultation.
- To vire £210k from the Management of Change fund to Highways, Transport and Recycling, following the approval of a business case for project support for the HTR Transformation Project.
- To increase the budget for additional staff within the Highways Design Team by £199.5k, and the associated income target by £218.2k, to provide sufficient capacity within the service to carry out work in respect of the Capital Programme and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA).
- Transfer of staffing budgets for 15 posts equating to £612k from Highways, Grounds and Street Scene (HGSS) to Waste in respect of street cleansing. This will enable the Service to reduce the levels of agency within waste services, through utilisation of the street cleansing staff to manage sickness/absence cover arrangements.
- A business case has been submitted and approved by HGSS which requires additional staff to be appointed to enable the generation of extra income; £150k grounds maintenance on Cemeteries, £1.2m Capital projects, £950k additional NMWTRA works, and £123.5k for 2 additional work supervisors to oversee the above funded by NMWTRA. The virement required is to increase the income budget by £2,423k. This additional income will support the appointment of 26 additional staff (circa £782K), provision of additional fleet/plant (circa £673K), and purchase of materials (circa £795K), with a target profit of £173K.

6 Savings

6.1 The table below summarises the delivery of the savings including those that remained undelivered in prior years. £3.8m or 3% has been delivered. For prudence the forecast includes savings that have been achieved or have progressed to a point where there is confidence in final delivery taking place.

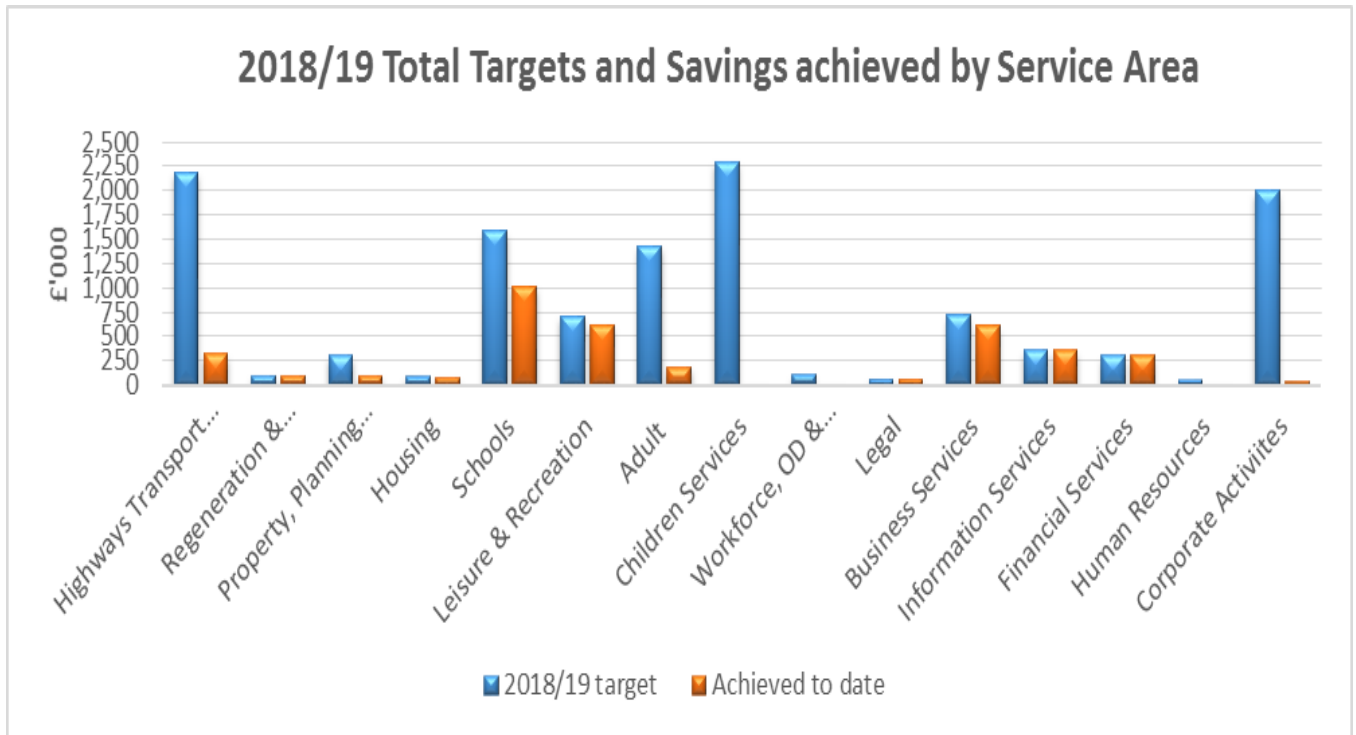
6.2 Further savings RAG provided below. by can be found in Appendix B.

	Target £'000	Delivered £'000	Variance £'000
2015/16	1,157	77	1,080
2016/17	321	0	321
2017/18	1,975	102	1,873
2018/19	8,843	3,613	5,230
Total	12,296	3,792	8,504

analysis of the showing the status by Directorate is in the table Further detail Service area

UPDATE ON DELIVERY OF SAVINGS PROPOSALS BY RAG				
Directorate	RED	AMBER	GREEN	TOTAL UNACHIEVED SAVINGS AS AT 31ST MAY 2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Social Services	2,298	1,248	0	3,546
Environment	1,708	124	250	2,081
Schools	570	87	0	657
Resources	2,013	100	0	2,114
Chief Executives	107	0	0	107
Total	6,697	1,558	250	8,504

6.3 The graph below shows the total savings target and savings achieved to date by Service Area.



7 Options Considered/Available

No alternative options are considered appropriate as a result of this report.

8 Preferred Choice and Reasons

None to consider.

9 Impact Assessment

Is an impact assessment required? Yes/No

10 Corporate Improvement Plan

To achieve the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) objectives the Council undertakes forward planning with its medium term financial strategy (MTFS) - this sets out the financial requirements to deliver the short and longer term council vision. These capital and revenue monitoring reports are used to ensure the funding identified to deliver the council priorities is spent appropriately and remains within a cash limited budget.

11 Local Member(s)

This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.

12 Other Front Line Services

This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.

13 Communications

Budget information is of interest to internal and external audiences and regular updates are provided by the Portfolio Holder for Finance. Detailed finance reports are presented to Heads of Service, Cabinet and the Audit Committee. These reports are public and are part of a range of statutory and non-statutory financial information documents including the Statement of Accounts.

14 Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)

This report has no specific impact on support services other than reporting on those service areas financial outturns. Financial Services work closely with all service areas in monitoring financial performance against budgets.

15 Scrutiny

Has this report been scrutinised? Yes / No

16 Statutory Officers

The Head of Financial Services (Deputy Section 151 Officer) has provided the following comment:

This is the first financial report for the 2018/19 financial year and the position is a fair reflection of the projected outturn. In previous years the projections have only been adjusted when there is confidence and evidence that savings have been delivered. This inevitably leads to an improving position as the year progresses. This year the monitoring reports will also provide a projection based on assurance given by Directors that savings are expected to be delivered by year end.

The Council has made a significant level of investment into social care services in Powys. The additional funding provided budget to support the increased level of demand experienced in both service areas and also funded the detailed plans for improvement. Demand within Childrens services continues to increase and placement costs are already exceeding the increased level of budget. This continues to be an area of financial risk for the Council.

School budgets particularly those within the secondary sector, remain a risk that needs to be addressed, compliance work and action is crucial to ensure that this is managed effectively.

The Monitoring Officer has no specific concerns with this report.

17 Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:			Reason for Recommendation:		
a. The contents of this report are noted by Cabinet; and b. To approve the virements and accept the grants detailed in para 5.1.1. and 5.1.2			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.		
Relevant Policy (ies):			Financial Regulations		
Within policy:	Yes	Within Budget:	n/a		
Relevant Local Member(s):					
Person(s) To Implement Decision:			Jane Thomas		
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:			Ongoing		
Contact Officer	Tel	Fax	E mail		
Jane Thomas	01597 826341	01597 826290	jane.thomas@powys.gov.uk		

Forecast Outturn and Undelivered Savings as at 31st May 2018

Service Area	Net Budget	Forecast Spend	Variance (Over) / Under spend	Total Unachieved Savings as at 31st May 2018	Service Under/(Over) spend excl. unachieved savings	Variance (Over) / Under spend as a % of Net Budget	Variance BRAG status
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	
Social Services							
Adult & Commissioning	65,722	64,355	1,367	(1,248)	2,615	2.1	B
Children Services	18,503	22,357	(3,854)	(2,298)	(1,556)	(20.8)	R
Environment							
Regeneration	1,325	1,307	18	(72)		1.4	A
Property Planning and Public Protection	7,136	7,019	117	(131)	248	1.6	A
Housing General Fund	998	989	9	(6)	15	0.9	G
Highways, Transport & Recycling	21,064	23,599	(2,535)	(1,872)	(663)	(12.0)	R
Schools							
Schools Service	27,215	27,580	(365)	(570)	205	(1.3)	A
Leisure & Recreation	8760	8,613	147	(87)	234	1.7	B
Resources							
Business Services	6,501	6,470	31	(100)	131	0.5	G
Information Services	4,125	4,124	1	0	1	0.0	G
Legal Services	3,098	3,075	23	0	23	0.7	G
Financial Services	1,823	1,810	13	0	13	0.7	G
Workforce, OD and Comms	2,310	2,455	(145)	(157)	12	(6.3)	R
Service Area Totals	168,580	173,753	(5,173)	(6,541)	1,278	(3.1)	
Central Activities	3,277	5,374	(2,097)	(1,963)	(134)	(64.0)	R
Total	171,857	179,127	(7,270)	(8,504)	1,144	(4.2)	
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	0	(54)	54	0	54	0.0	G
Schools Delegated	75,146	75,165	(19)	0	(19)	(0.0)	G
Total including HRA	247,003	254,238	(7,235)	(8,504)	1,269		

EFFICIENCY TRACKER AS AT 31ST MAY 2018

APPENDIX B

Efficiency / Saving	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total to be Achieved 18/19	Total Achieved to Date	Remainder to find	Achieved
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	%
Environment								
Highways Transport & Recycling	0	0	270	1,923	2,194	322	1,872	15%
Regeneration & Economic Development	0	0	0	172	172	100	72	58%
Property, Planning & Public Protection	0	0	31	200	231	100	131	43%
Housing	0	0	0	86	86	80	6	93%
Environment	0	0	302	2,381	2,683	602	2,081	22%
Schools								
Schools	158	0	49	1,376	1,583	1,012	570	64%
Leisure & Recreation	0	0	0	709	709	623	87	0%
Schools	158	0	49	2,085	2,292	1,635	657	71%
Social Services								
Adult	0	0	0	1,432	1,432	184	1,248	13%
Children Services	0	1	1,101	1,197	2,298	0	2,298	0%
Social Services	0	1	1,101	2,629	3,730	184	3,546	5%
Chief Executives								
Workforce, OD & Comms	0	0	0	107	107	0	107	0%
Legal	0	0	0	61	61	61	0	100%
Chief Executives	0	0	0	168	168	61	107	37%
Resources								
Business Services	0	0	92	623	715	615	100	86%
Information Services	0	0	32	323	354	354	0	100%
Financial Services	0	0	0	303	303	303	0	100%
Human Resources	0	0	0	50	50	0	50	0%
Corporate Activities	999	320	400	281	2,001	38	1,963	2%
Resources	999	320	524	1,580	3,424	1,310	2,114	38%
Grand Total	1,157	321	1,975	8,843	12,296	3,792	8,504	31%

RESERVES BALANCES

APPENDIX C

Summary	Opening Balance (1st April 17) Surplus / (Deficit)	Forecast Addition / (Use) of Reserves	Forecast (Over) / Under Spend	Projected Balance (31st March 19) Surplus/ (Deficit)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund	9,680	(1,982)	(7,270)	428
	9,680	(1,982)	(7,270)	428
Ringfenced & Specific Reserves				
Budget Management Reserve	3,584	0		3,584
Specific Reserves	2,356	210		2,566
21st Century Schools Reserve	5,524	(5,045)		479
Adult Services Reserve	2,750	0		2,750
Regeneration Reserve	100	0		100
HOWPS	185	0		185
Mid Wales Growth Fund	150	0		150
Highways Reserve	57	(57)		0
Invest to Save & Corporate Initiatives (inc JE)	5,830	(578)		5,252
Insurance Reserve	1,587	(1,000)		587
Transport & Equipment Funding Reserve	6,163	(961)		5,202
Sub-Total	28,286	(7,431)	0	20,855
Schools Delegated Reserves	(693)	(1,805)	(19)	(2,517)
School Loans & Other Items	(185)	7		(178)
Net School Delegated Reserves	(878)	(1,798)	(19)	(2,695)
Total Ringfenced & Specific Reserves	27,408	(9,229)	(19)	18,160
Housing Revenue Account	3,267	(2,653)	54	668
	3,267	(2,653)	54	668
Total Revenue Reserves	40,355	(13,864)	(7,235)	19,256

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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

10 July 2018

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies
Portfolio Holder for Finance

SUBJECT: Capital Programme Update for the period to 31st May 2018

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Current Capital Programme 2018-19

1.1 The Revised working budget 2018/19 Capital Programme, after accounting for approved virements, is £106.353m (The Original budget was £87.703m). The Increase in budget is largely due to virements from previous year's programme that have lapsed into 2018/19.

1.2 The actual spend to the end of May is £3.712m and a further £39.073m has been committed.

1.3 Table 1 below summarises the position for each directorate and service.

1.4 Table 1 Capital Table as at 31st May 2018

Service	Original Budget	Virements Approved	Virements Required by Cabinet	Virements Required by Council	Revised Working Budget 2018/19 as at 31st May 2018 (after virements approved and required)	Actuals	Commitments	Remaining Budget	
	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	%
People									
Adult Services & Commissioning	819	0	0	0	819	22	108	689	84.1%
Childrens Services	0	0	0	0	0	-219	220	-1	
Schools and Inclusion	39,367	297	0	0	39,664	579	23,010	16,075	40.5%
Workforce, OD and Comms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Resources									
Business Services	0	0	0	0	0	2	30	-32	
Information Services	1,610	0	0	0	1,610	13	293	1,304	81.0%
Legal Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Financial Services	578	-20	0	0	558	0	0	558	100.0%
Corporate Activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Place									
Highways, Transport & Recycling	16,380	6,947	0	0	23,327	1,500	2,856	18,971	81.3%
Housing	1,825	253	0	0	2,078	110	778	1,190	57.3%
Leisure & Recreation	3,357	154	0	0	3,511	685	3,043	-217	-6.2%
Regeneration	1,125	345	0	0	1,470	45	75	1,350	91.8%
Property, Planning And Public Protection	2,503	20	0	0	2,523	16	514	1,993	79.0%
Total Capital	67,564	7,996	0	0	75,560	2,753	30,927	41,880	55.4%
Housing Revenue Account	20,139	10,654	0	0	30,793	959	8,146	21,688	70.4%
TOTAL	87,703	18,650	0	0	106,353	3,712	39,073	63,568	59.8%

2. Funding

2.1 The funding of the capital programme is shown in Table 2. This stands at £106.334m as at 31st May 2018 this matches the expenditure budget to ensure a balanced budget

2.2 Table 2 Funding of the Capital Budget as at 31st May 2018

Revised Working Budget 2018/19 as at 31st May 2018 (after virements approved and required)						
Funding Source	Supported Borrowing £'000	Prudential Borrowing £'000	Grants £'000	Revenue Contributions To Capital £'000	Capital Receipts £'000	Total £'000
Council Fund	-11,264	-23,204	-26,431	-10,656	-3,986	-75,541
HRA	0	-16,385	-6,414	-7,369	-625	-30,793
Total	-11,264	-39,589	-32,845	-18,025	-4,611	-106,334

3. Virements as at 31 May 2018:

3.1 There were no further virements requested in the month of May.

4. New Grants accepted as at 31st May 2018

4.1 Total Capital Grant Allocation for 2018/19 is £32.845m

4.2 This consists of £26.431m General Fund grant and £6.414m HRA grant. These have already been earmarked for the financing of Capital expenditure as tabulated in 2.2 above.

4.3 A further £947k was received in the month of May for the Active Travel Scheme (£175k), the Powys Passenger Transport Infrastructure Enhancement scheme (450k) and the Knighton Safe Routes programme (322k).

5. Capital Receipts

5.1 A capital receipt occurs when an asset of the authority is sold. Capital receipts can only be used to finance new capital expenditure or repay loans. In 2015/16 Welsh Government issued a directive that enabled Authorities to use capital receipts obtained during the year to finance the revenue costs from transformation incurred in the same period up to 31 March 2018. This directive has now been extended to 31 March 2022 and the flexible use of Capital Receipts has also been broadened to include investments that promote Economic and Business growth.

5.1 The current capital receipt target, excluding the HRA, for 2018/19 is 1.728m for Property and £1m for County Farms. £45k of the property sales has been completed and a further £485k has been agreed subject to contract.

5.2 With the suspension of the Right to Buy scheme in Powys, no capital receipt from the sale of Council Dwelling is expected in 2018/19, unless sales that started in 2017/18 but did not complete before 31 March 2018.

- 5.4 A recent decision by Cabinet to suspend declaring any further property from the Farm estate surplus, will also result in a reduced income from capital receipts.

6 Borrowing Requirements

- 6.1 The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the current year's unfinanced capital expenditure and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
- 6.2 Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council's cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through external borrowing or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.
- 6.3 Net external borrowing (borrowings less investments) should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for the current year and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years.

CFR Position:

	As at 31.03.18 Actual	2018/19 Current Estimate	2019/20 Current Estimate	2020/21 Current Estimate
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Capital Financing Requirement	332,072	373,530	407,313	425,561

The Authority had outstanding long-term external debt of £251.4M at 31st March 2018. In relation to the CFR figure for 31st March 2018, this equated to the Authority being under borrowed by £62.5M. This is a prudent and cost effective approach in the current economic climate. However, members will be aware that internal borrowing is only a temporary situation and officers have advised that, based on capital estimates, it will be necessary for the Authority to borrow at stages over the next few years. In line with this, £10M of longer-term borrowing has taken place in the current financial year. This was a prudent approach to ensure some borrowing takes place whilst interest rates are at their low levels as opposed to borrowing at a future date at increased rates.

- 6.3.1 Any borrowing undertaken will have a revenue implication which includes both the payment of interest on the loan and the repayment of the principal of the loan via the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) required. MRP is a statutory and prudent way of setting aside the funds required to repay loan principal in the future. Work is ongoing to improve the forecast for capital spend so that Treasury Management are able to improve the cashflow predictions for the authority. The net cost of borrowing together with the MRP are the real capital charges.
- 6.4 The virements in section 3 have an impact on the CFR figures for future years. In addition, any capital bids and approved projects for future years will increase the CFR. This in turn

increases the MRP and the borrowing requirements. The real capital charge revenue budgets, while showing an underspend in the current year, will require additional budget to meet the additional borrowing and MRP costs in future years.

6.5 It is important to highlight that the capital financing revenue budget is likely to be lower than estimated because the actual spend on capital is lower than predicted and we anticipate further virements to roll forward capital budgets into 2018/19. This will have no effect on the draw down of MRP.

7. **Options Considered/Available**

No alternative options are considered appropriate as a result of this report.

8. **Preferred Choice and Reasons**

None to consider.

9. **Impact Assessment**

Is an impact assessment required?

No

10. **Corporate Improvement Plan**

To achieve the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) objectives the Council undertakes forward planning with its medium term financial strategy (MTFS) - this sets out the financial requirements to deliver the short and longer term council vision. These capital and revenue monitoring reports, are used to ensure the funding identified to deliver the council priorities is spent appropriately and remains within a cash limited budget.

11. **Local Member(s)**

This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.

12. **Other Front Line Services**

This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.

13. **Communications**

This report has no specific communication considerations. Detailed finance reports are presented to Heads of Service, Cabinet and the Audit Committee. These reports are public and are part of a range of statutory and non-statutory financial information documents including the Statement of Accounts.

14. **Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)**

This report has no specific impact on support services other than reporting on those service areas with capital programmes. Financial Services work closely with all service areas in monitoring financial performance on capital programmes against budgets. The Capital and Financial Planning Accountant confirms that the projects included in section 3 are included in the Capital Programme.

15. **Scrutiny**

This report presents financial information which will help inform the future capital strategy and therefore has implications for any related organisation.

16 Statutory Officers

The Head of Financial Services & Acting Section 151 Officer notes the contents in the report.

The Monitoring Officer has no specific concerns with this report.

17. Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation: The contents of this report are noted by Cabinet.	Reason for Recommendation: To outline the capital budget position as at 31 st May 2018. To ensure appropriate virements, if any, are carried out.
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Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y / N	Within Budget:	Y / N

Relevant Local Member(s):	
----------------------------------	--

Person(s) To Implement Decision:	
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	

Contact Officer Name	Tel	Fax	E mail
Jane Thomas	01597-826341	01597-826290	jane.thomas@powyscc.gov.uk

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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**CABINET EXECUTIVE****10 July 2018**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor M Alexander, Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language
County Councillor A Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance

SUBJECT: School Funding Formula Review

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

- 1.1 The schools fair funding formula is the method used to allocate the schools delegated budget to individual schools and is required by regulation.
- 1.2 Cabinet requested a fundamental review of the School funding formula due to concerns about the level of deficit occurring in some schools and the need to ensure all schools are able to deliver a minimum curriculum.
- 1.3 A Formula Review Group has been established and has been meeting regularly since February, with support from officers in Education and Finance and an external expert, and an outline shape for a new formula has been developed. The group is very clear that two conditions should be met if this review is to be considered a success: that the overall budget is sufficient to resource agreed educational policy; that the method of distribution of funding between schools is fair and equitable.
- 1.4 This report provides details of the progress so far, the plans for the next phase, including the finalisation of full consultation proposals, about which a decision is sought.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the high level shape of the formula for mainstream schools, comprising four blocks, informed by a clear description of the Powys educational offer, built with efficiency in mind, simple and with integrity. The formula is intended to be dynamic, to be capable of reflecting future changes in curriculum, education policy, regulations, structures, resources or responsibilities.
- 2.2 Cabinet is asked to approve arrangements to delegate the decision to consult to the Portfolio Holders for Learning and Welsh Language and Finance in order for the review to adhere to the budget setting timetable and maximise opportunity for school input.

2.3 Cabinet is asked to note the interconnection with other elements of the transformation programme and the Council's medium term financial plan.

3. Options Considered / Available

3.1 In terms of the overall design of the formula, the 2010 School Funding (Wales) Regulations expect a formula to be simple, objective, measureable, predictable in effect and clearly expressed. The Regulations allow for the use of any of 37 factors (which must include weighted pupil numbers and a measure of social deprivation). The current formula has been amended and altered over a number of years, leaving many elements unclear, confused and/or over-complicated. The options for reform included the maintenance of a complex formula, however, in order to meet the objectives expressed in the Regulations, a simpler formula model has been explored with school representatives.

3.2 The overall design of the proposed new school funding formula is shown in the appendix to this report. It comprises four blocks of funding:

- Core educational delivery and basic running costs
- Additional educational need and social deprivation
- Costs relating to the site, facilities and property
- Other factors and adjustments

The fourth block of funding applies to a relatively small number of schools and covers circumstances that are not standard for all. Examples include the provision of Welsh in education, all-through schools and those with more than one site or location. This block will feature clear criteria and transparent allocation of additional funding.

3.3 The detailed design will involve many options and choices, as each factor and value is developed and discussed with the Formula Review Group. Where there is a clear consensus which is affordable and in line with policy, it is expected that the consultation with schools will include a clear recommendation. Where that is not the case, the consultation will seek views to inform the final decision by the Cabinet.

3.4 In respect of the consultation arrangements, the initial project timeline proposed consultation commencing mid-October and concluding in late November. This provides limited time to analyse the feedback from schools and make careful recommendations to Cabinet for the school's budget and the formula. It also provides limited time for schools to start to prepare for changes, resulting in the need for an extended transition period.

3.5 An earlier consultation window is recommended, running from 17th September to 26th October, to align with other consultation processes affecting schools. In order to avoid delay, particularly around the summer recess, Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to the Portfolio Holders for Learning and Welsh Language and Finance to approve the consultation proposals.

- 3.6 It is important to ensure that the funding formula adequately resources agreed educational strategy and that the strategy fulfils policy ambitions within an agreed budget.
- 3.7 The formula review is set in the context of a wider transformation programme, which has implications for the structure of the school system and the development of collaborative practice. The review has a direct connection with the ALN Review in terms of funding inclusive practice in mainstream schools, where the expectations about differentiation and targeted provision needs to be clear. The review is also likely to identify implications for funding special schools and PRUs, specifically in relation to premises costs but there could be wider opportunities for development.

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 4.1 The Formula Review Group has expressed support for a simple funding formula, supported by a more sophisticated education model, particularly relating to the first block: core educational delivery. This approach would provide transparency in respect of integrated policy and financial decisions. It allows for decisions to be taken on the overall schools budget taking the potential impact on educational provision into account. It also allows for robust budget monitoring of delegated budgets.
- 4.2 A simple and predictable formula has a significant advantage in that schools are better able to forecast future funding and plan strategically, thus reducing the risk of a deficit budget.
- 4.3 The meeting of the Formula Review Group on 29th June 2018 will consider full proposals for the first and most significant block of the formula. Whilst the detail has not been able to be included in this report at this stage, a verbal report can be provided to the Cabinet at the meeting. Work on the other blocks of the formula has begun and this will be accelerated during July and August. The priority has been to seek stakeholder input into the development of the core model, deferring aspects of the formula requiring more officer input until the later stages.
- 4.4 The funding for sixth form provision is mainly through a specific grant, with scope for a local authority contribution towards the costs of post-16 provision. The formula model is being developed initially for compulsory school age provision, but as sixth form provision is an integrated part of secondary schools, the combined funding will be tested against the educational model as part of the formula review. A similar exercise will take place relating to nursery provision.
- 4.5 The funding arrangements for special schools have only recently changed. However, once the formula work has been completed, it will be possible to use the same approach to assess special school funding to ensure equity across the system.
- 4.6 Formal consultation is planned for 17 September to 26 October 2018. A summary of the consultation responses will inform recommendations for the formula for 2019/20, to come to Cabinet for a decision at the November meeting. Final decisions relating to school budgets for the forward year will be taken as part of the budget setting process.

- 4.7 There are two significant risks identified for this project. The first is a risk of poor engagement with schools and other stakeholders, which could weaken the design of the formula and/or its implementation and acceptance. The Formula Review Group includes representatives from all stakeholder groups and they are supported in communicating with their colleagues by a regular update briefing, which is also shared widely. The other key risk is that there is a mismatch between the cost of the education schools expect to offer and the funding that is available. This risk is being managed by taking time to clarify the core educational offer that underpins the formula.
- 4.8 An Issues Log is being maintained as part of the project. A number of issues relate to clarifying the scope and managing the interface with other projects and other funding streams in schools (such as those for early years or sixth form provision) and some relate to implementation arrangements or the extent to which the formula will be able to cope with future changes such as school re-organisation. The Issues Log also holds a record of important aspects of the formula detail that have not yet been fully discussed or researched, such as the date of pupil count to be used or the treatment of in-year growth in pupil numbers. The Issues Log is reviewed regularly by the project team and the Formula Review Group and ensures that there is a transparent process for resolving concerns and complications.

5. Impact Assessment

- 5.1 Is an impact assessment required? No
- 5.2 As part of the consultation with all schools, an assessment of the impact will be provided so that schools can judge how the proposed changes will affect their delegated budget. Following consultation, a report with final recommendations for formula change will come to the Cabinet and a full impact assessment will be provided.
- 5.3 Transitional arrangements are likely to be required, particularly for any school facing a reduction in funding, to allow for managed implementation of changes.

6. Corporate Improvement Plan

- 6.1 The Schools delegated budget accounts for a very significant proportion of the Council's budget and in order to manage funding cuts and budget pressures a programme of transformation and remodelling is already underway. By building a formula for delegated school budgets on a clear model of educational delivery, it is possible to encourage and embed collaborative and innovative provision.
- 6.2 In order to ensure that *a high quality of education is accessible to all, affordable and sustainable*, the education model that underpins the formula will be based on the cost-effective delivery of inclusive educational provision.

- 6.3 The educational model will also reflect the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the role schools play in meeting the needs of vulnerable children and young people.
- 6.4 As reported to the Cabinet on 19 June 2018, many schools are currently drawing on reserves to balance in-year budgets or deferring spending in non-urgent areas. It is likely that a formula designed to adequately resource the current pattern of provision would require funding at a level that would exceed the current funding envelope. Over and above the reorganisation of the educational infrastructure, schools will require support to transform their day to day delivery to embrace innovative and collaborative approaches and help in explaining any reduction in educational offer to parents and staff, at the same time as implementing the new national curriculum for Wales and meeting statutory requirements. The simplicity and transparency of the formula will facilitate strategic decisions about educational provision and overall budget.
- 6.5 The timetable for the formula review has been designed so that decisions about the budget and medium term financial plan can be taken in the knowledge of the impact on educational delivery, thus ensuring that a high quality education is accessible to all, affordable and sustainable.

7. Local Member(s)

- 7.1 The formula review applies to all local authority maintained primary, secondary and all-through schools in Powys and so all local Members are affected. The impact may be greater in some schools than others but this cannot be assessed at this stage.

8. Other Front Line Services

- 8.1 Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? No

9. Communications

- 9.1 Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes
- 9.2 Have they made a comment? The report is of public interest and requires news release and appropriate social media action to publicise the decision, it also requires specific consultation with schools/governing bodies.
- 9.3 The full consultation period is planned for the period from 17 September to 26 October. The Formula Review Group has advised that arrangements should ideally include a clear consultation paper, with a response form that has been tested with a small stakeholder group in advance. The Group also suggested cluster (or area-based) for headteachers and chairs of governors, to provide an opportunity to hear a common message and clarify any misunderstandings about the proposals. In addition, or as an alternative, a short video could be prepared, which could be shown at a governing body meeting, allowing

for a greater degree of informed engagement. The Group also advised that it would be helpful if the consultation period could be honoured even if this means some elements of the formula are open questions rather than firm proposals. This will allow schools to organise appropriate meetings in a busy term.

10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

- 10.1 Legal : The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view.
- 10.2 Finance: The Finance Team is supporting the Formula Review Group in building the formula.
- 10.3 Corporate Property (if appropriate)
- 10.4 HR (if appropriate)
- 10.5 ICT (if appropriate)

11. Scrutiny

- 11.1 Has this report been scrutinised? Yes
- 11.2 If Yes, what version or date of report has been scrutinised? V2.4
- 11.3 Recommendations:

That this paper be made available for scrutiny in early September prior to a decision being taken to proceed to full consultation with an opportunity available for scrutiny observations to be taken into account when this decision is made.

- 11.4 What changes have been made since the date of Scrutiny and explain why Scrutiny recommendations have been accepted or rejected?

12. Statutory Officers

- 12.1 The Head of Financial Services (Deputy Section 151 Officer) comments that the funding of schools represents a large proportion of the Council's budget, it is therefore essential that the model for delivering education in Powys is efficient and enables schools to operate effectively within the funding provided to them. The outcome of the review will establish the level of funding required to resource agreed educational policy. This will facilitate strategic decisions about educational provision and the allocation of financial resource.

- 12.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) commented as follows :
“ I note the legal comments and have nothing to add to the report.”

13. Members' Interests

- 13.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they

should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
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

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y / N	Within Budget:	Y / N

Relevant Local Member(s):	All
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Schools Service and Finance
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	17/9/18

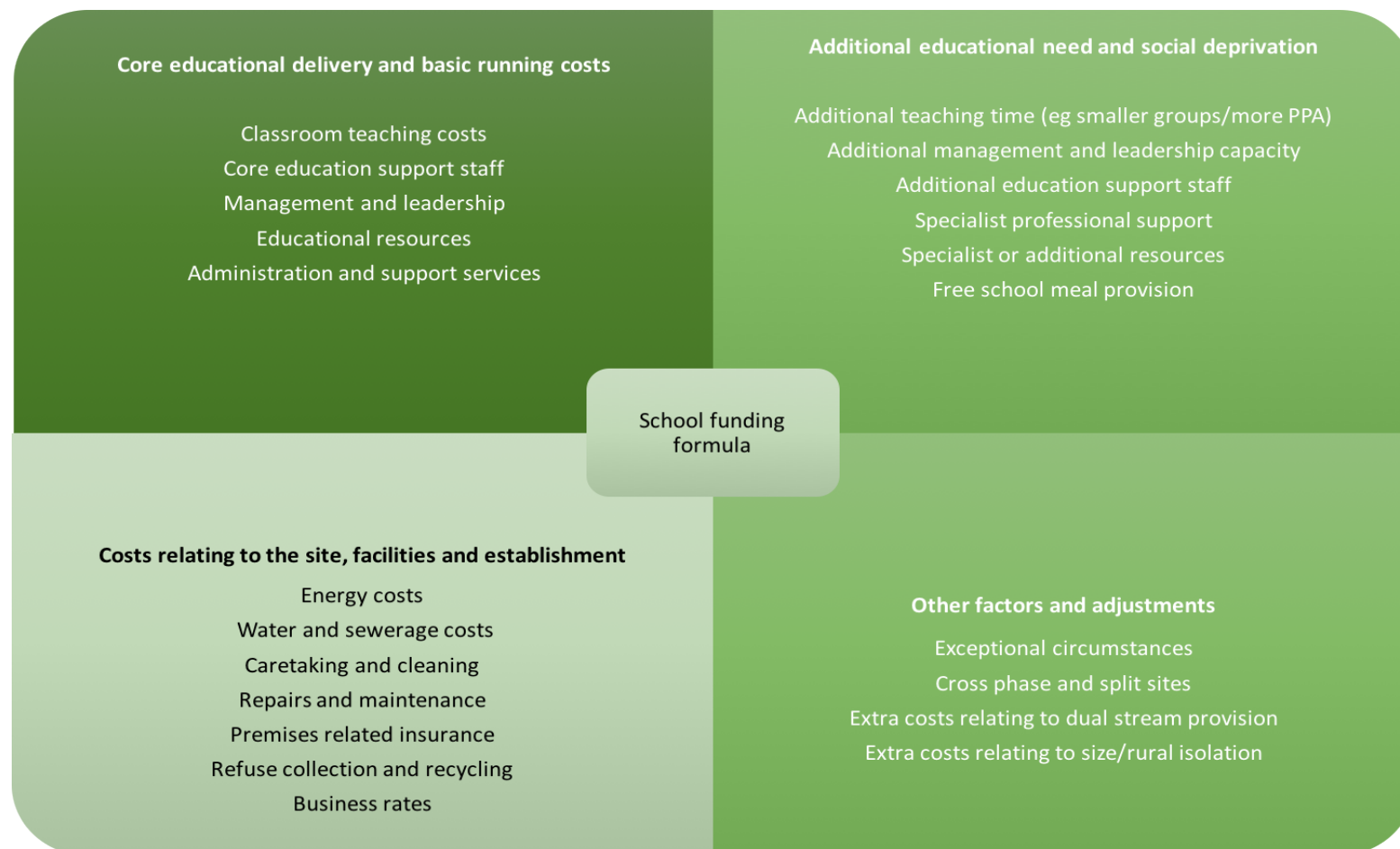
Is a review of the impact of the decision required?	Y / N
If yes, date of review	
Person responsible for the review	
Date review to be presented to Portfolio Holder/ Cabinet for information or further action	

Contact Officer:	Richard Waggett
Tel:	01597 826387
Email:	Richard.waggett@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Full details of the formula review can be found in the papers for the Formula Review Working Group, available from Richard Waggett.

Appendix: Proposed formula design for mainstream school provision (reception to year 11)



**Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: School Funding Formula Review**

The Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee met on the 18th June 2018 and considered the Cabinet Report on the School Funding Formula Review

The Group made the following observations to Cabinet in respect of the School Funding Formula Review on 10th July 2018.

The Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee noted that the School Funding Formula Review was due to come to Cabinet for the following decision:

<i>Recommendation:</i>	<i>Reason for Recommendation:</i>
<i>That Cabinet approves the overall design of a revised funding formula for schools</i>	<i>To inform the next stage of detailed formula development</i>
<i>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</i>	<i>To ensure the project timeline provides for adequate consultation and a clear recommendation for budget setting</i>

Scrutiny make the following observations:

- The Cabinet report is light in detail in a number of fundamental places. It is understood that Cabinet will receive a verbal update on the detail regarding Block 1 of the Formula which will be considered at a meeting of the Formula Review Group on 29th June 2018 (part 4.3 of the report). Further, work on other blocks will be undertaken during July and August. Without this detail it has been impossible for scrutiny to be undertaken of this document and therefore meaningful observations cannot be made. In particular scrutiny are unable to comment on the ‘overall design of the revised funding formula’ and believe that Cabinet will only be in possession of information regarding one of the blocks of four at that meeting by way of a verbal update. This is not considered to be an appropriate level of oversight.
- The Cabinet report also acknowledges a risk ‘that there is a mismatch between the cost of the education schools expect to offer and the funding that is available’ (part 4.7 of the report) and that ‘it is likely that a formula designed to

adequately resource the current pattern of provision would require funding at a level that would exceed the current funding envelope' (part 6.4 of the report). This acknowledgement of risk is a position that scrutiny share particularly in light of the current deficit school budget projections that Cabinet recently received.

- Scrutiny remain to be convinced that the timeline proposed in relation to this review are achievable. This concern is made more acute in light of the fact that the majority of the remaining preparation time falls within the school holiday period.
- Scrutiny received an absolute commitment in their meeting that there would be a further opportunity for scrutiny of the School Funding Formula Review prior to the Formula being published for consultation.

Recommendations:

1. **That this paper be made available for scrutiny in early September prior to a decision being taken to proceed to full consultation with an opportunity available for scrutiny observations to be taken into account when this decision is made.**

Membership of the Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 18th June 2018

County Councillors **P Roberts (Chair)**, M Barnes, G Breeze, K W Curry, B Davies, E Durrant, D O Evans, L George, D R Jones, E M Jones, G Jones, D Jones-Poston, K Laurie-Parry, I McIntosh, J Pugh, L Roberts, D Selby, R G Thomas and Parent Governor Representatives: N. Bufton, Mrs A Davies and Mrs S. Davies

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET EXECUTIVE**10th July 2018

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Martin Weale
Portfolio Holder for Planning & Regeneration

SUBJECT: Welsh Government Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme

REPORT FOR: Decision / Discussion

1. Summary

1.1 The Welsh Government's Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP) supports capital projects that promote economic regeneration in a small number of Regeneration Areas. The Programme is being overseen and delivered on a regional basis through the Growing Mid Wales (GMW) Partnership. A draft Regional Regeneration Plan has been prepared to provide a framework for investment under the Programme. An initial list of regionally prioritised project proposals is recommended for inclusion in the Plan.

2. Background

2.1 Overview

2.2 TRIP provides capital investment towards projects and physical infrastructure that promote economic regeneration and support wider sustainable development. The programme aims to facilitate the development of regionally-significant regeneration investment proposals that will help create jobs, enhance skills and employability, and create the environment for businesses to grow. Investments must deliver against assessment criteria and outputs set out in Appendix 1 & 2. Regeneration investment must be targeted in a small number of Regeneration Areas in order to generate a greater impact.

2.3 The programme will be delivered over an initial 3-year period (2018-21), on a rolling basis from April 2018. There is a notional allocation of £7M for the Mid Wales region over the 3 years and opportunity for this to be increased if there is a good pipeline of projects. The maximum intervention rate per project is 70% for capital works. Development funding of up to £200,000 per region (50% intervention rate) is also available on an annual basis to prepare project to tender stage. Match funding for Powys and other schemes would be worked up as part of the

development stage of the projects subject to their approval by Welsh Government.

- 2.4 A budget request has been made to the Council's Capital Programme for match funding towards the programme as follows:

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
£150,000	£250,000	£200,000

The three year bid has been approved and funding of £150,000 allocated in the current financial year. Funding for 19/20 and 20/21 will need to be confirmed in the budget process for each respective year.

- 2.5 The Programme is being delivered on a regional basis through the GMW Partnership as Welsh Government require robust regional partnerships and governance arrangements to be in place involving a broad range of stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary sectors.
- 2.6 The GMW Partnership is required to compile a Regeneration Plan for the region to provide a strategic framework and context for project proposals. This will be an evolving document that can be adapted to meet emerging challenges and opportunities. To qualify for funding, the Partnership has to identify specific project investment proposals and include these in the Regeneration Plan which can be reviewed and updated.
- 2.7 Inclusion of project ideas in the Regeneration Plan does not guarantee that those projects will receive funding. Regional proposals for investment will be scrutinised and assessed by a National Regeneration Investment Panel. Applications will be invited from prioritised projects for development stage funding to work projects up to tender stage. Once at tender stage, projects may apply to Welsh Government for implementation funding. Applications for funding would be submitted by the relevant Council and required internal approval prior to submission.
- 2.8 Where full applications are approved, Welsh Government will enter into a contract with the relevant Council for the delivery of that project. If an approved project is sponsored by an external organisation, the Council would then need to enter into a legal contract with that organisation to pass on the funding and associated risks.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 A copy of the draft Regional Regeneration plan which has been endorsed by the GWM Partnership is contained in Appendix 3. This identifies Lampeter, Tregaron, Llandysul, Llandrindod Wells, Newtown & Severn Valley, and Brecon as the initial target Regeneration Areas for the current phase of funding based on regional Growth Zone designations and fit with the TRIP criteria. Brecon has been included as

a lower priority area following advice from Welsh Government that investment within the Region needs to be more focused.

- 3.2 Following a regional open call for projects 31 initial project proposals have been identified. These have been assessed against the programme criteria by an Evaluation Panel on behalf of the GMW Partnership.
- 3.3 The Panel recommended the initial prioritisation of the projects shown in Table 1. It also recommends that the top five projects listed are progressed to development funding application stage and that all projects shortlisted are included in the Regional Regeneration Plan for consideration by Welsh Government. An outline business case for the programme and proposals is attached as Appendix 4.

3.4 Table 1 – Recommended Prioritisation of Initial Projects

Project	TRIP Funding Requested
Regional Property Development Investment Fund, Powys CC/Ceredigion CC	£1.5M
Lampeter Canolfan Dulais, Tai Ceredigion Housing Association	£1.5M
Research & Development Centre, Llandrindod, Private Sector	£2.5M
Business Units, Dole Road Llandrindod, Powys CC	£600,000
Business Unit, Abermule Business Park, Powys CC	£700,000
Tregaron Swimming Pool Refurbishment, Tregaron Town Council	£320,000
Burgess Hall, Lampeter UWTSD	£700,000
District Heating Scheme, Tregaron, Ceredigion CC	£306,000
Business Incubation Units, Ladywell House, Newtown, Powys CC	£1M
Enterprise Park, Going Green for a Living Community Land Trust Ltd, Newtown	£1.3M

4. Options Considered/Available

Option 1: That Cabinet endorses the draft Regional Regeneration Plan and list of initial projects recommended for prioritisation by the GWM Panel for inclusion in the Plan.

Option 2: That Cabinet does not endorse the draft Regional Regeneration Plan and the list of initial projects recommended for prioritisation by the GWM Panel for inclusion in the Plan.

Options 3: That Cabinet endorses the draft Regional Regeneration Plan and but does not endorse the list of initial projects recommended for prioritisation by the GWM Panel for inclusion in the Plan.

Option 4: That Cabinet endorses the draft Regional Regeneration Plan and recommends that an alternative list of initial projects are recommended for inclusion in the Plan.

5. Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 5.1 **Option 1:** This would maximise the opportunity for Powys and Mid Wales to draw down initial investment through the Programme which may otherwise be lost to the region.

6. Impact Assessment

- 6.1 A single impact assessment will be prepared for the project proposals should they be progressed to development stage.

7. Corporate Improvement Plan

- 7.1 The proposals will directly support the Economy priority of the Council's Vision 2025 and the Corporate Improvement Plan 2018. Specifically the draft Regeneration Plan and recommended initial Powys projects will contribute to the delivery of the following outcomes:
- New business start-ups and relocations will increase
 - Skilled employment opportunities will increase
 - A greater supply and mix of suitable workspace to support employment
 - More job opportunities and apprenticeships for young people
 - Council priorities are used to develop new industries and supply chains

8. Local Member(s)

- 8.1 Local members will be consulted on the development of project proposals once Welsh Government has approved their inclusion in the Regional Regeneration Plan.

9. Support Services

- 9.1 The report can be supported from a legal point of view.
- 9.2 The Finance Manager for the Environment Directorate notes the contents of the report, the projects are at a very early stage of development and will require further more detailed business cases as each project develops. All work currently being undertaken is within the revenue budget of the Regeneration Team.

10. Statutory Officers

- 10.1 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".
- 10.2 The Head of Financial Services (Deputy S151 Officer) notes the comments made by Finance.

11. Members' Interests

- 11.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If the Portfolio Holder has an interest he should declare it, complete the relevant notification form and refer the matter to the cabinet for decision.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
<p>That the Cabinet:</p> <p>1. Endorses the draft Regional Regeneration Plan and list of initial projects recommended for prioritisation by the GWM Panel for inclusion in the Plan.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>2. To enable submission of the regeneration proposals for the TRI Programme by the Growing Mid Wales Partnership to Welsh Government.</p>

Relevant Policy (ies):	
Within Policy:	Y
Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Professional Lead for Regeneration
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	1st August 2018

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Gareth Jones	01597 826230		Gareth.jones3@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Targeted Regeneration Investment – Guidance for Local Authorities & Delivery Partners, Welsh Government, Oct 2017

Appendix 1 - Programme Outputs:

TRI 1	Gross jobs created
TRI 2	Number of Jobs accommodated (enabled through regeneration investment)
TRI 3	Number of jobs created in the construction sector as a result of Welsh Government regeneration investment.
TRI 4	Total number of traineeships on the project.
TRI 5	Number of traineeship leavers progressing to further learning (at a higher level) or employment (incl. employment with the contractor)
TRI 6	Investment induced (£)
TRI 7	Enterprises accommodated
TRI 8	Hectares of Land developed
TRI 9	Non-residential Premises created or refurbished (sqm)
TRI 10	Non-residential Premises created or refurbished (number)
TRI 11	Number of additional market housing units (Built or ready for Occupation - as a direct result of regeneration support)
TRI 12	Number of Additional Social housing units delivered (Built or ready for Occupation - as a direct result of regeneration support)
TRI 13	Number of Additional Intermediate housing units delivered (Built or ready for Occupation - as a direct result of regeneration support)
TRI 14	Number of households helped towards securing improvement in the energy performance of their homes
TRI 15	Number of empty homes brought back into use
TRI 16	Number of non-residential units brought back into use
TRI 17	Estimated Reduction in CO2 Equivalent Emissions
TRI 18	Number completing employment related courses or gaining employment related qualification
TRI 19	Number of SMEs based in Wales successful in securing contracts/sub contracts
TRI 20	Value of contracts/sub contracts awarded to SMEs based in Wales (£)

Appendix 2 - Welsh Government Project Assessment Criteria

Contextual analysis and strategic fit	<input type="checkbox"/> Alignment with <i>Prosperity for All</i> and wider Welsh Government objectives <input type="checkbox"/> Alignment within wider regional context <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates clear strategy for area <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness of local challenges & opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Response to regeneration aims & objectives
Well-being of Future Generations Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of five ways of working <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of contributing to well-being goals <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of alignment with Local Well-being Plans
Project Rationale & Approach	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributes clearly to area strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of need for project <input type="checkbox"/> Reasons for undertaking the activity <input type="checkbox"/> Clear case for change <input type="checkbox"/> General quality & clarity of proposal
Benefit and impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution to economic regeneration <input type="checkbox"/> Contribution to spreading prosperity and tackling deprivation <input type="checkbox"/> Does the project deliver measurable benefits? <input type="checkbox"/> Clear proposal for outputs and outcomes <input type="checkbox"/> Detailed proposal for how these will be measured
Project costs and Value for Money	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear financial proposal with cost breakdown <input type="checkbox"/> Costs are realistic and represent best value? <input type="checkbox"/> Overall proposal represents VfM in consideration of benefits and impact
Deliverability	<input type="checkbox"/> Robust Governance & Partnership approach <input type="checkbox"/> Project Management - Team and Experience <input type="checkbox"/> Clear project plan <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Viability, Sustainability and Achievability <input type="checkbox"/> Exit strategy

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MID WALES REGIONAL PLAN FOR TARGETED REGENERATION

2018 - 2033

Subject to approval

Section 1: Context and Vision

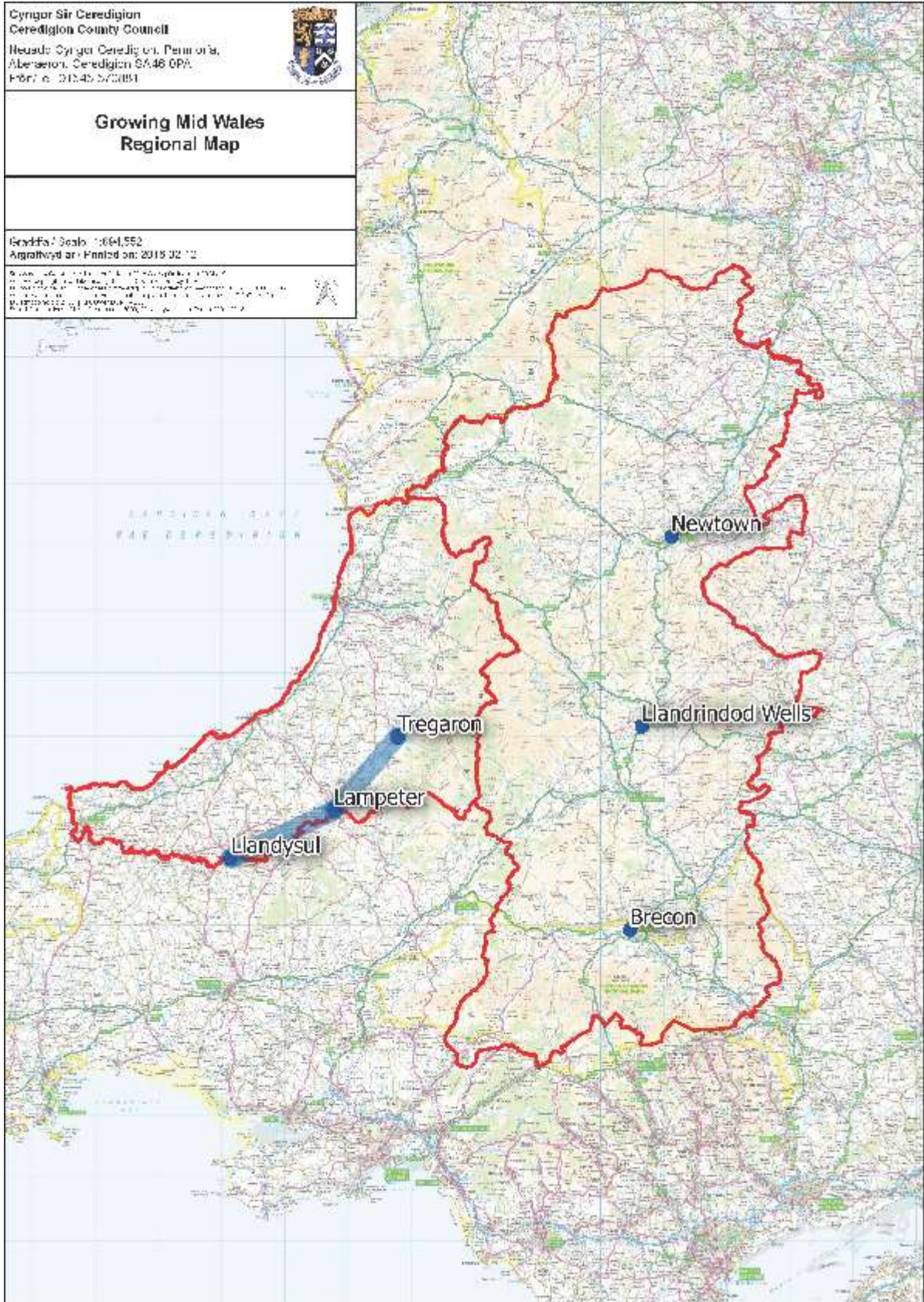
The Mid Wales region consists of the counties of Powys and Ceredigion. Economic regeneration in the area is co-ordinated and promoted through the Growing Mid Wales (GMW) Partnership which is one of the four regional partnerships covering Wales. This Partnership compiled a Framework for Action in respect of regeneration activity in 2016 and forms the basis of much of the content and strategic direction of this plan.

The GMW Framework for Action has as its overarching vision and strapline; **“To grow productivity, innovation and jobs across Mid Wales.”** This is therefore the vision adopted for this plan and which will inform all investment decisions. The Framework defines a number of **key priorities** to realise this vision:

- 1. Diversifying the economic base**
- 2. Supporting and strengthening existing businesses**
- 3. Creating new quality job opportunities**
- 4. Developing workforce skills**
- 5. Improving communications, accessibility and infrastructure**

The Local Authority members of the GMW partnership, along with Welsh Government, are currently commissioning consultants to establish extensive socio-economic evidence base for the region, with which to then devise strategic projects with the potential to deliver transformational change for the region. It is anticipated that consultants will be procured in early 2018, and the resulting evidence base and projects be available in the summer of 2018.

The resulting evidence base will also be used to strengthen the evidence base of the Mid Wales Regional Regeneration Plan and provide an even clearer and more defined focus for regeneration activity.



Section 2: Regional Overview

2.1 Analysis of the Issues and Challenges Facing the Region

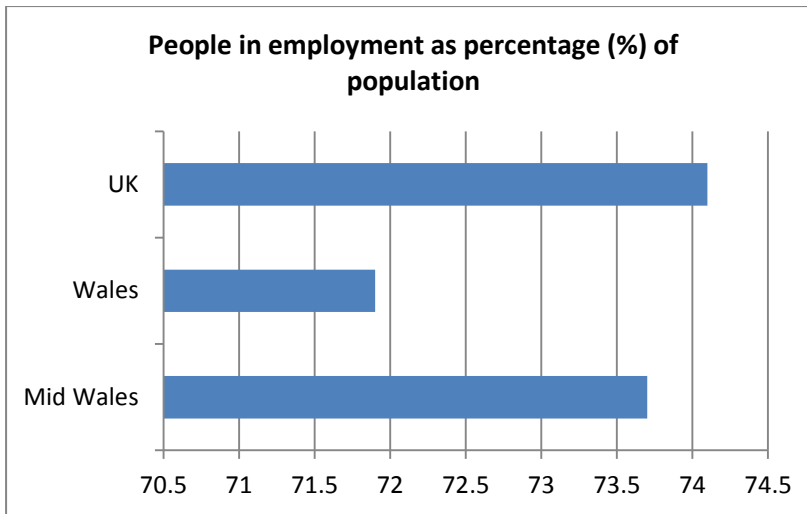
2.1.1 Regional Characteristics, Geography and Population:

- The region comprises 39% of the land area of Wales
- The region is characterised by a dispersed pattern of small market towns
- The region is almost entirely rural in nature, with the only two significant towns being Aberystwyth and Newtown, and is bordered to the west by coastline
- The region includes in the south a substantial part of the Brecon Beacons National Park
- The region's population of just over 200,000, being less than 7% of the population of Wales
- Population density is amongst the lowest in England and Wales at 0.3 people / hectare
- Migration of younger adults out of region and of older working age and retired adults into the area typify the region
- The age profile of the region consists of a lower proportion of working age population with a larger proportion of retirement age. There is a significant proportion of 16 -25 years age cohort – reflecting the higher education institutions in the region.

2.1.2 Economic Activity

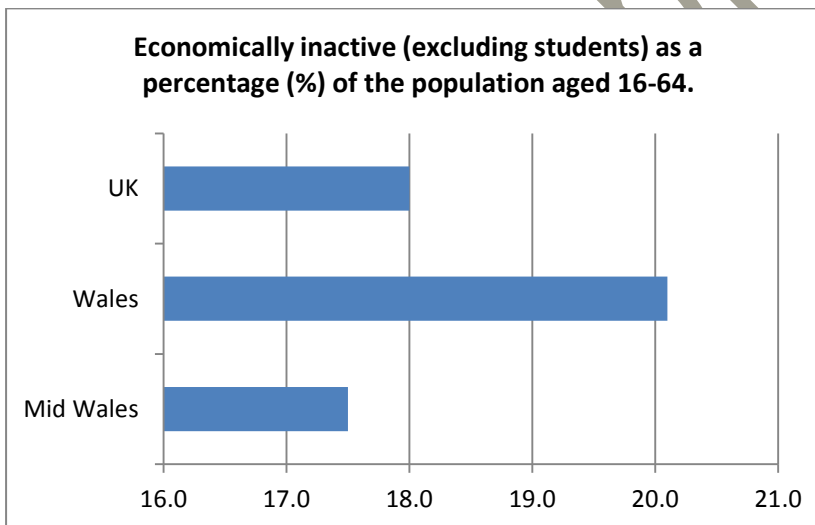
- Mid Wales has the second highest employment rate amongst the Welsh Economic regions and the lowest unemployment and economic inactivity rates.
- The region's economically active population (16+ years) is around 102,700 people, while economically active 16 – 64 years amount to more than 75% of that age cohort.
- Economic inactivity (ages 16-64) is estimated at 30,700 about 24.6% of the age group. Economic activity in this age group is characterised by high numbers of students and early retired with jobseekers less than half the Welsh average. These reflect “under-employment” and out-migration of young adults.

Graph 1 – Employment rate, year to September 2017



Source: ONS, National Population Survey

Graph 2 – Inactivity rate (excluding students), year to September 2017



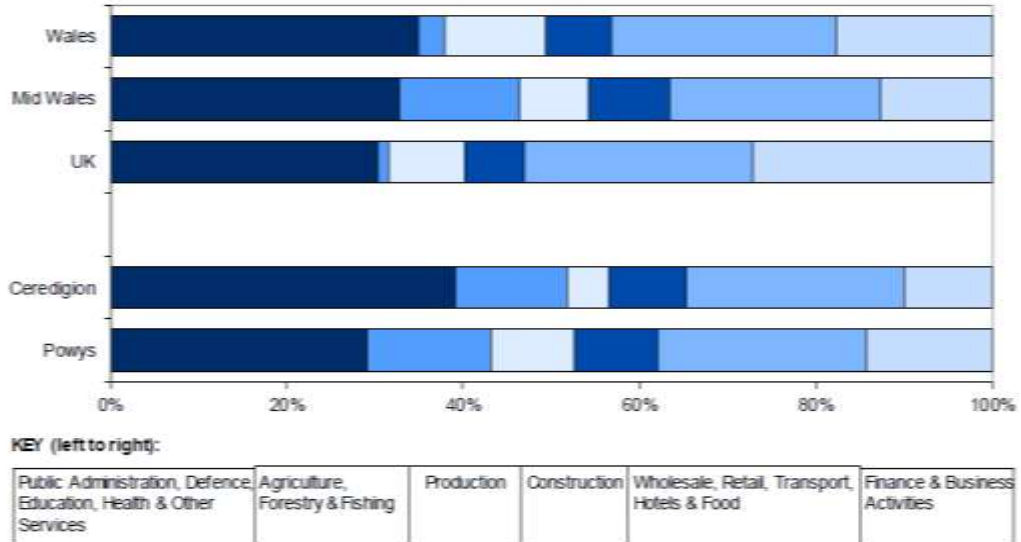
Source: ONS, National Population Survey

2.1.3 Employment Structure

- Jobs in the region are in a limited range of sectors often linked to self-employment and micro-businesses but dominated by the public sector, education and health sector:
- There are high levels of self-employment.
- Low levels of unemployment.
- The region has a higher proportion of part-time employment than Wales as a whole, (38.2% of employee jobs are part-time; Wales 35%, GB 31.7%)

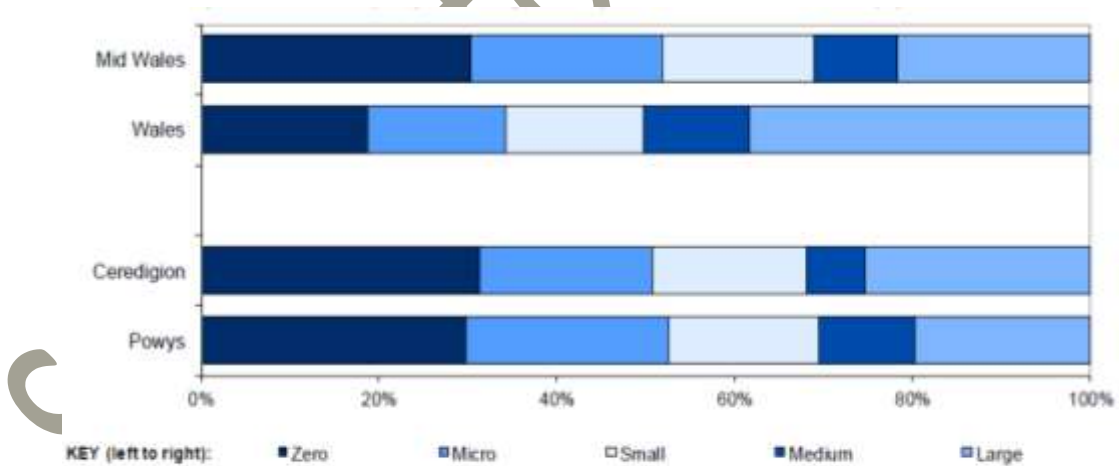
- 11.3% of all employment in the region is in the tourism sector, the highest proportion of any region in Wales.

Graph 3 – Workplace Employment by Industry, 2016



Source: Welsh Government Workplace Employment Data

Graph 4 – Proportion of employment by enterprise size-band, 2017



(a) The size band is based upon the size of the UK enterprises and includes all enterprises that are active in Wales.

Source: ONS, Business Demography Data

2.1.4 The Region's Businesses

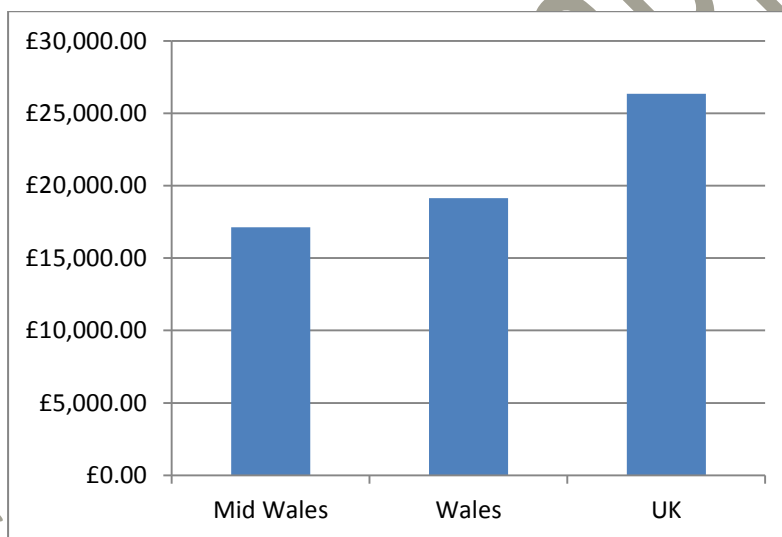
- There were 29,700 enterprises active in Mid Wales in 2016, of which 95.7% are micro enterprises (0-9 employees). This is slightly more than the Welsh average of 94.9%.

- The region has a narrow economic business base dominated by the agriculture sector, closely followed by tourism

2.1.5 Prosperity and Economic Performance

- The headline economic statistics of Gross Value Added (GVA) and Gross Disposable Household Income are only available for Powys, not for the whole of Mid Wales, due to the structure of the NUTS3 areas.
- Powys has total GVA of £2.3 billion in 2015. This translates as £16,972 per head or 66.9% of the UK average, compared to 71% for Wales.
- This difference is mostly down to job structure, with Powys having a lower GVA per job than the Welsh average, but is also due to net commuting out from the region (principally across the border) and higher proportion of elderly residents.
- Average full time weekly earnings are lower than the Wales average in 2016. Relative to the UK, earnings in Mid Wales were 85.4% of the UK average – well below the Wales average of 91.4%. However, the region also has the highest GDHI amongst the economic regions, at 90.7% of the UK average.

Graph 5 – GVA per head, 2016



Source: ONS GVA data

2.1.6 Communications and Accessibility

- The road system reflects the rural nature of the region with dual carriageway confined to the south east leading to the M4/M50 corridor, although the region contains several key arterial trunk roads, such as the A470.
- Public transport services are limited.
- Rail services link Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury across the north of the region to the West Midlands and Birmingham Airport and through the centre of the region, linking Swansea and Shrewsbury.

- Other commercial air links exist outside the region at Cardiff Wales Airport, Liverpool, and Manchester airports.
- The nearest commercial ports are outside the region at Holyhead, Fishguard, Pembroke, Swansea, Cardiff and Liverpool.
- There are improving ICT accessibility across the region as programmes to roll-out fibre broadband are being progressed. A number of employment sites have direct access to these high speed services but there remain areas where planned coverage is yet to be programmed.

2.1.7 *Quality Of Life*

- Low levels of recorded crime
- High quality natural environment with a central mountainous area, the Cambrian Mountains, and with the Brecon Beacons National Park in the south and is bordered by the Snowdonia National Park in the north.
- A coastline rich in tourism potential with the All Wales coast path running up its length and the attraction of the Cardigan Bay Seal & dolphin population.
- Recreational and tourism opportunities associated with both the high quality natural environment and the rich culture of the area.
- Significant assets including water, timber and potential energy resources.
- 36% of all farmed land in Wales is in Mid Wales.

2.1.8 *Deprivation*

In Wales, deprivation is usually measured with the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (or WIMD), the Welsh Government's official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. It is designed to identify those small areas where there are the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation.

However, in rural areas, deprived people tend to be more geographically dispersed than in urban areas, making the WIMD unable to identify 'high concentrations' of deprivation. This is especially the case in Mid Wales, where only 7% of the Welsh population occupies 39% of the land mass. It is therefore more useful to consider the WIMD sub-indicators and other relevant sources of data.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation is split into 8 Domains, Income, Employment, Health, Education, Access to Services, Housing, Physical Environment and Community Safety.

Key Points

- Mid Wales contains 125 LSOAs (6.5% of the total 1909 LSOAs in Wales)
- Mid Wales has two Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the worst 10% among Wales overall
- Looking at the Overall Index, 3.2% of LSOAs in Mid Wales are now among the worst 20% of LSOAs in Wales in 2014

Income¹

- Mid Wales has one Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the worst 10% among Wales overall
- There are a further six LSOAs among the worst 20% of areas overall - Newtown South, Welshpool Castle, Newtown Central 1, Ystradgynlais 1, Llandrindod East/Llandrindod West, Newtown Central 2

Employment²

- Mid Wales has two Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the worst 10% among Wales overall
- Looking at the Overall Index, 4% of LSOAs in Mid Wales are now among the worst 20% of LSOAs in Wales in 2014

Health³

- Mid Wales has one Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the worst 10% among Wales overall
- Looking at the Overall Index, 4% of LSOAs in Mid Wales are now among the worst 20% of LSOAs in Wales in 2014

Education, Skills and Training⁴

- Mid Wales has no Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in the worst 10% among Wales overall.
- Looking at the Overall Index, 2.4% of LSOAs in Mid Wales are now among the worst 20% of LSOAs in Wales in 2014

Housing⁵

- Mid Wales has ten Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the worst 10% among Wales
- Looking at the Overall Index, 19.2% of LSOAs in Mid Wales are now among the worst 20% of LSOAs in Wales in 2014

¹ The indicators used were: percentage in receipt of income related benefits, or dependent child of same; percentage in households receiving Tax Credits with income less than 60% of the Wales median, or dependent child of same; and National Asylum Support Service supported asylum seekers

² The indicators used were: percentage in receipt of Incapacity Benefit; percentage in receipt of Severe Disablement Allowance; percentage in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance; and percentage in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance

³ The indicators used were: cancer incidence; all cause death rate; limiting long term illness; and percentage of live single births < 2.5kg

⁴ The indicators used were: Key Stage 2 average point scores; Key Stage 4 Level 2 Inclusive; Key Stage 4 Capped Point Score; percentage of people not entering higher education aged 18 to 19; percentage of adults aged 25 to 59/64 with no qualifications; and repeat absenteeism

⁵ The indicators used were: overcrowding in 2011 Census; and no central heating in 2011 Census

Access to Services⁶

- Mid Wales has 57 Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the worst 10% among Wales overall
- Of this 57, 20 are ranked in the top 50/2.5% in Wales
- There are a further 20 LSOAs among the worst 20% of areas overall
- Looking at the Overall Index, 61.6% of LSOAs in Mid Wales are now among the worst 20% of LSOAs in Wales in 2014

Physical Environment⁷

- Mid Wales has two Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the worst 10% among Wales overall
- Looking at the Overall Index, 7.2% of LSOAs in Mid Wales are now among the worst 20% of LSOAs in Wales in 2014

Community Safety⁸

- Mid Wales has six Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the worst 10% among Wales overall
- Looking at the Overall Index, 8% of LSOAs in Mid Wales are now among the worst 20% of LSOAs in Wales in 2014

Key Findings

- Most of Mid Wales is much worse than average for access to services on foot or by public/private transport, with 61.6% of LSOAs in Mid Wales among the worst 20% of LSOAs for Access to Services in Wales in 2014
- Mid Wales has two Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the worst 10% among Wales overall – Ystradgynlais and Aberteifi/Cardigan – 1. While these settlements have received historic investment due to their ability to identify their need, the regional regeneration plan requires such needs to be balanced with realistic and deliverable opportunities for investment. They have therefore not been prioritised for activity under this Regional Regeneration Plan.
- Cardigan has seen investments such as the £23.8m integrated healthcare centre due to open in 2018, the £12m restoration of Cardigan Castle and the anticipated refurbishment of the Cardigan Guildhall, in addition to numerous other initiatives such as a Townscape Heritage Scheme and various tourism business improvements.

⁶ The indicators used were: mean bus and walking journey time to NHS dentist; mean bus and walking journey time to Pharmacy; mean bus and walking journey time to Food shop; mean bus and walking journey time to GP; mean bus and walking journey time to Leisure centre; mean bus and walking journey time to Library; mean bus and walking journey time to Post Office; mean bus and walking journey time to Petrol Station; mean bus and walking journey time to Primary school; and mean bus and walking journey time to Secondary school

⁷ The indicators used were: air emissions; air quality; flood risk; and proximity to waste disposal and industrial sites

⁸ The indicators used were: police recorded burglary; police recorded criminal damage; police recorded anti-social behaviour; fire incidence; police recorded theft; and police recorded violent crime

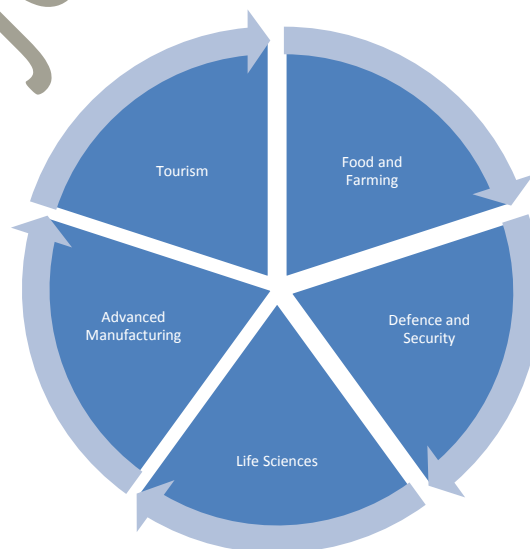
- Ystradgynlais is subject to activity under the Valleys Task Force initiative and for operational and delivery purposes comes under the direction of Neath Port Talbot County Council for Communities First-related activity. The location of the settlement on the periphery of the Powys border means service delivery needs are often naturally met by Local Authorities in the South East region.
- Aberystwyth has previously been designated a Strategic Regeneration Area by the WG under the Vibrant and Viable Places programme, gaining at least £10 mil of investment from WG and other sources. In addition to several large scale, strategic investments at Aberystwyth University, funded by ERDF, there are also planned investments for Yr Hen Coleg and the Vale of Rheidol Railway. There is also significant private sector development in the town – as evidenced by the Mill Street Commercial investment and ongoing developments on the Glan yr Afon Industrial Estate. The high level of private sector investment and participation negates the need for public sector intervention in the town.
- Housing is also an issue, with nearly a fifth (19.2%) of LSOAs in Mid Wales among the worst 20% of LSOAs for Housing in Wales in 2014.

2.1.9 Possible Alignment Opportunities

In terms of the regional strategic context, there are both existing and planned investments to which future strategically planned regeneration investments can add much value.

These opportunities can be found in the agreed priority sectors for the region;

Diagram 1 – Priority Sectors for the Mid Wales Region



Tourism	Food and Farming	Defence and Security	Life Sciences	Advanced Manufacturing
Outstanding natural environment - Brecon Beacons National Park, Cambrian Mountains etc.	Welshpool Livestock Market	Aberporth – Ministry of Defence and Qinetiq air range	Aberystwyth University Innovation and Enterprise Campus (AIEC)	Aberystwyth University Computer Science Department – world class expertise
Dyfi Biosphere	Food Centre Wales	MOD Sennybridge training area	BEACON bio-refining centre	Aberystwyth Centre for Earth and Space Monitoring (ACSEM)
Wales Coastal Path	Royal Welsh Show	Brecon MOD infantry training school	Wales Veterinary Services Centre, Aberystwyth VetHub1	
Cultural and heritage assets e.g. National Library of Wales, Powis Castle	IBERS (Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences)			

In terms of infrastructure, significant investments include a new £7m train station at Bow Street, near Aberystwyth, and a series of investments in road infrastructure, including the Newtown Bypass – a 6.5km bypass to the south of the town to alleviate traffic congestion

Investments already announced for future investment;

- The restoration and refurbishment of Hay Castle.
- A487 New Dyfi Bridge, Machynlleth
- The restoration of a section of Montgomery Canal to link Welshpool to the national canal network
- The redevelopment of the Grade 1 listed Old College, Aberystwyth into an educational, cultural, community and tourism heritage destination and mixed-use facility

2.1.10 Regional SWOT

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ World class HE research base ○ Quality of life and environment ○ Social capital ○ Agricultural economy ○ Coastline and natural resources ○ High employment ○ Entrepreneurship culture ○ Improving infrastructure ○ Available land ○ Technical resources ○ Adjacent industrial regions ○ Heritage and culture 	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Poor infrastructure and access to markets and services ○ Population changes/migration/mobility of skilled workforce ○ Smaller businesses predominate ○ Low productivity and incomes ○ Low population density leading to higher costs of living and services ○ Lower qualified workforce ○ Underemployment rather than unemployment ○ Ageing workforce
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Innovation spin outs from HE ○ Utilising the natural environment, agricultural products and landscape ○ Strengthen Local Growth Zones as strategic hubs ○ Developing east-west economic links through the Marches LEP and with enterprise zones ○ Develop a regional skills business led approach to break low skills/low productivity cycle ○ Growing the knowledge based economy 	<p>THREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Global economic slow-down and competition ○ Lack of investment in infrastructure ○ Disconnect between skills and business needs ○ Outmigration ○ Lack of affordable housing ○ Withdrawal and centralisation of services including shrinking public sector ○ Competition from adjacent economic regions ○ Potential impact of Brexit on rural economy and communities

2.1.11 Match Funding

Potential match funding sources for projects coming forward under the Regional Regeneration Plan over the next 15 years include;

Welsh Government funding e.g.

- Social Housing Grant
- Welsh Housing Quality Standard
- Business Wales grants
- Tourism Investment Support Scheme

- Capital development grants for museums, archives and libraries
- Community Facilities Programme
- Arts Council of Wales
- Sport Wales
- Cadw
- Environment grants
- Tidy Towns
- Cymraeg 2050 grant scheme
- Local Transport Grant

Non-Welsh Government funding e.g.

- Local Authorities' own funding and assets
- Lottery funding, including Heritage Lottery funding
- Coastal Communities Fund
- Coal fields Regeneration Trust
- EU funding
- Private sector funding
- WG or other loan funding

Depending on the nature of what regeneration funding schemes come forward over the period covered by this plan, eligible match funding sources will differ.

It should be noted that further funding sources may be available depending on the nature of the proposed regeneration activity e.g. business based initiatives may benefit from sector specific funding opportunities

Depending on the status of the lead applicant and/or the nature of the partners involved, it may be possible for partners to apply for funding from certain third sector and charitable organisations

Section 3 Partnership & Governance Arrangements

The partnership and governance arrangements need to balance fair and equitable regional partnership working with processes that are neither overly complex nor time consuming. Ultimately, the region foresees that economic regeneration activities will be overseen by an “Executive Board”. Each of the local authorities in the region will be represented on the Board. The precise structure of the Board is being discussed and will be developed as the details of its activities and functions become clearer. These arrangements will not be in place in time to administer the start of TRIp; interim arrangements will therefore be necessary in the Mid-Wales region.

The general principles of the emerging arrangements are:

Where project activity is on the form of a modest umbrella targeted grant scheme:

- A Lead Authority is to be agreed by the GMW Partnership and nominated as ‘Lead Body’ to be financially responsible for the funding and to contract with Welsh Government on behalf of the region for that project.
- Delegated powers for individual project investment approvals to be sought from respective Cabinets to be given to a joint ‘Steering Group’ drawn from and nominated and agreed by the GMW Partnership that is representative of all sectors.
- The ‘Steering Group’ to be able to make “delegated” approvals against individual applications up to a threshold of total grant awarded, where that threshold is to be agreed with Welsh Government. Appropriate delegated powers will be sought from respective Cabinets / Monitoring officers to enable these approvals to be made.
- Steering Group to recommend awards based on evidence based scoring against scheme criteria that drive investment in the very best proposals. There will be no geographical ring fencing to any of the 6 identified towns to begin with, unless the grant scheme criteria define such targeting. Should an unreasonable bias of investment emerge towards any towns, this will trigger a review by the wider GMW Partnership as to the reasons for lack of investment in some of the towns.
- The Lead Body formally awards the offer of funding and invites the applicant to enter into a contract with it.
- The ‘Lead Body’ enters into contract with successful applicants to deliver the individual developments in accordance with recommendations received from the ‘Steering Group’. Grant awards made with the minimum amount of grant necessary to enable the investment to proceed and within State Aid regulations where applicable.
- Where State Aid is applicable then either De Minimis or the Welsh Local Government Aid scheme SA.49737 exemption within GBER to be used.
- Steering Group scrutinizes and holds to account the Lead Authority’s administration and the performance of individual applicants.

Where project activity is in the form of more specific individual assessments:

- Project activity proposals will be identified through a combination of Local Authority led investments and by an open call Speculative Notice published through 'Sell To Wales' and other media outlets inviting expressions of interest against a set of criteria related to strategy fit and TRIp scheme criteria. Depending on the response, this exercise might be repeated further into the Program in year 2 or 3.
- The 'Steering Group' (as defined above) will assess all project activity proposals for fit with strategy and the TRIp scheme criteria and recommend those ideas to be progressed further into development. The Steering Group shall have delegated authority to make these recommendations.
- The Local Authority in which that investment takes place will be the financially responsible 'Lead Body' and progress the proposal by working with the potential sponsor to develop the project through to an application to Welsh Government and then enter into contract with both the sponsor of the project and the Welsh Government should it become approved. The 'Lead Body' will effectively be a conduit between Welsh Government and the project sponsor to pass on money and obligations in accordance with the specific project contract. The 'Lead Body' will recoup the administration costs of doing this by adding project management costs to the project costs.
- Authority for a 'Lead Body' to make an application to Welsh Government and enter into any subsequent contract with Welsh Government will be in accordance with the standing orders for the relevant Local Authority.

In both options the 'Steering Group' will be responsible for giving regular reports and updates to the wider GMW Partnership who shall have the ability to advise the Steering Group as necessary. The above arrangements are to be approved by the respective cabinets during March (Ceredigion) and April (Powys), whilst the Growing Mid Wales Partnership will agree the detail of this Regeneration Plan and designate individuals to sit on the steering group in its meeting on the 13th of April.

Section 4 – Approach for Targeted Regeneration Investment

4.1 – Strategic Regeneration Areas

In deciding how to use the Targeted Regeneration Investment money it is important to note that this is only part of the wider investment plans for the region outlined above. Our decisions have been guided partly by the written scheme guidance and its criteria, and partly by recognising that rural Mid Wales has very different needs in terms of regeneration compared to the other economic regions of Wales. Importantly, the region has no one large urban settlement which can provide a focus for activity. The settlement pattern is that of dispersed market towns.

These towns provide a both a social and economic focus for a large surrounding area. By focusing activity on such towns, proposed interventions will have the greatest chance of impacting a larger number of people.

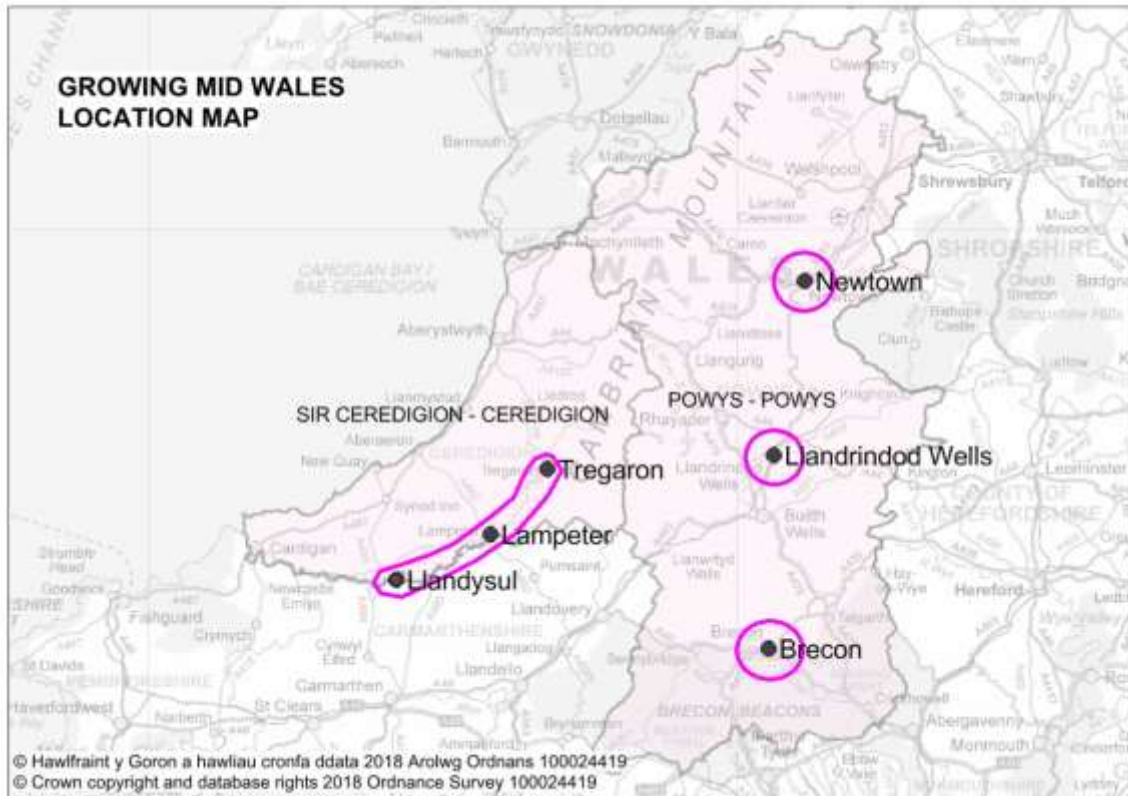
We have adopted a strategic approach to the selection of regional strategic regeneration areas in this plan, with particular consideration and weighting given to towns and communities that have lacked significant regeneration activity in the last 10 to 15 years but where there are realistic opportunities for investment. An extensive scoring and prioritisation exercise of all towns in the region has been undertaken to reach these designations, and ensure the proposed interventions under this regional regeneration plan will have the most impact. The scoring criteria gave due weighting to the relevant factors detailed in the TRIp guidance. Approval has been gained from both Cabinets for the selections made.

Based on the described scoring process, and looking to build on the legacy and impact of Welsh Government initiatives, Growing Mid Wales will focus regeneration activity on the towns under the Powys Local Growth Zone (Newtown and Severn Valley, Llandrindod Wells, Brecon) and the Teifi Valley Local Growth Zone (Llandysul, Lampeter and Tregaron as three small towns in one regeneration area). This approach will ensure value is added to existing Welsh Government investments in areas of previously identified need of economic regeneration, designated as Local Growth Zones, and will focus on the specific market towns where activity will have the greatest potential to reach the greatest number of possible residents given the dispersed nature of settlements in the region. In response to a request from Welsh Government for some prioritisation of these 6 towns, a provisional prioritisation has been made to concentrate on Llandrindod Wells first in Powys, followed by Newtown and then Brecon; whilst the prioritisation of the 3 Teifi Valley towns will to some extent be informed by the response to the open call described in section 3 above – the results of which will be available in May 2018.

The identification of shared need in the smaller Teifi towns lends itself to the three towns and their hinterland being a regeneration area in its own right. Smaller investments in these towns are likely to have a bigger social impact than in a larger

urban area. The accumulation of these smaller interventions will add up to regionally significant targets being achieved.

Map - Strategic Regeneration Areas within the Mid Wales Region



It is impossible in an area with challenging geography that covers 39% of the land mass of Wales that focusing regeneration in one settlement will have impact on the whole region – hence, the need for a higher than average number of regeneration areas in comparison to other economic regions

4.2 – Programme Logic

Based on the above logic and our evidence base, the overarching aim of our regeneration approach in Mid Wales is to create a region of **THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE MARKET TOWNS**.

This will be achieved by concentrating regeneration activity on three key themes, which are closely aligned to the five priorities of the Growing Mid Wales Framework for Action.

PLACE – creating vibrant, attractive and accessible towns for people to live, work & visit

Key activities:

- Refurbishment of vacant and underused heritage buildings
- Town centre identity and promotion – signage, branding, WIFI, public art & events
- Infrastructure, connectivity & sustainable travel improvements
- Environmental, public realm & gateways enhancements

ECONOMY – supporting the competitiveness & sustainability of the local economy and creating better quality jobs

Key activities:

- Provision of good quality business site & premises
- Development of tourism offer & the visitor economy
- Business start-up and support initiatives
- Overcoming financial viability barriers to private sector investment

COMMUNITY – improving access to essential services, supporting the health and wellbeing of local residents and providing good quality, affordable homes

Key activities:

- Supporting the provision of rural services e.g. early years, health & social care, banking, PO
- Bringing empty and underused properties and derelict sites back into residential use
- Integrating training & skills initiatives with regeneration investment
- Promoting health & wellbeing through integrated service provision

When distilled down into priorities for action, the regional programme priorities will be;

1. PLACE - Redeveloping and refurbishing buildings, sites and premises
2. COMMUNITY - Community services and service integration
3. ECONOMY - Rural entrepreneurship

As HOUSING is also an identified need for Mid Wales, where schemes can provide housing as a holistic and integrated part of schemes delivering against the above priorities - e.g Homes over Shops – this will be given positive consideration in any scoring and prioritisation exercise.

By targeting the above activity, the following outcomes will be achieved;

- Occupied properties/reduced vacancy rates
- Attractive town centre environments
- Increased investment and sustained job opportunities
- Enhanced rental values
- Increased footfall and spend
- Improved perception of local area
- Improved access to, and safeguarding of, sustainable services
- Increase in number of business start ups
- Increase in business growth
- Quality, safe housing provision

This will result in the higher level impacts of;

- Spreading prosperity by growing and enabling businesses
- Sustainable rural service provision
- Connected communities
- Improved economic, physical and mental health for residents

Which will create THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE MARKET TOWNS

Diagram 1: The Mid Wales Regional Regeneration Strategy



4.3 – Strategic fit of proposed areas of intervention

4.3.1 - How will the Plan ensure Prosperity for All?

Prosperity for All is the Welsh Government’s key overarching policy document

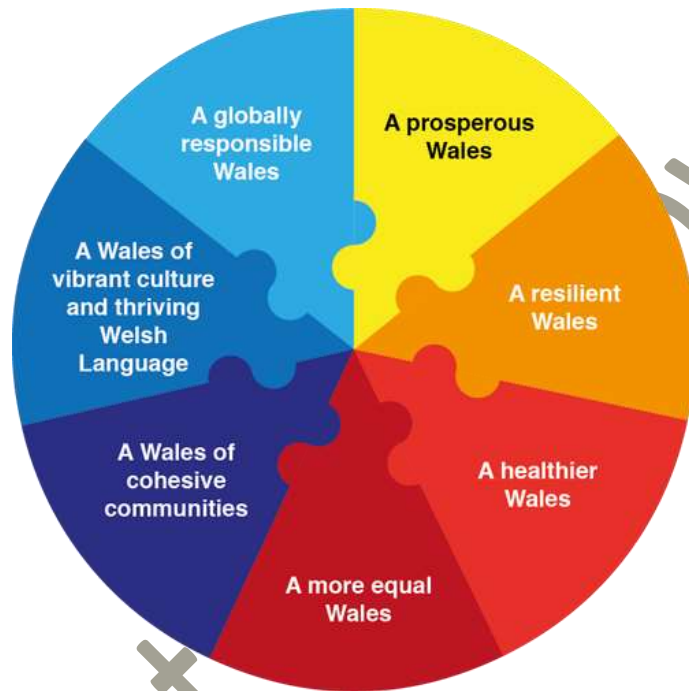
The strategy sets out a vision and actions covering each of the key themes in the Programme for Government – Prosperous and Secure, Healthy and Active, Ambitious and Learning, and United and Connected.

It also identifies 5 priority areas – early years, housing, social care, mental health and skills, which have the potential to make the greatest contribution to long-term prosperity and well-being.

Each of the three Growing Mid Wales priorities for regeneration action (redeveloping and refurbishing buildings, sites and premises; community services and service integration; rural entrepreneurship; and housing) aligns with two of the four Prosperity for All themes.

The Prosperity for All document also builds on fundamental principles contained in The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The overarching aim of the act is to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, by making the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term; work better with people and communities and each other; look to prevent problems; and take a more joined-up approach.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is structured around the principle of seven well-being goals;



The table below demonstrates how the Mid Wales Regional Regeneration Strategy aligns with both the WBFGA seven well-being goals and the Prosperity for All priorities.

Table 1: Policy Matrix

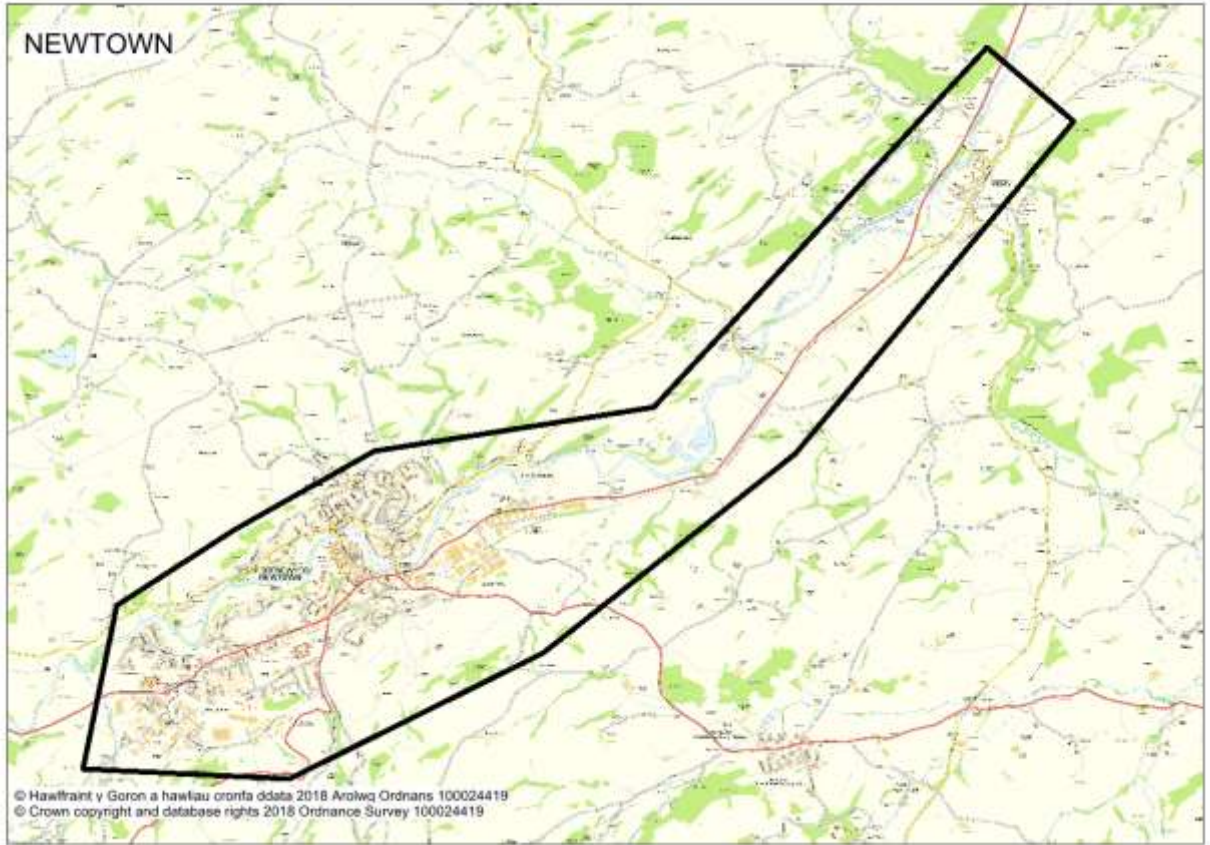
Prosperity for All Priorities	GMW Regeneration Priorities	WBFGA Goals
<p>Prosperous & Secure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support people and businesses to drive prosperity • Tackle regional inequality and promote fair work • Drive sustainable growth and combat climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLACE - Redeveloping and refurbishing buildings sites and premises • ECONOMY - Rural entrepreneurship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous Wales • A more equal Wales • A Wales of cohesive communities
<p>Healthy & Active</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver quality health and care services fit for the future • Promote health and well-being for everyone • Build healthier communities and better environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMMUNITY - Community services and service integration • HOUSING – Better homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthier Wales • A more equal Wales
<p>Ambitious & Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support young people to make the most of their potential • Build ambition and encourage learning for life • Equip everyone with the right skills for a changing world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECONOMY - Rural entrepreneurship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous Wales • A more equal Wales
<p>United & Connected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build resilient communities, culture, and language • Deliver modern and connected infrastructure • Promote and protect Wales' place in the world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLACE - Redeveloping and refurbishing buildings sites and premises • COMMUNITY - Community services and service integration • HOUSING – Better homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prosperous Wales • A healthier Wales • A more equal Wales • A Wales of cohesive communities

4.4 – Strategic Regeneration Area Profiles

Name of Town & County			
Newtown, Powys			
General overview and historic issues			
Population: 12,000			
<p>Newtown is the largest of the county’s towns, with a population of over 12,000. It is an important local hub, as well as being one of the main shopping and commercial centres within Powys. The town suffers from strong competition from other locations, including those across the English border.</p> <p>An historic Norman settlement it has grown gradually from being a market town with a woollen milling trade to a town with a diversity of industrial and trading businesses.</p> <p>Newtown was designated a New Town in 1967, which saw huge employment land development. These developments are now ageing and require upgrading to meet current demand”.</p> <p>There are significant issues of deprivation within the town, as recognised by the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation in 2014. Central Newtown wards have a significant number of “workless” households with dependent children; 7.5% of work age residents in Newtown South are unemployed – nearly 400 people; while 20 – 30% of households do not have a car.</p> <p>Newtown is not a traditional tourist centre, and its economy is more strongly focussed on services and industry. The college plays an important role in the town and there is an opportunity for the town to develop further as a service centre and as a centre for business focussed learning.</p> <p>The town has several primary schools and a large secondary school serving a wide area. A new school has recently being built for the provision of Welsh education for primary aged pupils.</p> <p>The 2016 Healthcheck noted:</p>			
Strengths	<p>A number of national multiples</p> <p>Good number of shops</p> <p>Good range of service facilities</p> <p>Good car parking for shoppers</p> <p>Good transport access including rail provision.</p> <p>Neath Port Talbot College has a well-established campus on the edge of town linked to Theatr Hafren, with strong student numbers from across Mid</p>	Weaknesses/Gaps	<p>There are insufficient business premises and industrial units of sufficient quality to meet demand.</p> <p>There are a number of empty and underused buildings in the town centre.</p> <p>The town lacks a sense of arrival and access around the town is difficult.</p> <p>The town’s leisure and night time economy offer is seen to be of relatively poor quality.</p> <p>The town does not have</p>

	<p>and North Powys Current construction of the Newtown Bypass will improve traffic congestion in the town. The town is a central hub for the Severn Valley Corridor across Mid Wales and located on the intersection of the A483/A489/A470 trunk roads. The town has developable land available.</p>		<p>WiFi. There is a need for more affordable housing in the town</p>
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>There is clear evidence of demand for further business expansion in the town The recent and ongoing development of social housing accommodation close to the town centre The Bypass will shorten journey times for commercial trade across the region making trading from Newtown more attractive and viable The town has a number of underused assets including the Montgomery Canal There are numbers available people of employable age</p>	<p>Threats</p>	<p>There is a risk that the construction of the Newtown Bypass will have a detrimental effect on the vibrancy of the town centre. The Bypass and its many access roads may constrain expansion of the town by creating limited 'pockets' where development can take place. The supply of employment land is a constraint The Bypass may encourage new Businesses to overlook Newtown and locate in Welshpool or across the border. Tourism attractions in Newtown are limited and visitors are likely to Bypass the town on their journeys to more scenic parts of Wales.</p>
<p>Conclusions on Health of Centre</p>	<p>Newtown is a town that provides for the retail and service needs of its own population and the rural hinterland for a wide area. Bank closures have forced many of the people in the smaller towns in the Severn Valley to travel to Newtown where the main banks and national retail chains are currently viable. The by-pass when completed may encourage shoppers to look elsewhere or to only visit the large supermarkets on the edge of the main settlement and not to make a further journey to visit the town centre. The decline caused by the bypass will reduce the range of retail offering leaving the discount stores and charity shops to serve the less affluent people of the town. This will add to the blighting effect the internet is already having on the town centre. The centre will look less attractive for the tourism trade, which already has few attractions to draw visitors to the town.</p>		

Dependant Hinterland
Aberbechan, Aberhafesp, Abermule, Adfa, Bettws Cedewain, Beulah, Brooks, Caersws, Carno, Cefn Coch, Churchstoke, Dolfor, Kerry, Llandinam, Llandyssil, Llangurig, Llanidloes, Llanllwchaiarn, Llanmerewig, Llanwnog, Mochdre, Montgomery, New Mills & Manafon, Newchapel, Penstrowed, Sarn, The Fron, Trefeglwys, Tregynon, Tylwch
Specific issues (current)
<p>Businesses are unable to expand because of the lack of premises of a sufficient size and adequate quality. The junctions with the bypass and the town's 'gate way' areas are blighted by unattractive, outdated and decaying industrial units. Land available for industrial development is now restricted by the bypass, the many access roads and by the flood plain of the River Severn. The college is not offering courses of adequate quality for more able and talented students who choose to study out of the county from the age of 16 onwards, many never return to invigorate the skill base of the area. The provision of leisure facilities and attractions for tourists is inadequate and of poor quality.</p> <p>All these factors deter new businesses wishing to relocate to the town and encourage them to choose the Marches area where there are currently attractive deals and resources on offer. Motivated people with employable skills are also repelled from settling in the town adding to the skill shortage. Businesses that may be attracted to the area will serve the remaining low paid and unemployed residents, providing further low paid, insecure employment and a culture of a 'race to the bottom'. These businesses may displace current businesses that choose to leave the area because they cannot expand and/or find sufficient skilled and motivated workers.</p> <p>For the large regional hinterland of the town, the main employer is Agriculture which is traditionally loyal to local businesses and communities, spending the vast majority of any income with other agri-businesses. Thus the sector supports a large number of other SMEs and creates a stimulus to other service industry suppliers and trades. The effect of Brexit is likely to starve the industry of government support causing a dramatic decline in the number of micro businesses (family farms) in the region. The town and the hinterland will feel the impact of this decline directly and indirectly throughout its economy.</p> <p>The lack of attractions in and around the town is also a limiting factor for tourism enterprises which farmers often invest in as a way of diversifying their businesses.</p>
Evidence of need, stats etc.
Potential Project activity
Potential partners



Subject to C...

Name of Town & County
Llandrindod Wells, Powys
General overview and historic issues
<p>Population: 5,309</p> <p>Llandrindod Wells is the county town of Powys. It is a historic town, with its present-day form dating mainly from the late 19th century and its role as a spa town, which grew very rapidly in its heyday. The town has an abundance of fine Victorian buildings, including several large hotels and former guest houses in a large Conservation Area. This built heritage is rapidly deteriorating however and in need of significant investment, in keeping with its historic surroundings. Llandrindod Wells remains a centre for tourism and conferences however the visitor offer is currently weak and in need of additional attractions.</p> <p>Many of the largest hotels were taken over by Radnorshire County Council and now are used by Powys County Council. As agile working and co-use of buildings take effect the future of many of these historic and inefficient buildings is under threat. The largest employer in the town is Powys County Council, increasingly the workforce, who often commute from a wide area, use bases in Powys closer to home or work from home for many days of the month. They therefore do not use many of the facilities in Llandrindod Wells and do not regard it as their base, even for shopping.</p> <p>The community in the town's hinterland does use the services and retail offering within the town. The increasing use of internet banking has resulted in the recent closure of one of the Banks. Many of the Building Societies co-located in other businesses such as estate agencies have also been relocated to other larger towns. There is also sizeable employment land on the edge of the town, which has space for development but is not being taken up. As the wider community has more freedom to trade elsewhere there is less loyalty to the town and visits to larger towns further afield are more usual.</p> <p>The opening of a large supermarket on the edge of the main settlement has drawn substantial trade away from the main high street. Another large Supermarket at the back of the main shopping street has since closed and remains empty. Many of the small independent shops have also closed and are still empty. The use of internet shopping has hastened this decline. The large numbers of residents living on benefits use the 5 charity shops within the town.</p> <p>The town also provides for the community's primary and secondary educational needs, with a wider special educational role in supporting the Welsh language. The secondary school has recently merged with Builth High School which has a Welsh language stream. The new merged school may be relocated to a new site away from the town.</p> <p>The use of the Welsh Government office located on the edge of the main settlement by the Agricultural Industry within the Mid Powys region makes the town a natural centre for support services. The dominance of Agriculture in the Mid Powys region and the uncertainty for that industry post Brexit is the major threat to the region and the town. The likely decline in the number of agricultural micro businesses will drastically affect the number visiting the town and using its financial and legal services, its agricultural suppliers and the other trades in the town. The need for a Welsh Government presence in Llandrindod Wells could be also in question.</p>

The remote location of the town with the nearest motorway being 48 miles away has deterred many businesses from locating in the town. There are limited employment opportunities for people of working age and the trend is for young people to leave the area and never return. As there is no Higher Education provision in the County most of the more able and talented students from the town move and study out of the County and continue their careers elsewhere. These factors added to the relatively low property prices in the area attracting newly retired people from all over the UK has resulted in the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over in the town compared to other large towns in Powys.

The 2016 Healthcheck noted:

Strengths	Weaknesses/Gaps
<p>Presence of a number of national multiple retailers</p> <p>Provision of car parking for shoppers in centre</p> <p>A traditional town environment which is clean and has a good streetscape, with a strong traditional tourism legacy and history, with a range of historic Victorian buildings</p> <p>Central position in Wales, the town serves as a venue for Wales-wide events and offers excellent conference and meeting facilities in support of this</p> <p>The town has a large amount of green spaces with a mature, high quality natural environment, which includes Llandrindod lake</p> <p>It has a diverse industrial offer and available business premises</p>	<p>The town is relatively remote, and has a small population</p> <p>Large supermarket positioned on edge of main settlement close to building trade suppliers allows shoppers and tradespeople to bypass the main street and small independent shops</p> <p>Main car park is on the far side of the railway line</p> <p>Dispersed catchment Limited retail offer</p> <p>Victorian Buildings decaying rapidly and needing significant investment</p> <p>Most are converted into flats and a high proportion of occupants are on benefits.</p> <p>High level of social deprivation across all town wards.</p> <p>A number of historic buildings in the town centre are empty or under-used and in need of renovation, and give a somewhat run-down feel to the whole</p> <p>Tourism is affected by remote location.</p> <p>The Mid Wales Region</p>

	<p>It offers a central location for small business between the Midlands and South Wales</p> <p>Has available developable land</p> <p>Safe and crime free location for vulnerable groups</p> <p>Safe area with an abundance of space for families who wish to escape the pressures of urban life</p>		<p>does not have a high profile and is barely known outside Wales</p> <p>The town has seen the loss of significant businesses and disinvestment by the public sector</p> <p>Business is affected by long supply routes and the additional time it takes to reach the motorway network</p> <p>Business and homes in the hinterland are increasingly affected by minimal broadband and mobile no spots</p> <p>There is a poor level of complimentary services and facilities available for a town centre of this size</p> <p>General lack of amenities and remote location deters relocation of businesses Very limited supply of smaller, modern, town centre premises available to accommodate new operators looking to trade in Llandrindod Wells</p> <p>High proportion of people 65 and over</p> <p>Young people with employable skills are leaving the area and not returning Poor public transport links. The trains or buses are not usable for regular commuting or business use.</p>
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<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>Relatively low house prices and crime rates</p> <p>Central focus on main street</p> <p>Community running of leisure facilities</p> <p>Town WiFi</p> <p>Central Wales Line manned station</p>	<p>Threats</p>	<p>Newly retired people and problem families are attracted to the town</p> <p>Young people with employable skills are leaving the area and not returning</p> <p>Further closures of key services</p> <p>There is concern regarding the high number of properties that are currently on the market, many of which are large historic buildings that are costly to run and maintain</p> <p>Precarious nature of Community Led organisations</p> <p>Lack of take up of Town WiFi</p>
<p>Conclusions on Health of Centre</p>	<p>Llandrindod Wells is an administrative and tourism centre that provides for the retail and other community needs of its rural hinterland and wider region. The town is surviving the gradual decline of its services and the marginalisation of the region. The number of people from other counties living on benefits, in the town's profusion of flats is increasing. The average age of the town is also relatively high compared to other towns in the county. The opportunities for employment with career progression and also for full time employment at all are quite limited. These are all factors contributing to the loss of the young working population to larger towns outside the county, never to return. The probable decline in the Agricultural Industry that uses the town will also add to its ongoing degeneration.</p> <p>The tourist trade is limited by the lack of attractions, the poor retail offering and the remote location of the town. This also affects the attractiveness of the wider region for tourists, so it is having a limiting effect on increasing the profile of Mid Wales.</p>		
<p>Dependant Hinterland</p>			
<p>Rhayader, Builth Wells, Elan Valley, Pantydwr, St Harmon, Abby-Cwm-Hir, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llanbister, Llanddewi, Crossgates, Dolau, Llandegley, Llanyre, Nantmel, Llanwrthwl, Newbridge-On-Wye, Howey.</p>			
<p>Specific issues (current)</p>			
<p>The shopping area of the town has down scaled to one street which is a mix of independent shops, with flats above, commercial premises and empty shops. In recent</p>			

times a Supermarket large enough to cater for the needs of the town and the wider region was built on the edge of the main settlement allowing people from the town and the wider hinterland to by-pass the main street and the independent businesses. The supermarket's product range competes directly with that on offer in the town centre. Those able to retire have closed their businesses. Some have been forced to cease trading and their premises remain empty.

The increase of internet banking and use of the internet in general has severely affected the footfall in the town centre. This is endangering the viability of the remaining banks and shops.

The lack of vitality in the town with many large empty buildings of all types, its limited retail selection and lack of attractions is detrimental to the tourism trade. The companies that block book the large hotels with coach loads of visitors also find the lengthy drive of at least 2 hours from the motorway network onerous and off putting. Small tourism businesses in the hinterland of the town are also limited by the lack of attractions in the area. Tourism is also one of the forms of diversification for Agricultural businesses in the town's hinterland, in many cases it is a vital income stream to offset the uncertain nature of the livestock market. The impact of a likely Brexit 'perfect storm' for livestock farming may make tourism the only form of income for many businesses in the hinterland of the town that are traditionally loyal to its shops and services.

To remain viable businesses are employing people on a part time basis, so it is common for residents to have more than one part time job. This lack of secure full time employment and lack of facilities is causing more young people to leave the area and break family ties, particularly if they have studied in Higher Education, which is not provided within the county.

The town has a very low crime rate and relatively low property prices. It therefore attracts the newly retired to the town. The average age in the town is the highest of all the towns in the county giving it a heavy social care burden. Lack of young people living and working in the area means that social housing landlords often fill their properties with unemployable problem people from outside the region. The forthcoming Universal Tax Scheme has already been flagged as a potential difficulty for the town's economy.

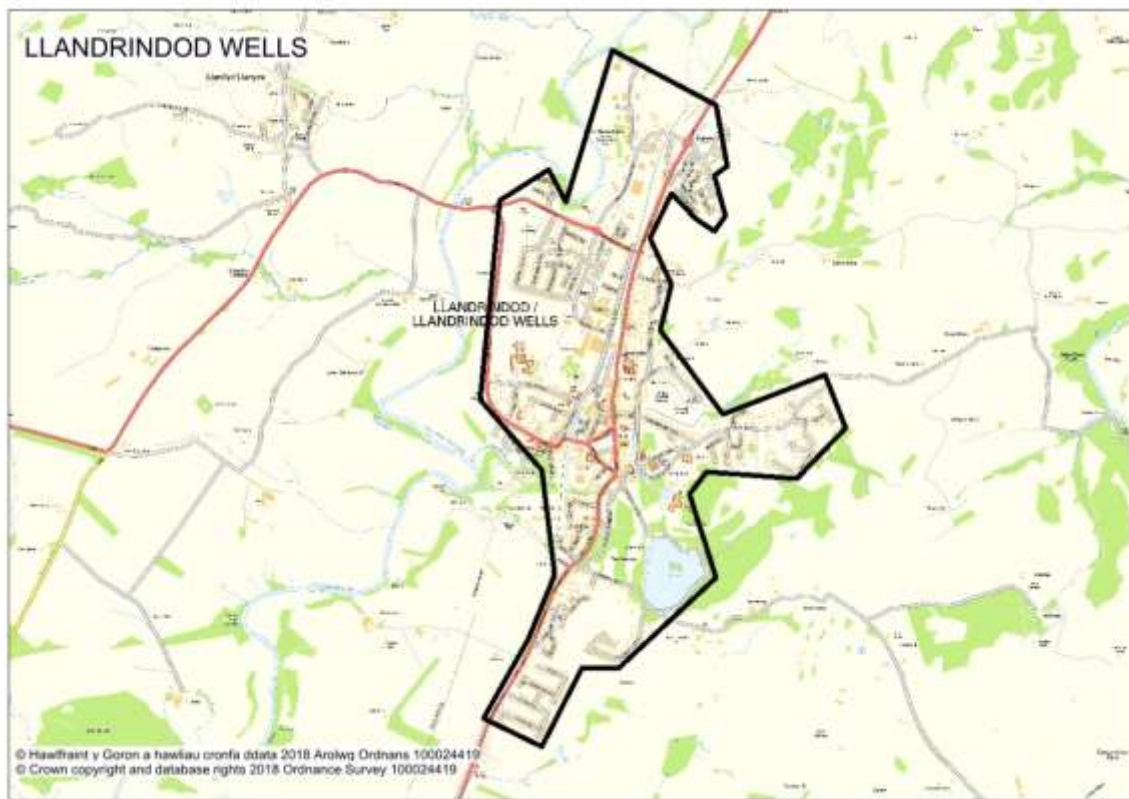
Many of the industrial units on the edge of the town are used as offices or building trade suppliers. Large companies employing large numbers have ceased trading in the town. For example one business moved its operation to Eastern Europe. The lengthy supply route from the motorway network and general lack of connectivity deters many businesses from locating in the area.

The County Council and Welsh Office have also restructured in recent years and depleted its staff numbers. The trend towards agile working also decreases the need for staff to consistently travel to the town and negates any loyalty they may have built up because it is not their regular place of work.

The town has experienced several waves of decline in recent years.

Evidence of need, stats etc.

Potential Project activity
Potential partners



Name of Town & County
Brecon, Powys
General overview and historic issues
Population: 8000
<p>Brecon is the third largest town in Powys, with a population of just under 8,000. Brecon's prominence within the National Park makes it a key town and important visitor destination and this role can be further strengthened. The town's relative position in relation to major retail centres such as Cardiff, Swansea, Hereford, Abergavenny, and Merthyr Tydfil means that Brecon requires a distinctive and unique retail offer to create a sustainable community and attract both short and long stay visitors. There is scope to further develop the town as a visitor destination, particularly building on the Brecon Beacons brand.</p>

Brecon is a Historic market town and has a history of being an important regional administrative centre. Since 1805 there has been an Army Barracks in the town. It retains a Norman castle, a Cathedral, a Guildhall and many fine Georgian Town Houses. The Georgian facades now often mask decaying outdated properties with a maze of outbuildings behind all requiring substantial, costly, heritage restoration and conservation.

A bypass has been built in recent years, making travel to the nearby substantial shopping centre in Merthyr Tydfil the easy choice for people in the town and wider county of Breconshire. Those in Mid Powys now often choose to travel to Merthyr rather than Hereford or Shrewsbury because of ease of free parking and the vast product range on offer. This has had an economic impact on Brecon’s retail offer. The town is increasingly becoming a commuter settlement for those working in South Wales; they then have little time to use the facilities in the town and less loyalty or affinity with the community in the town.

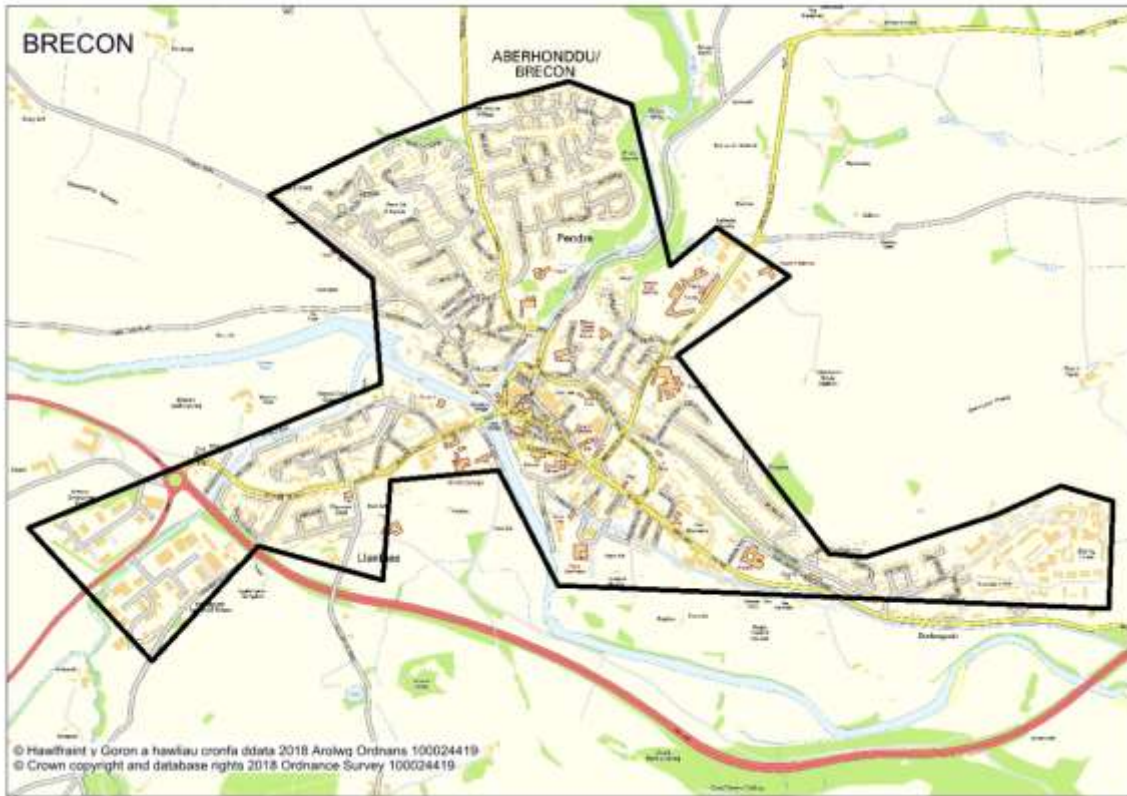
The livestock market has been moved to an out of town site. Online banking and record keeping has streamlined administration for Agricultural and other businesses, making trips to the town’s banks rare.

The 2016 Healthcheck noted:

Strengths		Weaknesses/Gaps	
	Presence of national multiples Good number of financial branches and services Good number of shops Good car parking with gateways to town centre Strong links with south east Wales, making commuting from Brecon to Cardiff and South Wales attractive Very high quality natural environment, especially within the nearby Brecon Beacons Huge opportunity for further outdoor tourism development A range of high quality attractions such as the theatre, the military museum, Brecon museum, the cathedral, and the canal / river / promenade High quality townscape A number of historic and visually appealing buildings within the town		The town centre has a high number of vacant premises (c.17%) There is a high cost of There are perceived to be very strong restrictions on planning and economic growth The night time economy, which is essential to tourists, is under-developed There have been improvements to the town centre streetscape, but in some areas, traffic and pedestrians must pass very close to each other in a confined space Rents and rates are set at high levels There are limited business units available The town is unable to draw significant number of visitors from Storey Arms (Penyfan) into the town Town gateways are confusing and need

	<p>centre A thriving and varied arts and cultural scene, including events and festivals</p>		<p>improvement to encourage visitor access Traffic access around the intersection of High Street and Ship Street is problematic for pedestrians and vehicular traffic Once known for its Jazz Festival, this has declined in size and is under threat</p>
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>Powys County Council is a significant landowner within the town centre Abundance and diversity of office space within the town The Brecon Museum 'Y Gear' will be reopening in the next 12 months incorporating the town library, a first class gallery and a café The Wales Way A470 will be promoted and featured by Visit Wales Continuous media coverage of Pen Y Fan and the Brecon Beacons Relatively large number of large Country Houses near the town converted into hotels or wedding venues creating employment opportunities and attracting year round visitors. NPTC campus on the edge of town with a range of courses that could be expanded. Possible redevelopment of the Market Hall</p>	<p>Threats</p>	<p>The town is unable to compete directly with the with the very large national outlets at Merthyr Decay of many properties requiring costly heritage restoration located prominently in the town centre Closure and sale of the Watton Army Barracks by 2027 Inadequate range of courses provided by NPTC college necessitating travel outside the area and the county for students who then often never return Poor employment opportunities for young people Many areas of deprivation across the wards of the town The effect of Brexit on the Agricultural industry that uses the town's services, businesses and social outlets Lack of suitable holiday accommodation within the town</p>
<p>Conclusions on Health of Centre</p>	<p>Brecon is a market town that provides for the retail and other community needs of its rural hinterland. The centre has a good mix of businesses and provides a good social hub. However, vacancies are above average and demand from occupiers appears to be limited. Decaying empty properties are blighting the appearance of the town centre. It is vulnerable to further closures of the national multiples and financial institutions for whom this location is likely to be marginal due to online shopping and banking and the vast retail range in nearby Merthyr Tydfil. Residents can also easily commute to work in South Wales from the</p>		

	<p>town, they then have little time to engage with their local community or use the town's facilities. Neighbouring regions such as the Ebbw Vale area have funding and business facilities to attract current Brecon businesses and businesses relocating to Wales.</p> <p>Increasing numbers of people are walking to Pen y fan from the Storey Arms and returning to South Wales. The town needs to find a way to attract these visitors and to encourage short breaks in the area.</p>
<p>Dependant Hinterland</p>	
<p>Aberysgir, Allt-mawr, Battle, Brecon, Bronllys, Cantref, Capel-y-ffin, Cathedine, Crai, Crickadarn, Cwmdu, Defynnog, Merthyr Cynog, Garthbrengei, Glasbury, Gwenddwr, Hay, Llanddew, Llangorse, Llan-y-wern, Llanddeti, Llandefaelog, Llandefalle, Llandyfaelog Fach, Llandyfaelog Tre'r-graig, Llandyfalle, Llanelieu, Llanfihangel Cwm Du, Llanfihangel Fechan, Llanfihangel Nant Brân, Llanfihangel Tal-y-llyn, Llanfilo, Llanfrynach, Llangasty Tal-y-llyn, Llangattock, Llangenny, Llangorse, Llangynidr, Llangynog, Llanhamlach, Llanhetty, Llanigon, Llanspyddid, Llan-y-wern, Llyswen, Llywel, Maesmynys, Merthyr Cynog, Partrisiko, Pen-pont, Rhyd-y-bryw, Talach-ddu, Talgarth, Three Cocks, Tretower, Upper Chapel, Ystradfellte</p>	
<p>Specific issues (current)</p>	
<p>The town centre has a mix of retail and commercial premises, with many high quality attractions, however many empty decaying properties are blighting the appearance of the town. The nearby retail park and leisure facilities in Merthyr Tydfil draws trade from the town and the wider region. The flow of traffic around the town is not convenient and car parking at peak times is inadequate. Accommodation for a range of visitors is not meeting their needs and is of poor quality. Visitors are also deterred by the lack of adequate evening attractions. The Storey Arms area is frequently featured on the national media. It attracts an increasing number of visitors, but they usually climb Pen y fan and leave without considering exploring the nearest town which is Brecon.</p> <p>The limited number of business units available encourages businesses to relocate to neighbouring counties that have more attractive deals and facilities. The growth of current businesses is also restricted. Many residents commute from the town and do not have time to fully use its facilities or engage with its community. The range of courses at the NPTC college is not meeting the needs of many students who then choose to study outside the county and do not return because of the very limited career opportunities in the town. There is a lack of a cohesive voice to develop the town, however a town plan is being devised by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and will be adopted as supplementary evidence.</p>	
<p>Evidence of need, stats etc.</p>	
<p>Potential Project activity</p>	
<p>Potential partners</p>	



Subject to

Name of Town & County
Llandysul, Ceredigion
General overview and historic issues
<p>Population: 1,439</p> <p>An historic river crossing and former market town with busy railway connections, Llandysul, along with its sister settlement of Pont Tyweli (situated adjacent on the Carmarthenshire side of the River Teifi), saw significant growth in importance during the 19th and early 20th century. The town is famous for its river angling heritage although this is now in decline due to low fish stocks.</p> <p>It has a long tradition of serving its hinterland, in particular, its agricultural community, regarding its local shopping, social and recreational needs. It also provides for the community's primary and secondary educational needs, with a wider special educational role in supporting the Welsh language.</p> <p>The railway closed as part of the Beeching reform in the 1960's and the mart closed in the early 00's to make way for the new by-pass.</p> <p>The settlement is situated on a sloping terrain rising from the River Teifi to the Croesffordd plateau. The settlement can be described as lower, mid and upper in this context. The lower and mid-town consists of traditional terraced streets including the High Street, forming a Conservation Area which contrasts with more modern development on the rising ground and plateau to the north west. The lower town is bounded to the south and east by the Teifi River and a substantial C2 flood zone.</p> <p>The recent completion of a bypass route and the new 3-19 school on the upper outskirts of the settlement are issues dominating the future vitality and development of Llandysul.</p> <p>It serves as a commuter settlement for Carmarthen, Cardigan, Lampeter and Aberaeron all circa or so 15 miles away.</p> <p>The town is the home of a number of successful local businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print firm, Gomer Press, one of the earliest print companies in Wales and the major producer of Welsh language books has now relocated from an in-town site to a modern premise at the northern edge of the town adjacent to the bypass. • Telynau Teifi, a not-for-profit organisation and the only commercial harp manufacturer in Wales • Llandysul Paddlers nationally known canoeing and kayaking centre, uses the river and adjacent lake to train participants to a high level. Has a bunkhouse and training facility in Pont Tyweli • Tregroes Waffles – nationally known manufacturer of waffles based in Pont Tyweli • The Arcade, known regionally as key suppliers for Aga and wood burning stoves along with quality kitchen accessories. <p>The Food Centre Wales at Horeb, appx 1 mile out of town, makes an important contribution to the area and some development of the facilities there could see the centre grow.</p> <p>The Llandysul High Street had a distinctive range of independent businesses, some as shown above with regional or national renown.</p>

However, many of the shops are now closed, as are the four banks that dominate the main thoroughfare. The retail provision has declined but the provision of pre-prepared food outlets has grown over recent years.

The opening of a new 3-19 school on the upper outskirts of the settlement has meant that the original primary and secondary school site in the mid-level of the settlement have now closed. The primary school site has recently been sold and the secondary school site is on the market for sale; some local community interest in part of the site is currently being explored.

The 2016 Healthcheck noted:

Strengths	Presence of national multiples Good number of shops Good car parking	Weaknesses/Gaps	Restricted catchment Limited retail offer between car park and centre
Opportunities	Central focus on main street Improved leisure service offer Llandysul Through School opening	Threats	Further closures of key services Relatively dispersed nature of commercial uses
Conclusions on Health of Centre	Llandysul is a market town that provides for the retail and other community needs of its rural hinterland. The centre currently seems to be in transition with a number of changes having happened recently, but the overall mix remains good and it is currently considered to be relatively healthy. However, vacancies are above average and demand from occupiers appears to be limited. It is therefore vulnerable to further closures of the national multiples for whom this location is likely to be marginal. Its location and offer means tourist trade is likely to be limited and there may be a need to reduce the size of the centre in the future. The opening of the Llandysul Through School may improve footfall within the centre and counter any reduction in trade seen as a result of the by-pass opening, but the increased distance from the centre may counter this. As a result the draw of the centre is likely to remain limited.		

Dependant Hinterland

Aberbanc, Capel Dewi (S), Coedybryn, Croeslan, Ffostrasol, Henllan, Horeb, Maesymeillion, Penrhiwllan, Pentrellwyn/Gorrig, Prengwyn, Rhydlewys, Rhydowen, Talgarreg.

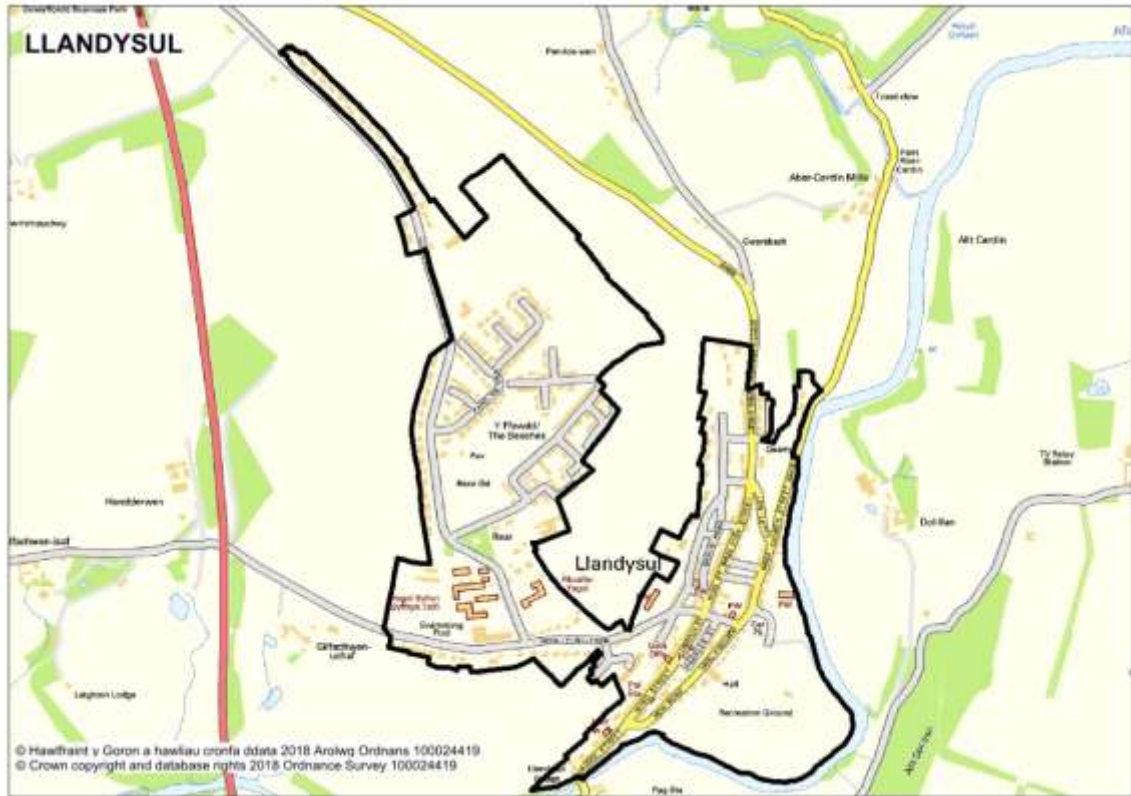
Specific issues (current)

The main thoroughfare is a mix of residential and commercial premises. In recent times the settlement has been by-passed, the two schools in town have moved to an upper town site, four national banks have closed and the empty buildings now dominate the main street. A number of local attractor businesses have closed making way for empty or charity shops. A number of former retail outlets have been converted to residential use.

A supermarket has opened in adjacent Pontweli (Carmarthenshire) drawing customers away from the high street due to its product range and ease of parking. The Post Office recently relocated to the supermarket leaving another redundant building in the settlement centre.

<p>Against this backdrop, some existing businesses are questioning their viability and are considering closure.</p> <p>The former secondary school site in the mid-level of the town is proving problematic for the Council to dispose of. There has been local community interest over the past year but this has failed to produce anything tangible. Adjacent to the school site the community-run swimming pool has recently taken over the former council leisure centre next to it; the facility has relaunched under the title Calon Tysul. There may be opportunities for expansion under the new organisation if funding can be found to support proposals that are currently being developed.</p>
<p>Evidence of need, stats etc.</p> <p>Although the WIMD does not necessarily reflect it, it is generally accepted that there is a need for some drastic intervention to prevent the total decline of the town. This can be supported by the fact that recently the MP and AM for Ceredigion jointly called a community crisis meeting to discuss the issues.</p> <p>The prevalence of redundant buildings in the main thoroughfare and the lack of incentive for developers to recommission the buildings means that currently there is no short-term solution to the status quo.</p> <p>The removal of the two schools and Ysgol Meithrin to an edge of town site has had an effect on businesses locally. It has also raised safety concerns as there is no easy route by foot from the town to the school.</p> <p>Closure of local shops, amenities and services is having a real effect on local morale; it also affects the outlying settlements that depend upon the town for access to services. Many of these outlying settlements are already in the top 10% for WIMD access to services.</p>
<p>Potential Project activity</p>
<p>Potential partners</p> <p>Town Council, local community groups, local developers, local businesses, property owners. Llandysul Paddlers, Calon Tysul trustees, Porth Hotel</p>

Map – Llandysul



Subject to

Name of Town & County
Tregaron - Ceredigion
General overview and historic issues
<p>Population 1,213 (2011)</p> <p>Tregaron is located at the foot of the Cambrian Mountains with Cors Caron, a raised peat bog, designated as a Ramsar site and a Site of Special Scientific Interest to the South. It is a well-established settlement, having been a natural centre for trade and industry for centuries. The settlement has a wide range of facilities and services, including a primary and secondary school, doctor's surgery, pharmacy, general store/post office, hairdressers, public house, garage, village hall, place of worship and rugby pitch. Tregaron has a strong historical built form typifying nineteenth century Welsh non-conformism. Although there are not many large ornate buildings, the vernacular and tight street patterns bring charm to this town.</p> <p>This inland Settlement Group is one of the largest Groups in terms of its geographical area. It contains the Cambrian Mountains, which extend into Powys. Although this Group borders the neighbouring County of Powys, the Cambrian Mountains act as a natural barrier for development and as such no settlements have been identified in Powys as looking towards Tregaron for services and facilities.</p> <p>Although a geographically large area its defined Linked Settlements are quite dispersed. It has three Linked Settlements; the largest is Llanddewi Brefi which has a range of community facilities, the smallest, Bronnant, has a petrol station. Although Tregaron only has three Linked Settlements it serves a very wide rural community in terms of hamlets and farmsteads which very much rely on the town for their needs.</p> <p>The Settlement Group occupies one of the most highly valued landscapes in Ceredigion, characterised by exposed upland plateau and broad river valleys. Tregaron is surrounded by spectacular countryside at the foot of the Cambrian Mountains. The upland landscape is comprised of large expanses of rugged, unenclosed, unimproved grassland and moorland, with cotton grass and other bog vegetation in wet flushes and around pools. Its landform is typified by irregular knobs and peaks, exposed rock outcrops, and scree slopes. Particularly distinctive is the landscape at Teifi Pools, which contains a series of broken north to south-orientated rocky ridges, with lakes and pools in between.</p> <p>Tregaron is situated at the junction of the Principal Road A485 (Aberystwyth to Lampeter) main road and the B4343 (Pontarfynach to Cwmann) road. Within the most recent Trafnidiaeth Canolbarth Cymru Mid Wales Transportation (TraCC) Regional Transport Plan there are no formal proposals at present for major new or improved transport links. A scheme focusing on the Talbot Yard area has included extending the town car park, providing coach parking and a bus terminus, bicycle parking facility and improved pedestrian access.</p> <p>The settlement has two attractor businesses – The Talbot Hotel and Rhiannon's gold centre both of which have seen significant investment over recent years and have plans to continue investing in the future.</p> <p>The 2016 Town Healthcheck summarises thus:</p>

Strengths	Distinct visitor offer Important service role	Weaknesses/Gaps	Limited catchment population
Opportunities	Central location of hotel Good car parking provision	Threats	Growth of larger centres Closures of key services
Conclusions on Health of Centre	Tregaron is an attractive centre and one which appears to be relatively healthy. However, it has relatively high levels of vacancy and a decreasing comparison offer making it vulnerable to closures of the national multiples for whom this location is likely to be marginal. Its location and offer means some tourist trade can be expected and the new car park seeks to provide the necessary facilities to meet their requirements. However, the resulting trade would be expected to be limited and is unlikely to be sufficient to support businesses in isolation.		
Dependant Hinterland			
(Ceredigion) Bronnant Llanddewi Brefi Llangeitho			
Specific issues (current)			
Tregaron and the upland villages were designated as a Communities First area under the earlier WG programme, The designation has now lapsed but substantial social issues remain in the settlement group as illustrated by WIMD figures In recent times the town has seen the closure of a number of banks and shops. Outward migration of youth is seen as a significant issue.			
Evidence of need, stats etc.			
Llangeitho ward is in the top 10% most deprived for access to services and top 30-50% most deprived of Education, Housing and Income, Tregaron in top 20-30% for access to services and top 30-50% for education.			
Potential Project activity			
Potential partners			
Cylch Caron project Rhiannon's Strata Florida Trust			

Map - Tregaron

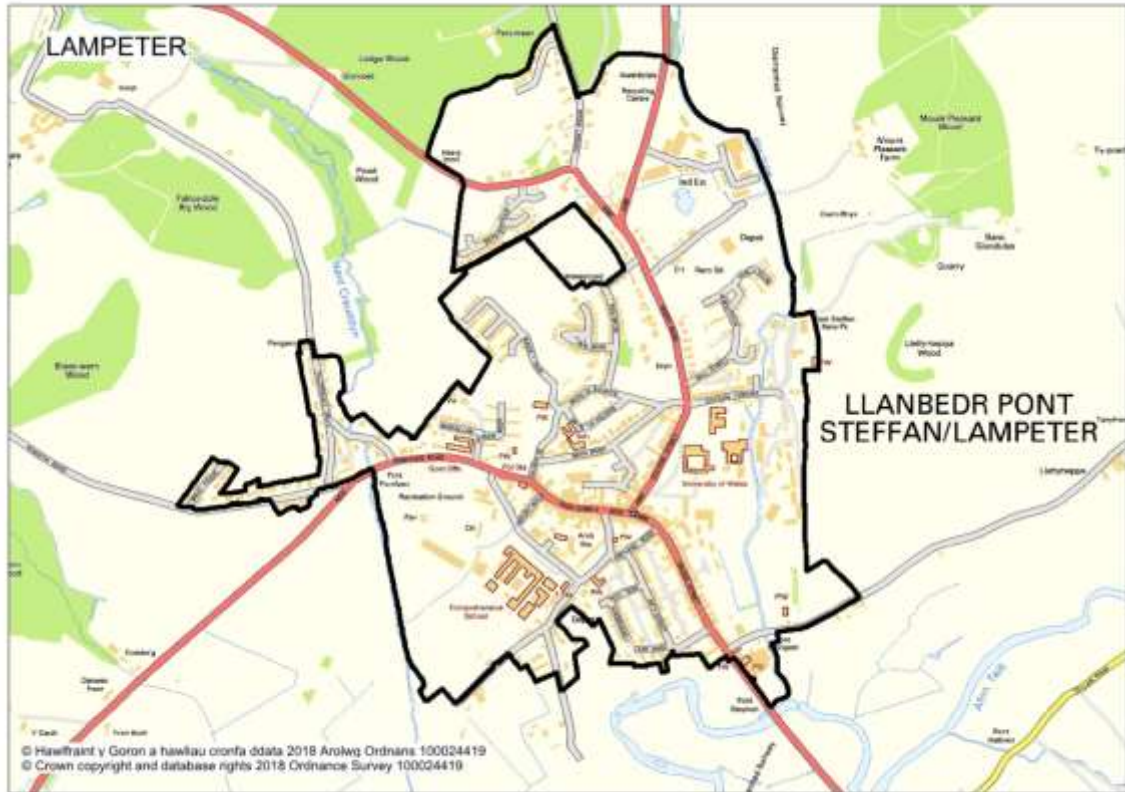


Name of Town & County															
Lampeter, Ceredigion															
General overview and historic issues															
<p>Population 2,970</p> <p>Lampeter is an important university town, which serves a large geographical area. An important river crossing, former mart location and former busy railway connection, the town now relies on the University for throughput of students having lost the mart and railway link.</p> <p>Lampeter is situated in the south-eastern corner of Ceredigion in the valley of the River Teifi and is the third largest urban area of the county after Aberystwyth and Cardigan. Lampeter is an important town for retailing, administration, judicial, education and business services. The town serves a large part of Ceredigion but also parts of Carmarthenshire with the settlement of Cwmann (Carms.) sitting adjacent across the river. Not only do a number of nearby settlements look to it for daily needs but also a number of settlements further afield, including Rural Service Centres.</p> <p>Unusually for a settlement of this size Lampeter hosts two national supermarkets – Sainsbury's, somewhat hidden in the town centre and Co-op on the outskirts.</p> <p>Lampeter maintains a predominantly independent high street with some nationals present.</p> <p>The town has aspirations to be a transition town although the momentum of this seems to have waned of late.</p> <p>Current view of centre from 2016 Healthcheck</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Strengths</td> <td>Local population supported by students Easy to identify centre</td> <td>Weaknesses/Gaps</td> <td>Limited parking Largest retail unit (Sainsbury's) not visible</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Opportunities</td> <td>Development of food & drink offer</td> <td>Threats</td> <td>Closure of key occupiers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conclusions on Health of Centre</td> <td colspan="3">Lampeter is an attractive and generally successful centre offering a good mix of independent retailers and national multiples. It is generally vital and viable and there has been some recent investment particularly in the convenience sector. However, vacancies have been increasing and the number of comparison retailers has declined. The food & drink sector is also under-represented.</td> </tr> </table>				Strengths	Local population supported by students Easy to identify centre	Weaknesses/Gaps	Limited parking Largest retail unit (Sainsbury's) not visible	Opportunities	Development of food & drink offer	Threats	Closure of key occupiers	Conclusions on Health of Centre	Lampeter is an attractive and generally successful centre offering a good mix of independent retailers and national multiples. It is generally vital and viable and there has been some recent investment particularly in the convenience sector. However, vacancies have been increasing and the number of comparison retailers has declined. The food & drink sector is also under-represented.		
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Dependant Hinterland															
Bets Bedews Callan/Fisher's Arms, Cwrtnewydd, Drefach, Gorsgoch, Llangybi, Llanwnen, Llwynygroes, Silian															
Specific issues (current)															
The University of Wales Trinity Saint David Lampeter campus has seen reducing student numbers recently, which has raised questions about its viability. Significant ongoing investments arising from the connections with the Ching Kung Buddhist community from Hong Kong and future proposals for a mindfulness and well-being centre on campus offer positive possibilities.															

<p>Empty shops Empty pub / hotel in high street Outward migration of youth</p>
<p>Evidence of need, stats etc.</p>
<p>WIMD: Lampeter 1 ward top 10% deprived for housing. Top 20-30% physical environment Lampeter 2 ward top 20% deprived for environment and housing. Top 30-50% for access to services, income, employment and community safety Surrounding wards in top 10% most deprived of access to services Town Centre Healthcheck 2016 noted: "... vacancies have been increasing and the number of comparison retailers has declined. The food & drink sector is also under-represented."</p>
<p>Potential Project activity</p>
<p>Potential partners</p>
<p>University of Wales Trinity Saint David Housing associations Private sector Merched Medrws Local businesses Local community groups</p>

Subject to approval

Map - Lampeter



Subject to

4.5 – Local Growth Zone initiatives

Local Growth Zones are a Welsh Government initiative, and provide for a rural alternative approach to an enterprise zone.

There are two zones covering the geographical areas of Powys, focusing specifically on the key market towns of Brecon, Llandrindod Wells and Newtown, and the Teifi Valley.

The Strategic Regeneration Areas and the proposed themes of activity build on these identified areas and the issues and actions determined by their local Task and Finish Groups, which were made up of key local stakeholders and businesses.

4.5.1. – Brecon Strategic Regeneration Area Recommendations

- That Welsh Government supports and funds the establishment of a business-led initiative, including a champion / facilitator, which seeks to more fully develop Brecon's role as a tourist centre, specifically building on outdoor tourism opportunities, the heritage offer (e.g. museums), and the arts and culture offer (e.g. Brecon Jazz)
- That the business-led initiative explores the options to more fully develop Brecon's role as a shopping location, specifically building on the niche / boutique shopping offer
- That Powys County Council examines the suitability of a Townscape Heritage Initiative programme and a shop front grant scheme for Brecon

4.5.2 - Llandrindod Wells Strategic Regeneration Area Recommendations

- That Welsh Government supports and funds the establishment of a business-led initiative, including a champion / facilitator, which seeks to more fully develop Llandrindod Wells' role as an event and conference centre
- That the business-led initiative also seeks to enhance Llandrindod Wells' role as a heritage tourism centre, building upon the traditional tourism legacy and the outstanding natural environment nearby
- That Powys County Council considers the suitability of a Townscape Heritage Initiative programme and a shop front grant scheme for Llandrindod Wells

4.5.3 – Newtown Strategic Regeneration Area Recommendations

- That Welsh Government supports and funds the establishment of a business-led initiative, including a champion / facilitator, which seeks to more fully develop Newtown town centre's role as a service centre
- That the members of such an initiative, along with the champion, look in particular at Ernesto Sirolli's Enterprise Facilitation model and its applicability to Newtown, taking into account the work being undertaken by Powys County Council as part of its town centre retail pilot
- That the business-led initiative looks to ensure that stronger alliances are forged between businesses and Further Education providers, in order to

establish Newtown as a centre for business-focused learning and a centre of excellence

- That Welsh Government ensures that the proposed Newtown bypass is delivered on schedule, with work to start as planned in 2014
- That the regeneration of the Market Hall is an important catalyst for Newtown, and opportunities to exploit this need to be examined by Powys County Council and Welsh Government, including funding options
- That Powys County Council examines the suitability of a Townscape Heritage Initiative programme and a shop front grant scheme for Newtown

4.5.4 – Teifi Valley Strategic Regeneration Area Recommendations

The relevant recommendations from the Teifi Valley Task and Finish Group recommendations include;

- Recommendation 6 - Access to finance

‘Access to finance’ initiatives should be introduced in the Teifi Valley including:

- a) Preferential and enhanced access to ‘access to finance’ schemes for businesses in the LGZ;
- b) Making the support available in the Enterprise Zones available in the LGZ; and
- c) Exploring the potential for a local / crowd-funding venture capital fund specifically for the Teifi Valley.

- Recommendation 9: Tourism, recreation and leisure (key sector)

The Teifi Valley LGZ ‘package’ should include provision to support the development of the local tourism sector and of the Teifi Valley as an ‘iconic tourism destination’ in Wales.

- a) Support for the development of ‘tourism attractions’ that would enhance the Teifi Valley as an iconic destination;
- b) Support for businesses to utilise the opportunities that such developments would provide including a specific networks / action learning set for tourism businesses within the LGZ
- c) Improved strategic signposting to the Teifi Valley from the M4 and other key routes to the south and north; and
- d) Improved general marketing of the Teifi Valley as a destination including specific dates for providing the national and international press with the Teifi Valley tourism stories and brochures.

- Recommendation 10: Food and Farming (key sector)

A strong and viable farming sector is considered crucial to the economic future of the Teifi Valley as (in addition to its direct economic benefit) it provides the foundation for a number of other sectors including food processing, tourism and outdoor recreation. Recognising this, it is recommended that:

- a) The support that is currently available to farm businesses via the Farming Connect service be proactively targeted at farms within the Teifi Valley LGZ;
- b) Local food producers should be encouraged to add-value to local produce with a view to maximising the local economic benefit of the raw products produced within the Teifi Valley;
- c) Food businesses in the area be actively encouraged to utilise the food technology and new product development knowledge and expertise that exists within the Food Centre Wales;
- d) Adequate funding should be provided to Food Centre Wales in order to maintain and develop the services that it can provide to businesses within the LGZ and as part of the national network for developing food businesses in Wales; and
- e) Specific networks / action learning sets should be developed for businesses within the farming and agri-food sectors of the LGZ. There should also be a focus on developing the links between agri-food businesses and those in related sectors (including tourism and outdoor recreation) with a view to strengthening the links between those sectors.

- Recommendation 11: Energy and the Environment (key sector)

It is recommended that steps be taken to help develop and grow a new 'energy and the environment' sector in the Teifi Valley including:

- a) Supporting businesses within the LGZ seeking to develop new and innovative environmental goods and services via the Energy and Environment SME Growth Fund and extending that scheme in the Teifi Valley LGZ beyond the current March 2014 end date;
- b) Developing private, public and third sector relationships within the Teifi Valley which could facilitate the roll-out of emerging new energy and environmental technology across the LGZ (for example, developing joint-ventures between developers of zero carbon housing and local housing associations); and
- c) Supporting the development of a cluster of businesses around the above via the pro-active business support service and networks previously recommended.

- Recommendation 19: Maintaining and improving the appearance of towns and villages

It is recommended that funding be provided to implement improvements to the outside of commercial property and the public realm of key towns and villages in the Teifi Valley as part of the LGZ. This "sense of place" approach should be used to reinforce branding and the distinctiveness of the Teifi Valley. Such activities should be coordinated and focused with a view to ensuring the maximum possible impact in the areas targeted.

- Recommendation 20: Broadband and mobile phone coverage

It is recommended that:

- a) The Teifi Valley LGZ be given priority in terms of the roll-out of high speed fibre broadband in Wales. Consideration should also be given to targeted deployment

of ultrafast broadband at key business locations or to support key business clusters.

b) Broadband exploitation activities should also be piloted in the Teifi Valley LGZ to ensure that businesses within the LGZ are maximising the benefit they gain from the availability of superfast broadband. The lessons learned could be applied on an all-Wales basis to drive take-up and add value to Superfast Cymru deployment.

c) In addition, steps should be taken urgently to address poor mobile coverage in the Teifi Valley LGZ. The UK Government's Mobile Infrastructure Project aims to address coverage gaps across the UK. The Welsh Government should prioritise the Teifi Valley LGZ in its discussions with UK Government on this project.

- Recommendation 24: Commercial property

A review of the availability and suitability of commercial and business property in the Teifi Valley LGZ should be undertaken with a view to ensuring that it supports the economic growth of the area rather than be a barrier to it. Local businesses should be allowed to grow in the local vicinity and adequate property / development land should be made available to encourage this. The review should consider whether appropriate grants are in place to secure the conversion of redundant rural buildings for business development purposes and consider the need for 'specialist' units to support the development of key sectors; for example, food grade units.

4.5 – Engagement

Due to the recent increased emphasis on strategic planning of regeneration activities at a regional level in Wales, it is difficult to evidence historic regional engagement and consultation on such activities to date.

However, there have been high levels of engagement with the communities covered by the four proposed Strategic Regeneration Areas in Mid Wales at individual Local Authority level, building on the historic engagement undertaken as part of the Local Growth Zones initiatives.

4.5.1 Engagement to date

Teifi Valley Strategic Regeneration Area

- Public meetings have been held in Llandysul, hosted by the MP and AM as a result of the recent closure of services (Banks, Post Office etc) and community concern for the well-being of the town. Council officers are currently working with stakeholders to assess what interventions are possible.
- The CAVO Active Inclusion study and report for Llandysul in August 2016 undertook extensive community consultation to research community opinions to factors that significantly affected their well-being. Concerns included
 - poor public transport links to external services,
 - concern / worries about the departure of banks from the town
 - relocation of the primary and secondary schools to a peripheral location - pulling passing trade out of the town centre.

It was felt that this is reflected in a decline in the number of shops and services available within the town

- In Lampeter a recent piece of work in August 2017 funded via the Rural Development Plan for Wales, worked with a network of local business women (Merched Medrws) to look at issues affecting small businesses and to investigate ways in which local businesses could be made more sustainable. Findings included that Lampeter is perceived as having a ‘tired’ appearance - there are issues with empty shops and ‘many cite landlord expectations of rental income and lack of investment in commercial property as a strong barrier for enterprise’. Commercial tenancies with five year terms are also a barrier.
- A recent study into Upland regeneration (Miller research evaluation consulting July 2017) undertook a series of community engagement workshops – one held in Tregaron itself. The report found that there was a general need to improve infrastructure and the quality of the built environment and streetscape and noted that Tregaron suffers many areas of need in terms of visual improvements and general tidiness.

Newtown Strategic Regeneration Area

- Powys County Council works closely with a number of networks based in Newtown including, but not limited to
 - Mid Wales Manufacturing Group
 - Local Businesses
 - Going Green For A Living Community Land Trust Ltd (GGFAL)
 - NPTC Group Newtown Campus
 - Town Council

The council has worked closely with, and partly funded, the community led planning engagement and report published summer 2016. This led to the development of GGFAL Trust who are taking over a large proportion of green spaces in Newtown for recreation and leisure services. The council is currently working with the Town Council in the development of a 5 year Strategic Plan and a Place Plan following on from the Community Led Plan above.

- In conjunction with NPTC Group Newtown Campus and Mid Wales Manufacturing Group, Powys County Council have funded a “futureproofing engineering” project looking at skills needs for STEM subjects in the area and raising awareness. The project is now in its second year.
- Working with the networks and businesses, Powys County Council identify vacant premises and give advice and support on funding using schemes such as the Town Centre Loan Scheme.
- ‘Assembling Newtown: Moving with the times’ is part of the Global-Rural 5 year research study funded by the European Research Council and undertaken by Aberystwyth University. The study shows the changes to Newtown and how it has seen its population swell and decline, buildings constructed, occupied, emptied and re-occupied, and its position as a political and economic centre shift regionally and nationally as changes in technology, transport, financial markets, innovation, industry and mobility have helped shape the town. The report discusses the changes to Newtown through the eras and how this has shaped it today. One of the biggest fears coming out of the report is that Newtown will become a “Dead time” following the bypass opening, local businesses will suffer, the town will not benefit from passing trade and it might be forgotten politically. There are also concerns regarding job availability and opportunities. However it does recognise that Newtown has grabbed opportunities to develop, innovate and evolve and it continues to do so. Wider trends such as continued advances in automation, technology and innovation will continue to play a part in framing how the town changes.

Llandrindod Wells Strategic Regeneration Area

- Powys County Council works closely with the following:
 - Town Council
 - Business Group
 - Businesses
 - Local organisations

- Using Local Authority funding and money from the Tesco S106 agreement, Powys County Council have undertaken work to install a WiFi system within the town, to support visitors and events in the area. A new town website and street furniture was also supported. Working closely with the business group an Officer has been employed to look at the WiFi system and exploiting the data for the best use of business promotion, extending the tourism offer in the area and boosting the lake park area visitor offer.
- PCC is also managing a scheme within the lake park area using EU funding alongside PCC budget to enhance and promote the area. The work includes the re-opening of an historic Amphitheatre, re-establishing boating on the lake and improvements to the walking trails and footways in the area. PCC has worked closely with local organisations such as National Resources Wales, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, Angling Association and local businesses.
- Working with the networks and businesses, Powys County Council identify vacant premises and give advice and support on funding using schemes such as the Town Centre Loan Scheme, which is managed by PCC.

Brecon Strategic Regeneration Area

- Powys County Council is currently supporting regeneration in Brecon through a number of approaches. The Council works closely with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to support development opportunities in and around the town. Part of this support has been to assist the community including local businesses, Brecon Chamber of Trade, and the Town Council in working together to produce a Town Plan. The plan is intended to be used for informing the Brecon Beacons Local Development Plan as Special Planning Guidance (SPG).
- The Council is working with local businesses providing advice and linking up local enterprise agencies, organisations, and networks to provide coordinated support. The Council has organised and supported business events in the town including a Powys Business Clinic, Urdd Eisteddfod, Superfast Cymru Events, and Business Wales Events. Meet the Buyer events have also been supported to encourage local businesses to work together and maximise local supply chains and the local pound.
- Extensive engagement has also been undertaken with local resident and businesses regarding Y Gaer, otherwise known as the Brecon Cultural Hub. The project will develop Brecknock Museum and Brecon Library as a valuable community resource for the people of Brecon and the surrounding area, provide opportunities for participation and volunteering and become a significant tourist attraction. It is due to open in 2018.

Both councils have also been undertaking extensive public consultation exercises for their respective Local Wellbeing Plans. While the plans aren't specific to any of the proposed Strategic Regeneration Areas, they have been a good

engagement tool in providing a general indicative barometer of resident's feelings on priorities in their local areas.

4.5.2 Future Engagement

Both Ceredigion County Council and Powys County Council are planning to roll out a programme of community place plans in early 2018. This programme will see both councils supporting town and community councils to consult and develop their own place plans which will identify local concerns and opportunities for investment and development.

This activity will be complimented by wider strategic consultations that are ongoing to form a regional evidence base (please see section 1.1)

Local consultations will be held to ascertain community support for individual projects as they come forward.

4.6 – Maximising the Strategic Impact of the Plan

The Growing Mid Wales Partnership has developed this Regeneration Plan as part of its integrated approach. This is currently being developed to take forward the region's prosperity and growth over the next 10 – 15 years. The Plan fulfils an important role joining up and achieving an inclusive approach to ensure that growth can reach across all parts of the region.

The Partnership has already seen and supported significant proposals in some key centres in the region and is intending to develop a small number of projects with private sector involvement and substantial impacts and outcomes focussed on raising the region's GVA. These will be in a limited number of centres across the region. For the more sparsely populated parts of the region, the Partnership looks to develop a programme of interventions with Welsh Government "to support communities, businesses and the management of natural resources" across the smaller settlements and rural areas to follow on from the current Rural Development Programme¹.

The Regeneration Plan forms a vital part of this integrated approach, prioritising smaller investments in mid-ranking centres and ensuring a balanced 'place' based approach to supporting growth throughout the region.

¹ Welsh Government facilitated People and Communities Roundtable Working Group, Sustaining our Communities, 2018, (submitted to the Brexit Roundtable).

4.7 - Projected Outputs

Forecasting what numbers of outputs will be delivered under the Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme is very difficult as it is dependent on what applications come forward and are approved. The figures proposed below are therefore very speculative at this stage and open for discussion with Welsh Government, but are based on the assumption of the full notional allocation of £7M being committed to Mid Wales. The projected outputs are based on the assumption that Local Authorities will act as leads for projects, based on discussions with Welsh Government.

Output	Number
Gross jobs created	30
Total number of traineeships in the projects	4
Investment induced (£)	£3M
Enterprises accommodated	10
Non-residential Premises created or refurbished (m sq.)	6250m sq.
Value of contracts/sub contracts awarded to SMEs based in Wales (£)	£4.5M



**Strategic Outline Programme
Business Case**

**Welsh Government
Targeted Regeneration Investment
Programme**

Version 1

BUSINESS CASE: KEY DETAILS PAGE

COMPLETED/UPDATE BY: INITIATIVE MANAGER AT EACH NEW VERSION]

Initiative Name: Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme

Project Manager : Gareth Jones

Senior Responsible Owner: Lisa Griffiths

Access to Business Case:

Does this business case require restricted access on SharePoint?	No
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Progress Reporting:

What is/will be, the progress reporting mechanism for this project	The programme is being managed and reported through the Growing Mid Wales Partnership. Progress will be reported to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Regeneration and Cabinet as required.
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Version	Date	Author	Summary of Changes made
v0.01	10/6/18	Gareth Jones	

*This section must include review and signature from Finance and Legal.

STRATEGIC OUTLINE PROGRAMME: TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
2. STRATEGIC CASE	4
2.1 PURPOSE	4
2.2 STRATEGIC CASE	4
2.2.1 Organisation overview	4
2.2.2 Strategy and programme investment aims	4
2.2.3 Existing arrangements	4
2.2.4 Business needs	4
2.2.5 Potential scope and service requirements	4
2.2.6 Benefits, risks, dependencies and constraints	5
3. ECONOMIC CASE	5
3.1 CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS	5
3.2 MAIN OPTIONS	5
3.3 PREFERRED WAY FORWARD	5
4. COMMERCIAL CASE	6
4.1 COMMERCIAL STRATEGY	6
4.2 PROCUREMENT STRATEGY	6
5. FINANCIAL CASE	6
5.1 INDICATIVE COST	6
5.2 FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS	6
5.3 AFFORDABILITY	6
6. MANAGEMENT CASE	6
6.1 PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS	7
6.2 PROGRAMME MILESTONES	7
6.3 PROGRAMME ASSURANCE	7
7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	7
8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	7
9. EQUALITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS	7
10. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPLICATIONS	7
11. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS	7
12. SOCIAL VALUE ACT IMPLICATIONS	7
13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE	7

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Executive summary

The Welsh Government Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP) aims to support capital projects that promote economic regeneration in targeted areas. The Programme is being delivered on a regional basis through the GMW Partnership as Welsh Government require robust regional partnerships and governance arrangements to be in place. Project must be identified and prioritised by regional partnerships.

There is a notional funding allocation of £7M for Mid Wales over a three year period commencing in April 2018. The maximum intervention rate per project is 50% for development stage funding and 70% for implementation stage. Project-level decision-making will be supported by clear assessment criteria and consideration by a National Regeneration Investment Panel.

Following a regional open call for projects 31 initial project proposals have been identified. These have been assessed against the programme criteria by an Evaluation Panel on behalf of the GMW Partnership. The Panel recommended the initial prioritisation of the projects shown in Table 1. It also recommends that the top five projects listed are progressed to development funding application stage and that all projects shortlisted are included in the Regional Regeneration Plan for consideration by Welsh Government.

3.4 Table 1 – Recommended Prioritisation of Initial Projects

Project	Indicative TRIP Funding Requested
Regional Property Development Investment Fund, Powys CC/Ceredigion CC	£1.5M
Lampeter Canolfan Dulais, Tai Ceredigion Housing Association	£1.5M
Research & Development Centre, Llandrindod, Private sector	£2.5M
Business Units, Dole Road Llandrindod, Powys CC	£600,000
Business Unit, Abermule Business Park, Powys CC	£700,000
Tregaron Swimming Pool Refurbishment, Tregaron Town Council	£320,000
Burgess Hall, Lampeter UWTSD	£700,000
District Heating Scheme, Tregaron, Ceredigion CC	£306,000
Business Incubation Units, Ladywell House, Newtown, Powys CC	£1M
Enterprise Park, Going Green for a Living Community Land Trust Ltd, Newtown	£1.3M

2. STRATEGIC CASE

2.1 Purpose

This outline business case seeks approval for the inclusion of a list of prioritised project proposals for Mid Wales in a draft Regional Regeneration Plan as part of the Welsh Government TRIP process. It provides the context for potential future investments and approvals through the Programme and subsequent business cases.

2.2 Strategic case

2.2.1 Organisation overview

TRIP is a Welsh Government funding programme. Welsh Government is inviting applications for regionally-endorsed local authority project proposals for a three-year period which began in April 2018.

The proposals for the programme mirrors the commitment to joined up working and doing things differently set out in '*Prosperity for All*', the Welsh Government's new national strategy. The programme will also directly contribute to the delivery of the Economy Programme under the Council's Vision 2025 and the Powys Well Being Plan.

2.2.2 Strategy and programme investment aims

The TRIP is looking to support projects that promote economic regeneration - creating jobs, enhancing skills and employability, and creating the right environment for businesses to grow and thrive – with a focus on individuals and areas most in need.

The programme seeks to develop targeted regeneration investment in the physical infrastructure of those communities that can promote economic regeneration. The aim of this programme is to facilitate the development of, and support for, regionally-significant regeneration investment proposals in defined Regeneration Areas.

Based on the programme criteria and looking to build on the legacy and impact of Welsh Government initiatives, Growing Mid Wales will focus regeneration activity on the towns under the Powys Local Growth Zone (Newtown and Severn Valley, Llandrindod Wells, Brecon) and the Teifi Valley Local Growth Zone (Llandysul, Lampeter and Tregaron as three small towns in one regeneration area). This approach will ensure value is added to existing Welsh Government investments in areas of previously identified need of economic regeneration, designated as Local Growth Zones, and will focus on the specific market towns where activity will have the greatest potential to reach the greatest number of possible residents given the dispersed nature of settlements in the region.

2.2.3 Existing arrangements

Powys was unsuccessful in securing funding through the Welsh Government's Vibrant & Viable funding programme which was the predecessor programme to TRIP. Instead funding was allocated to the Council under the Welsh Government Town Centre Loans Fund. This scheme focuses on reducing the number of empty and underused sites and premises in town centres and currently operates until the end September 2018. Loans issues through the scheme will be recycled to support other projects once repaid.

2.2.4 Business needs

The programme provides the opportunity for capital grant funding to support regeneration projects in the targeted areas. This will enable projects to be delivered which otherwise would not take place or would be delivered on a reduced scale.

2.2.5 Benefits, risks, dependencies and constraints

The Programme will support the delivery of key economic outputs and outcomes in line with the Council's corporate priorities which include the Vision 2025 Economy Programme. These include job creation, the creation of business premises and refurbishment of vacant and underused buildings.

Risks associated with the delivery of capital projects would be managed through a robust design and costing process. The Welsh Government application process will only allow funding applications for delivery stage funding to be applied for once projects have been worked up to detailed design stage. Risks will be managed in the delivery stage through good project management and contingency elements built into scheme costs.

3. ECONOMIC CASE

3.1 Critical success factors

Project activity proposals were identified through a combination of Local Authority led investments and by an open call Speculative Notice published through 'Sell To Wales'. 31 expressions of interest were subsequently submitted for the initial phase of the programme. These were evaluated by a scoring panel made up of representatives from the GMW Partnership which included Cllr Martin Weale, Cabinet Member for Planning & Regeneration. The purpose of the scoring panel was to prioritise ideas submitted for inclusion in the Partnership's Regeneration Plan.

Expressions of interest for projects were evaluated using the following scoring matrix:

Scoring Criteria	Marks Available
Capacity of organisation to handle public funding in a regeneration project. A series of questions to judge track record and financial standing of the organisation	Pass / Fail
Eligibility of Activity to receive public funding from Welsh Government	Pass / Fail
How well the proposal delivers against the regeneration Themes and Criteria outlined above & proposal viability	40
Value for money in terms of potential to deliver against those Outputs detailed on Annex 1 compared with amount of public money required.	20
Absence of significant potential development barriers (for eg compliance with planning policy, property ownership guaranteed, listed buildings constraints etc)	20
Amount and credibility of match funding.	20

A review was also undertaken of a Qualification Questionnaire for each project by procurement officers at Ceredigion County Council in respect of point 1 of the scoring

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criteria. Total scores for each EOI were discussed by the panel in order to reach a consensus.

3.2 Main options

The following initial projects were recommended for prioritisation by the Scoring Panel for inclusion in the draft Regional Regeneration Plan:

Regional Ranking	Project
	Short Term (2018/19 – 2019/2020)
1	Regional Property Development Investment Fund across all 6 towns. Lead: PCC. Covers loan and grant aid to empty / underused property development and new build where gap between value of completed building is less than cost of build / renovation (£3M total investment in years 2018 - 2021).
2	Canolfan Dulais Enterprise Centre , Lampeter. Demolition of poor quality town centre building and new build to provide enterprise units focused on growing social care sector (£4.5M total investment), ERDF and Tai Ceredigion funding to cover first year investment (2018/2019)
9	Ladywell House Business Incubation Units , Newtown. Refurbishment of the first and second floors of the building to provide high quality, modern office accommodation for established and growing businesses, plus provision of some dedicated, flexible office space to support the development of start-up and micro businesses. This will be achieved through the provision of incubation units and flexible desk space. (£3.8m total investment)
	Medium Term (2019/2020 – 2020/2021)
3	Llandrindod Research & Development Centre , Llandrindod. Construction/renovation of building (£6.35M total investment).
5	Abermule Business Park , Newtown. Development of vacant business site; infrastructure and first business units (£1.56M total investment).
4	Llandrindod Wells, business units. Vacant site infrastructure and build of first business units. (£857k total investment).
6	Tregaron Swimming Pool Refurbishment. Refurbish and extend currently closed / redundant pool + provision of additional recreation facilities with provision of associated jobs and wellbeing benefits. (total investment £460k).
7	The Lampeter Creative Heritage Centre – Making Space for Art. Redevelopment of redundant Burgess Hall building as a centre for the arts and heritage which will deliver significant new employment and business facilities in association with cultural and entertainment opportunities for the community (£1m total investment)
	Long term (2020 →)
8	Tregaron District Heating System. Biomass district heating system as part of the Integrated primary and social care development 'Cylch Caron' to serve both the development and neighbouring private and third sector businesses. (£440k total investment).

Capital Programme – Strategic Outline Programme Template v0.02

10	Newtown Enterprise park: Development of land for environmental enterprise location. (£1.9m total investment)
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3.3 Preferred way forward

The following initial project proposals recommended for inclusion in the draft regional plan would be overseen by Powys County Council if the concepts are endorsed by Welsh Government. This would enable development stage funding to be sought, where required, for feasibility work and for projects to be worked up to tender stage prior to an invitation to apply to Welsh Government for implementation stage funding:

Project	Details	Council Role	Indicative key outputs
Regional Property Development Investment Fund	Concept proposal no details at this stage. Details would be prepared as part of project development stage.	Potential role in managing and overseeing development and delivery of fund. Costs and resources would be built into scheme proposals.	Gross jobs created – 40, Enterprises accommodated -10, No. units created/refurbished- 20
Ladywell House Business Incubation Units	Council owned site. Existing Council project and priority.	Project management and ongoing management.	Gross jobs created- 30 Number of Jobs accommodated (enabled through regeneration investment) -220 Non-residential Premises created or refurbished (sqm)- 2500
Llandrindod Research & Development Centre	Concept proposal no details at this stage. Details would be prepared as part of project development stage.	Funding application would need to be submitted by Powys CC and third party funding agreement put in place.	Gross jobs enabled – c.119 Investment induced – c.£13M Non-residential premises created or refurbished (tbc m2)
Abermule Business Park,	Council owned sited. Existing Council project and priority. Outline planning permission submitted.	Project management and ongoing management.	Enterprises accommodated-3 Hectares of Land developed - 0.5, Non-residential Premises created or refurbished (sqm) - 550
Llandrindod Wells, business units.	Council owned site. Funding would be applied for to support feasibility and design stage.	Project management and ongoing management.	Enterprises accommodated -4 Hectares of Land developed -0.6 Non-residential

Capital Programme – Strategic Outline Programme Template v0.02

			Premises created or refurbished (sqm) - 550
Newtown Enterprise park:	Concept proposal no details at this stage. Details would be prepared as part of project feasibility and design stage.	Funding application would need to be submitted by Powys CC and third party funding agreement put in place.	Gross jobs created – 13 Hectares of land developed – 1.5, Non-residential Premises created or refurbished (sqm) - 1,398

4. COMMERCIAL CASE

4.1 Procurement strategy

The procurement strategy for individual projects proposals would be prepared as part of the project development stage. Projects must be worked up to tender stage in order to apply to Welsh Government for implementation funding through the programme. Procurement proposals will comply Welsh Government and Council standing orders and tendering requirements.

Project	Indicative Procurement Process
Regional Property Development Investment Fund	Quotes/tender process to be complied with by individual applicants
Ladywell House Business Incubation Units	HWPS/open tender
Automobile Palace Research & Development Centre	Tender process requirements to be complied with by applicant
Abermule Business Park,	Framework/open tender
Llandrindod Wells, business units.	HWPS/open tender
Newtown Enterprise park	Tender process requirements to be complied with by applicant

5. FINANCIAL CASE

5.1 Indicative cost

A notional funding allocation of £7m has been outlined for the region, on a *per capita* basis, to assist with planning the programme. This is not a fixed budget, but an indication of the available budget over the initial 3-year period. Actual allocations will be dependent on the quality of projects approved and the decisions of the WG National Panel. A pipeline of project proposals over and above this allocation is therefore proposed which will be reviewed on an annual basis.

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Should a project succeed in gaining a funding approval, Welsh Government will enter into contract with the relevant County Council for the delivery of the project. Where appropriate, the County Council will in turn enter into contract with the sponsor to deliver the project, passing on the funding and associated terms and conditions.

Intervention rates will vary for each proposal but will most likely follow the following criteria:

- Minimum amount of grant to be awarded to enable the investment to take place.
- Any grant awards will be made within the constraints of State aid regulations applicable at time of award. The State Aid mechanism will need to be agreed on a case by case basis.
- The maximum level of grant intervention is set at 50% for development stage funding and 70% for implementation stage.

5.2 Funding arrangements

The indicative TRIP funding profile for the initial project proposals across the region is as follows:

Regional Ranking	Project	Indicative TRI Grant Funding				
		2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k	2020/21 £k	Future £k	Total £k
	Short Term (2018/19 – 2019/2020)					
1	Regional Property Development Investment Fund	200	600	700	700	2200
2	Canolfan Dulais Enterprise Centre	0	1000	500	0	1500
9	Ladywell House Business Incubation Units	500	500	0	0	1000
	Medium Term (2019/2020 – 2020/2021)					
3	Research & Development Centre	0	2500	0	0	2500
5	Abermule Business Park	0	700	0	0	700
4	Llandrindod Wells, business units.	0	600	0	0	600
6	Tregaron Swimming Pool Refurbishment.	0	160	160	0	320
7	The Lampeter Creative Heritage Centre – Making Space for Art.	0	350	350	0	700

Capital Programme – Strategic Outline Programme Template v0.02

	Long term (2020 →)					
8	Tregaron District Heating System. businesses.	0	100	206	0	306
10	Newtown Enterprise park:	0	350	950	0	1300
	TOTALS:	£700k	£6.86M	£2.866M	£700k	£11.126

5.3 Affordability

Match funding for Powys and other schemes would be worked up as part of the development stage of the projects subject to their approval by Welsh Government.

A budget request has been made to the Council's Capital Programme for match funding towards the programme as follows:

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
£150,000	£250,000	£200,000

The three year bid has been approved and funding of £150,000 allocated in the current financial year. Funding for 19/20 and 20/21 will need to be confirmed in the budget process for each respective year.

Project	Indicative TRI Funding	Indicative Match funding	Indicative Total	Likely Revenue Implications to PCC
Regional Property Development Investment Fund	£2.2M	£2M Source: Town Centre Loan scheme Third party applicants	£4.2M	Third party schemes – no implications
Ladywell House Business Incubation Units	£1M	£2.8M Source: Powys CC - existing Capital Programme allocation	£3.8M	Income generation to cover revenue costs
Research & Development Centre	£2.5M	£3.85M Source: Private Sector, EU	£6.35M	Third party schemes – no implications

		Town Centre Loan scheme		
Abermule Business Park	700k	£300,000 Source: Powys CC - existing Capital Programme allocation	£1M	Income generation to cover revenue costs
Llandrindod Wells, business units	600k	£250,000 Source: Powys CC - Capital Programme	£850,000	Income generation to cover revenue costs
Newtown Enterprise park	£1.3M	£600,000 Source: Big Lottery	£1.9M	Third party schemes – no implications

6. MANAGEMENT CASE

6.1 Programme management arrangements

As required by Welsh Government, TRIP is being delivered on a regional basis through the Growing Mid Wales Partnership involving a broad range of stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The GMW Partnership is required to compile a Regeneration Plan for the region to provide a strategic framework and context for project proposals. This will be an evolving document that can be adapted to meet emerging challenges and opportunities. To qualify for funding, the Partnership has to identify specific project investment proposals and include these in the Regeneration Plan which can be reviewed and updated.

Inclusion of project ideas in the Regeneration Plan does not guarantee that those projects will receive funding. Regional proposals for investment will be scrutinised and assessed by a National Regeneration Investment Panel. Applications will be invited from prioritised projects for development stage funding to work projects up to tender stage. Once at tender stage, projects may apply to Welsh Government for implementation funding. Applications for funding would be submitted by the relevant Council and required internal approval prior to submission.

Where full applications are approved, Welsh Government will enter into a contract with the relevant Council for the delivery of that project. If an approved project is sponsored by an external organisation, the Council would then need to enter into a legal contract with that organisation to pass on the funding and associated risks.

The general principles of the emerging management arrangements are:

i. Where project activity is on the form of an umbrella targeted grant scheme:

A Lead Authority is to be agreed by the GMW Partnership and nominated as 'Lead Body' to be financially responsible for the funding and to contract with Welsh Government on behalf of the region for that project. Delegated powers for individual project investment approvals to be sought from respective Cabinets to be given to a joint 'Steering Group' drawn from and nominated and agreed by the GMW Partnership that is representative of all sectors.

The 'Steering Group' to be able to make "delegated" approvals against individual applications up to a threshold of total grant awarded, where that threshold is to be agreed with Welsh Government. Appropriate delegated powers will be sought from respective Cabinets / Monitoring officers to enable these approvals to be made.

Steering Group to recommend awards based on evidence based scoring against scheme criteria that drive investment in the very best proposals. There will be no geographical ring fencing to any of the 6 identified towns to begin with, unless the grant scheme criteria define such targeting. The Lead Body formally awards the offer of funding and invites the applicant to enter into a contract with it.

The 'Lead Body' enters into contract with successful applicants to deliver the individual developments in accordance with recommendations received from the 'Steering Group'. Grant awards made with the minimum amount of grant necessary to enable the investment to proceed and within State Aid regulations where applicable. Where State Aid is applicable then either De Minimis or the Welsh Local Government Aid scheme SA.49737 exemption within GBER to be used.

ii. Where project activity is in the form of more specific individual assessments:

The Local Authority in which that investment takes place will be the financially responsible 'Lead Body' and progress the proposal by working with the potential sponsor to develop the project through to an application to Welsh Government and then enter into contract with both the sponsor of the project and the Welsh Government should it become approved. The 'Lead Body' will effectively be a conduit between Welsh Government and the project sponsor to pass on money and obligations in accordance with the specific project contract. The 'Lead Body' will recoup the administration costs of doing this by adding project management costs to the project costs.

Authority for a 'Lead Body' to make an application to Welsh Government and enter into any subsequent contract with Welsh Government will be in accordance with the standing orders for the relevant Local Authority.

6.2 Programme milestones

End July 2018	Inclusion of initial project proposals in draft Regional Regeneration Plan
August 2018+	Applications to Welsh Government for Development Funding on a rolling basis
August 2018+	Project Design/Feasibility commences

September 2018+ Applications to Welsh Government for Implementation Funding on a rolling basis (subject to internal approvals)

6.3 Risk Management

The current proposal relates only to the inclusion of initial project proposals in the draft regional regeneration plan. A detailed risk assessment will be undertaken as part of the development stage and implantation stage of potential projects.

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

10th July 2018

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies
Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport

SUBJECT: Corporate Improvement Plan 2017-18 Quarter 4
performance report

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides 2017-18 quarter 4 (and final) update against the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) 2016-20 which is based on the previous administration's priorities.

1.2 A detailed report is attached in appendix A which sets out progress against the 2017-18 CIP programmes which were;

Developing the economy
Learning
Services delivered for less
Social Services Improvement

1.3 At the end of March 2018 (Q4), 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 is amber

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%.

2. Proposal

1.1 It is proposed that Cabinet consider the detail within Appendix A and agree the Management Team remedial actions for the Critical Items to ensure that performance improves in these areas. The critical items are as follows;

Corporate Measures

Measure - Sickness Absence (days lost per FTE)

Issue - Targets were not met for People, Place and Resources Directorates

Remedial action - Overall the sickness figures appear to be positive when compared nationally, however, there is concern that there may be a low level recording of sickness onto Trent in Schools. Consequently this brings the overall accumulative figure down for the Council and therefore potentially masks the true level of sickness. We also need to explore the timescales allowed for adding retrospective sickness absence onto the Trent system. Delays in entries have a direct effect on the ability to report true figures.

Measure - % of IPRs undertaken

Issue - Targets have been missed for the whole organisation and all directorates

Remedial action - IPR levels are still a concern, especially with front line services and quarterly requirements are felt to be excessive.

Executive Management Team agreed to revise the Corporate IPR Policy to move to annual appraisal and undertake at least one monthly meaningful conversation per employee.

Developing the economy

Measure - Percentage of planning applications determined within 8 weeks or within agreed time

Issue - Although the target for the year was met performance is still lower than the previous year and significantly lower than the 1st half of the year

Remedial action - Due to the LDP not being adopted in Powys, higher than normal numbers of applications were received during this period. This coincided with a lack of resources caused by one resignation and maternity leave of Planning Officers. It should be noted that the service is still classed as `Good` under the WG definitions and that the Planning performance was still above target. Enforcement activity was also focussed on which has resulted in a successful prosecution and several other investigations underway.

Measure - Achieve WHQS, no of elemental improvements carried out

Issue - Missed the target by more than 50%. Although there was an extended timeframe for completion of WHQS from March to December 2018 is this target going to be met by then?

Remedial action - The number of properties which have elements which don't achieve the WHQS will reduce far quicker now as surveys

are undertaken in properties where we had little or no stock condition data and where programmes of work are being undertaken. The windows and door replacement programme and heating system replacement programmes are now getting up to speed following the recent award of the framework contractors and we are about to re-tender for the reroofing contract in the south of the county, following delays caused by a legal challenge.

Learning

Measure - The number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools (per 1,000 pupils)

Issue - target has been missed and RAG status is RED

Remedial action - Scrutiny and Cabinet have considered the 2018 rigorous self-evaluation (SER) of education services, which provides analysis on performance challenges. Cabinet have commenced a fundamental Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Inclusion Transformation Programme. Key elements of this work include improving workforce skills and provision for Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) within schools and school support services.

Measure - The percentage of 15 year olds leaving full time education without a recognised qualification

Issue - target has been missed and RAG status is RED

Remedial action - Scrutiny and Cabinet have considered the 2018 self-evaluation (SER) of education services. The Secondary Schools Strategy and specific work with schools causing concern will impact on this indicator. The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Inclusion Transformation Programme will also positively impact on this indicator in relation to vulnerable learners.

Measures - The percentage of schools inspected that were categorised as 'good' or better by Estyn for prospects for improvement & The percentage of schools inspected that were categorised as 'good' or better by Estyn for current performance

Issue - target has been missed and RAG status is RED

Remedial action - The target as set was unrealistic given the profile of school performance and governance/ leadership capacity. Scrutiny and Cabinet have considered the 2018 self-evaluation (SER) of education services and a revised improvement plan will be presented to members following the SER and the Estyn improvement conference of April 2018.

Measure - Reduce the number of schools with deficit budgets

Issue - RED for Q3 and Q4

Remedial action - Scrutiny and Cabinet have considered the 2018 self-evaluation (SER) of education services and a revised improvement plan will be presented to members following the SER and the Estyn improvement conference of April 2018. Schools are being supported to take action where needed to reduce staffing. Progress has also been analysed in the recent Estyn improvement conference, for which the outcome letter is being presented formally to Cabinet and Scrutiny.

Services delivered for less & CLGP

Priority Improvement Area G: Communications Strategy/Engagement

Issue - RED for Q4

Remedial action - Cabinet/Management Team exercise due to take place 05/06/2018 to review gold, silver and bronze campaigns. Findings from this session will inform the communications and engagement plan to be completed by September. The draft plan will go to EMT/Cabinet 31st July 2018.

Delays were due to action G1 (Comms review) not being completed in initial timescales due to inclement weather in March.

Social Services Improvement

Children's Improvement Plan

Measures:

- % of LAC Statutory Visits carried out within timescale
- % of CP Statutory Visits carried out within timescale
- The percentage of assessments completed for children within statutory timescales
- % of operational staff who have had Case Supervision on a monthly basis

Issue – Targets not met

Remedial action:

- % of LAC Statutory Visits carried out within timescale - Performance for April 2018 is 92%. This is showing continued improvement.
- % of CP Statutory Visits carried out within timescale - Performance for April 2018 is 87%. This is showing continued improvement.
- The percentage of assessments completed for children within statutory timescales - Performance for April 2018 is 99%. This is showing continued improvement.

- Performance for April 2018 is 90%. This is showing continued improvement.

Adults Improvement Plan

Measures:

- The number of persons (per 1000 population) aged 75 and over who experience a delay in returning to their own home or social care setting following hospital treatment decreases
- The Percentage of Carers identified offered an assessment

Issue – Targets not met

Remedial action:

- The main reasons for individuals not being able to return home from hospital for social care reasons are individuals not able to access their residential care home of choice and the lack of domiciliary care availability. The limited access to assessments has been addressed and the recruitment of more social workers and occupational therapists from the increased staffing budget has enabled swifter assessment and support. Work is ongoing in trying to increase the capacity in the domiciliary care market by developing the in-house domiciliary care service in the north of the county and by enabling the in-house service to become the service of 'last resort' (i.e. pick up packages that private agencies are unwilling/unable to pick up). Recently completed work on residential care home fees will ensure that there is less discussion around fees and should enable more efficient placements. A review of the reablement service is about to commence with the aim of increasing efficiency and effectiveness in reducing dependency upon domiciliary care, thus increasing the market's capacity. The use of My Care My Home was successful for a small number of service users in a pilot and work is ongoing to consider commissioning a home from hospital service that will support transfer of care. The Dynamic Purchasing System is being developed for domiciliary care with one of its aims to increase the domiciliary care market capacity.
- The increase in carers identified offered an assessment has been significant and the vast majority of carers now do receive the offer of an assessment. However, it is recognised that more work is required in order to promote the offer and take up of these assessments further, as well as ensuring that carers are identified in the first place. Training has been commissioned from Credu (Powys Carers) in order to increase awareness of carers issues and to support uptake of assessments. We also intend to commission (via the Integrated Care Fund) carers' rights booklets to support further uptake.

3. Options Considered / Available

N/A

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

N/A

5. Impact Assessment

5.1 Is an impact assessment required? No

5.2 If yes is it attached? Yes/No

6. Corporate Improvement Plan

1.2 Appendix A sets out detailed performance against the CIP 2017-18

7. Local Member(s)

1.3 This report impacts all Members equally and does not affect local Members individually.

8. Other Front Line Services

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? Yes

The Management Team remedial actions for the Critical Items are detailed in section 2.1 of this report and will be implemented by the relevant services.

9. Communications

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes

No proactive communication action required

10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

10.1 Legal

The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view

10.2 Finance

There are no financial implications relating specifically to the report.

11. Scrutiny

Has this report been scrutinised? No

11.1 The annual performance report 2017-18 currently being drafted will be presented to scrutiny for comment.

12. Statutory Officers

12.1 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) commented as follows: "I note the legal comments and have nothing to add to the report."

12.2 The Head of Financial Services (Deputy Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the report.

13. Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
That Cabinet consider the detail within Appendix A and agree 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

Relevant Policy (ies):	CIP 2016-20; Performance Management and Quality Assurance Framework		
Within Policy:	Yes	Within Budget:	Yes

Relevant Local Member(s):	All Members
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Executive Management Team
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	

Contact Officer: Emma Palmer Tel: 01874 612217 Email: emma.palmer@powys.gov.uk
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Background Papers used to prepare Report:

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Part A: Cabinet

1. CIP Overview

Corporate Improvement Plan

Status (BRAG)

This report provides 2017/18 quarter 4 (and final) update against the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) 2016-20 which is based on the previous administration's priorities.

There are a number of items identified as critical and that require attention, each of which are set out in section one of this report; identified under the respective CIP priority. Other items of importance are brought to the attention of Officers and Members under section four of this report.

* It should be noted that as agreed by SOB at quarter 2 reporting against the Adults and Childrens Improvement Plans will commence formally titled 'Social Services Improvement' replacing the priority for Supporting People to live fulfilled lives. Other priorities will remain for the duration of 2017/18, however, it is also suggested that an additional priority for 'Corporate Leadership and Governance Plan /making it happen will also commence rather than awaiting the new financial year. The plans used are as follows;

- Corporate Leadership and Governance Plan (as at 09/04/2018)
- Childrens Improvement Plan (as at 30/04/2018)
- Adults Improvement Plan (as at 29/05/2018)

Priority: Developing the economy

Status (BRAG)

The Economy programme is showing increasing pace around mobilisation. Initial officer and cabinet meetings have been held with Ceredigion to progress the potential of the Mid Wales growth deal. To support the process meetings have been held with WG to establish an outline approach using the mid wales footprint. Planning has been carried out for a series of Powys business breakfasts network events to be held April and May 2018. The events will have significant Cabinet presence. The quarter also saw the finalisation of the LDP for agreement by Council in April 2018.

The Cabinet has shown significant interest in the level of expenditure by the Council with Powys based businesses. This has been termed the 'Powys Pound' and the commercial services team have been gathering data as well as running events to support local SMEs bid for council contracts.

Priority: Learning	Status (BRAG)	
<p>Education Service has embarked on an improvement programme in order to address areas identified as a priority focus (ie the quality of teaching and learning/leadership within schools and provision for our more vulnerable pupils). Further capacity has been allocated to both School Improvement and the ALN teams in order to meet those challenges/provide the necessary support and challenge to schools, along with a greater focus on cross-team working (including finance and HR). Greater emphasis has also been placed on ensuring we deliver our statutory powers in terms of holding schools to account for their financial management of school budgets, support and challenge for governing bodies and holding schools to account via School Improvement Boards.</p>		

Priority: Services delivered for less & CLGP	Status (BRAG)	
<p>Services delivered for less and the CLGP is now within the Making it Happen programme, the programme has five key themes including; Workforce, Communications and engagement, corporate support services remodelling, front line service re-design and agile. This change formally took effect from May 2018 when the MIH board was constituted. During Q4 a number of customer facing processes have gone 'live' via our new website realising benefits from a customer and efficiency perspective. In addition a set of council wide transformation principles have been agreed and a consistent approach and methodology to change implemented.</p>		

Priority: Social Services Improvement	Status (BRAG)	
<p>2017/18 has been a challenging year for both Children and Adult Services. Performance has shown some improvement in relation to those people independent following a period of reablement, those supported with technology and in the March 2018 some signs of improvement in relation to statutory visits and safe guarding. In 2018/19 this performance needs to be improved further and sustained and this will involve a clear end to end business process to enable staff to discharge their professional duties.</p>		

Corporate Measures	Status (BRAG)	
<p>The sickness level across the authority was below target however this is not consistent by directorate. Further work is underway to look at recording issues to ensure that the data is robust.</p> <p>The councils overall financial position saw an underspend at the end of Q4 meaning that there was a contribution made to reserves to assist financial resilience going forward. However the Council remains at a relatively low level in terms of budget savings delivered within year. This is disappointing and would have caused an issue if significant underspends in other areas as well as additional funding from WG had not been received.</p> <p>The low level of IPRs undertaken has led to a discussion at EMT about the process being followed and consequently there will be a revision in the approach in 2018-19 to ensure the approach is proportionate and more user friendly.</p>		

Part B: Management Team

2. Achievements (potential communication stories)

Priority: Developing the economy	Lead Officer	David Powell
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Economy:

1. Powys & Ceredigion County Councils partnership agreement for Growing Mid Wales drafted. Aecom appointed, on behalf of the partnership, to develop a regional economic action plan and programme to drive economic growth.
2. Initial £150,000 secured from Welsh Government Communities for Work Plus programme to support people into employment.
3. Transport grants of £1.5m for 18/19 agreed and additional capital of £2.5 m for investment in the highway network.

Priority: Learning	Lead Officer	Ian Budd
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21st Century School Programme - The first round of the authority’s 21st Century Schools Programme, an £80m joint initiative between the local authority and the Welsh Government, had a number of projects in development:

- Gwernyfed primary schools - Following a reconfiguration of primary education in the Gwernyfed catchment, the Council has invested in five new primary schools in this area of Powys. The schools have an innovative ‘street’ space that provides a flexible area for teaching and learning
- Brecon high school - Construction has now started on the new 750 place secondary school, to replace the current school which is a very poor condition. The school is expected to open in 2019 and will provide bilingual education for 11—18 year olds in the area
- Gwernyfed high school - The authority is working on remodelling of Gwernyfed High School, with plans to develop a new teaching and learning block, a new sports hall and refurbish some of the current teaching blocks. The design process is now underway
- Ysgol Calon Cymru - Llandrindod High School and Builth Wells High School are merging to become a new school on two sites in September 2018, and the Senior Leadership Team has been appointed
- Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth - Ysgol Bro Hyddgen was established as the authority’s first all-through school in 2014. The next stage of the project will see the construction of a flagship 21st Century School building that will, for the first time, bring the primary and secondary campuses on the same site with brand new sporting and community facilities. The new school will be the first Passivhaus accredited all-through school in Wales and in the UK. Work is expected to start on site in 2019 with the school due to open by September 2020
- Welshpool - Following the successful reorganization of primary education in Welshpool, we are now looking forward to stage 2 of the project, which is the construction of two new primary schools. Welshpool CiW Primary School will be a 360 place English medium school and Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng will be a 150 place Welsh medium school. *CADW has confirmed that the Howell Drive site (previously Ysgol Maesydre) is now a listed building and we are working on a new design for which includes the listed building. Both schools are expected to open in September 2019 and 2020 respectively.*

- Ffwederasiwn Carno, Llanbrynmair and Glantwymyn - This formal federation of schools will see an investment in a new school building in Carno, to replace the current demountable , and remodelling at Ysgol Glantwymyn

Increased early years pre-school education infrastructure – Following a commissioning process there are now 80 early years providers across Powys providing early learning provision for three and four year olds. With the re-commissioning of Early Years provision the local authority has identified a need for focus of training for early years settings both maintained and non-maintained. The local authority is restructuring its support for Early Years/ Foundation Phase to ensure a seamless transition from Flying Start to Early Years to school to ensure appropriate capacity and expertise.

New apprenticeship scheme launched – The new scheme offers new employment opportunities for young people to help them into work. The council has for a number of years offered fixed-term apprenticeships and now it has launched a new career-graded apprenticeship. It is believed that that Powys is the first council in Wales to offer this. A career-graded apprenticeship is set over an agreed period with proportional pay. On completion of the apprenticeship, individuals take up a permanent position on full-pay. This contrasts with fixed-term apprenticeships which are offered for a specific time period but with no guarantee that suitable permanent employment will be offered.

Support for graduates - In partnership with Powys teaching Health Board we have participated in a graduate Scheme run by Cwm Taf Health Board and during 2017-18 five graduates have been on placement within the council and health board offering them good work experience opportunities as well as attracting high quality graduates into public services. This graduate scheme is being ended by Cwm Taf Health Board in November 2018. However, the council have drafted a graduate framework in conjunction with the University of South Wales, to include models that can be adopted by service areas on opportunities for employing/recruiting graduates. Work is currently ongoing to promote and raise awareness of this framework for all council services.

Careers festival - Around 3,500 young people from all over Powys visited the second Powys Careers Festival at Builth Wells. Students from high schools, special schools and further education campuses visited the 2018 festival which was organised by the Positive Pathways Powys Group, where they had the opportunity to talk to more than 110 exhibitors. As well as Powys students, this year the festival also welcomed some 40 students from Ysgol Henry Richard in Tregaron, Ceredigion.

Extended our use of social media to promote employment opportunities - We have continued to promote opportunities for young people such as apprenticeship and training, through the Positive Pathways Powys facebook and twitter pages. All partners on the Positive Pathways Powys Multiagency group use this as a platform to promote employment opportunities for young people.

Successfully reduced number of learners not in education, employment or training - We have continued to monitor the percentage of Year 11 school leavers known not to be in education, employment or training (NEET) and in September 2017 the NEET figures were reduced to 0.9%. This is the lowest we've ever achieved and the second lowest in Wales after Ceredigion (0.8%). The Youth Service worked with the high schools and Careers Wales to identify those young people most at risk of becoming NEET following Year 11. Contact was made with these young people in summer 2017 and additional transition support was offered. Work over the late summer and autumn concentrated on Careers Wales and the Detached Youth Work team tracking young people into their post-16 provision.

Priority: Services delivered for less & CLGP	Lead Officer	Mark Evans
<p>Corporate Leadership and Governance Plan (as at 09/04/2018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All leads and sponsors have updated priority areas, and evidence has been requested for all tasks which have passed their deadline • No change requests for deadline dates have been allowed, resulting in several areas reporting red actions • The Making it Happen Programme is now being led by the Programme Sponsor; Mark Evans, Acting Director of Resources, projects are being defined and project managers/leads identified. This plan remains as a Project in the overall Programme • The first Making it Happen Programme Board will take place on 10th May, with the Leader and Deputy Leader in attendance. All projects including this plan, report quarterly to this Board. Other projects being defined include Workforce; Communications and Engagement, and Agile. 		

Priority: Social Services Improvement	Lead Officer	Alison Bulman
<p>Children's Services Improvement Plan (as at 30/04/2018)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Service is nearing compliance in terms of statutory performance. 2. The development of the performance culture within the teams is showing positive impact across all the service. We hold twice weekly team manager performance meetings, WCCIS dashboards are in place for all teams and there is clear evidence that the use of the dashboards and the Insight Centre is translating through to the improved performance. 3. We are having positive response from the judiciary when we are in care proceedings with evidence of increased confidence in our work. <p>Adult Services Improvement Plan (as at 29/05/2018)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Front Door Decision Making/Safeguarding (Powys People Direct) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Thresholding document (developed via Regional Safeguarding Board) has been launched for consultation, it is currently in final draft which will be ratified at the July Regional Safeguarding Board. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Quality Assurance – see developments under section 4. b) PPD project commenced (Front line senior manager has been released to undertake on a full time basis) looking at quick wins such as improving access, reducing abandon call rates and opportunities for Chanel Shift. Current rates of abandoned calls are reducing. For March 2018, 75% of calls were answered as opposed to 58% in January 2018. Future model work planned in including staff engagement process designed. 		

- c) Contact Staff have been recruited. This includes a team leader.
- d) Professional Social Worker appointed to support decision making.
- e) Improved performance on the 7 day enquiry target - up to 98% for April.
- f) All business processes and checkpoint action owners are being mapped for dissemination to all team and adapted for public facing documents.
- g) Consider merging PLOG/A to maximise use of partner time and cross cutting akin to Pembrokeshire model.

2. Practice

- a) Supervision Policy updated and approved.
 - i. Policy launched and available on Intranet
 - ii. Mandatory training sessions have commenced (supervision, case file recording and WCCIS, with further mandatory training planned for safeguarding/MCA and BIA). Stats showing improvement in recording of supervisions being completed since February
 - iii. A mandate has been made to staff and managers in relation to the expectations of supervision
 - iv. New QA Manager has now taken up post to support themed audits on quality of supervision, safeguarding as per the QA programme.
 - v. Observations in practice mandated and resources are being made available to undertake these.
 - vi. Important progress has already been made including feedback from practitioners but more to do to ensure full compliance (including quality of supervision).
 - vii. Quality Assurance – see developments under section d.
 - viii. New accountability framework to be issued to all staff week commencing the 28th May
- b) 'Focus on Practice' discussions held with practitioners at the Staff Roadshows, consistent message in the 3 rounds of roadshows through our April and May session:-
 - i. Staff have been engaged on this agenda. We have received positive feedback given practitioners want to lead on practice changes
 - ii. Morale continues to be good within the service
 - iii. Additional capacity out to recruitment front line practitioners in train
 - CSO x 4.5
 - SW x 12
 - Assistant Day service Managers
 - OT

Discussions and actions are in progress to support and enable team managers and senior managers to have the capacity to focus on front line practice and developing practitioners. A Business Manager post has been appointed to support with corporate systems such as GDPR and Recruitment processes.

3. Organisational Development

- a) Leadership and management arrangements have been strengthened.

- i. Director of Social Services has been appointed.
 - ii. All team managers posts filled on a permanent basis
 - iii. Clear staffing establishment agreed and funded
- b) Training plan developed (SCDWP) and approved by Social Care Wales which is being implemented with a focus on embedding the principles and practice of the SSWB Act.
 - c) Mandatory training on case supervision, case recording and WCCIS in train.
 - d) Further outcomes focused training commissioned and delivered, alongside MCA and safeguarding/Dols including regional training via the Regional Safeguarding Board.

4. Quality Assurance processes

- a) QA Panel refreshed with new QA Manager appointed. A draft programme of themed audits scoped out across the year to include the quality of supervision and safeguarding.
- b) Clear feedback given to practitioners and supervisors to be discussed in supervision to ensure the feedback loop is closed.
- c) QA processes to be embedded in the WCCIS system to streamline the process.
- d) Celebrating success and good practice at team meetings to be a standard agenda item.
- e) WCCIS reporting system is now well established with live caseload monitoring and performance measures in place linking to Business Insight centre.
- f) Exercise underway to streamline with WCCIS business processes to support practice and re-train all staff.
- g) Performance dashboards are now available for staff and managers to view.

5. Governance

- a) Corporate Safeguarding Group has been established with high attendance of Cabinet Members and partners.
- b) Fortnightly meeting in place with the Executive Leader, Deputy Leader, Opposition Leaders, Portfolio Holder and officers to monitor, challenge and scrutinise improvements within the service.
- c) 'Improving Social Care' is a standing item on the weekly Executive Management Team meeting which is chaired by the Acting CEO.

6. Reporting mechanisms

- a) Updated reports are now available in the Powys Business Insight environment. However, more work is necessary and currently in process of refinement. A workshop will take place in June to redesign and clarify areas for reporting.
- b) Improvement team capacity in place.

7. Financial Management

- a) £1.4 million investment into adult services to be designated to recruit to operational posts (see above).

8. Staffing

- a) Recruitment campaign to be established building on the existing children's campaigns.

- b) Social workers: leavers in May 2018 - 1 individual.
- c) 531 headcount/ 399 FTE (Business Insight 18/5).
- d) 15 social workers provided by agency.

9. Strategy

- a) The new Health and Care Strategy forms the strategic vehicle for the detailed development of the re-invigorated Regional Partnership Board and single agency developments moving forward.
 - i. This work will be under the 'Live Well and Age Well' element of the strategy, the key elements of which are:
 - Focus on wellbeing
 - Early help and support
 - Tackling the Big 4 diseases that limit life
 - Joined up care
 - ii. Further detailed work is scheduled under the new established joint partnership groups. Following this a longer term financial plan can be established

3. Performance Summary

Performance at a Glance

Objectives / Activity

At the end of March 2018 (Q4)*, 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 table below indicates planned work status by CIP Priority.

For all Red RAG status objectives/activity a comment should be received. Where these are missing from the CIP tracker comments must be provided.

Priority Measures

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%.

Priority	Activity	BRAG - B	BRAG - G	BRAG - A	BRAG - R	No Update received	Not Due	Measures	RAG - G	RAG - A	RAG - R	No Data
Developing the economy	32	4	23	5	0	0	0	10	7	0	1	2
Learning	37	11	12	13	1	0	0	13	1	8	4	0
Corporate Leadership and Governance Plan/Making it Happen & Services delivered for less	72	26	31	12	3	0	0	2				2
Social Care Improvement	100	22	52	11	15	0	0	10	3	0	7	0
Supporting People in the Community – Capital Projects	13	0	10	2	1	0	0	n/a				n/a
Total	254	63	128	43	20	0	0	35	11	8	12	4
Planned work	254	25%	50%	17%	8%	0%	n/a	n/a	32%	23%	34%	11%

Corporate Measures

Sickness Absence (days lost per FTE)

Powys Level	Good	Period	Welsh Av 1617	Actual 1617	Target 1718	Actual Performance (based on a 12 month rolling)				Trend (RAG)			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Powys Overall	Low	2017-18	10	9	9	8.73	8.99	9.14	9.35		↓	↓	↓
People				13.03	13.03	12.67	12.38	13.45	15.58		↑	↓	↓
Place				9.67	9.67	9.46	10.43	10.91	10.62		↓	↓	↑
Resources				7.29	7.29	7.1	6.84	7.35	8.64		↑	↓	↓
Schools				7.62	7.62	7.45	7.69	7.4	7.1		↓	↑	↑

* Figures of 2.4 for CEO & Member Services and 9.22 for Workforce and Organisation need to be added to the above.

Page 169 Efficiency Savings to Plan

Powys Level	Good	Period	Welsh Av 1617	Actual 1617	Target 1718	Actual Performance (Total achieved to date)				Trend (RAG)			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Powys Overall	High	2017-18	n/a	£9.633m	£11.780m	£5.846m	£6.164m	£7.197m	£8.327m				
People					£3.333m	£1.171m	£1.313m	£1.807m	£2.231m				
Place					£3.532m	£1.823m	£1.985m	£2.525m	£3.230m				
Resources					£2.760m	£0.917m	£0.917m	£0.917m	£0.917m				
Schools					£1.865m	£1.658m	£1.658m	£1.658m	£1.658m				

* A saving of £290k for Chief Executives needs to be added to the directorate breakdown above to get to the PPC overall figure of £8.327m saved.

To be more meaningful and to enable more constructive challenge this measure needs to be monitored against the projected profile of delivery and this will be introduced for 2018/19.

Budget Variance

Powys Level	Good	Period	Welsh Av 1617	Actual 1617	Target 1718	Actual Performance (Total achieved to date)				Trend (RAG)			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Powys Overall	Low	2017-18	n/a	0.3%	+/-1%	(3%)	(3.8%)	(3%)	2%		↓	↑	↑
People				(5%)		(8.5%)	(9%)	(6%)		↓	↓	↑	
Place				(2%)		0.1%	2%	5%		↑	↑	↑	
Resources				1%		1.1%	1%	2%		↑	↓	↑	
Schools				(2%)		(2.3%)	(2%)	0%		↓	↑	↑	

* An underspend of 12% against Budget Variance for Corporate Activities needs to be added to the directorate breakdown above to get to the PPC overall figures of 2% underspend. The embedded report provides the commentary to support this data.



Budget Monitoring Report as at 31st Mar

IPR

Powys Level	Good	Period	Welsh Av 1617	Actual 1617	Target 1718	Actual Performance (Total achieved to date)				Trend (RAG)			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Powys Overall	High	2017-18	n/a	59%	70%	62%	Questionnaire not done due to change of recording system	15%	28%				↑
People				70%	Not available	20%		26%				↑	
Place				70%	Not available	14%		18%				↑	
Resources				70%	Not available	28%		53%				↑	
Schools				70%	Not available	Not applicable		23%					

* Figures of 95% for CEO & Member Services and 72% for Workforce and Organisation need to be added to the above.

Corporate Measures

Performance Challenge

Corp Q401 - Sickness Absence (days lost per FTE)

Targets were not met for People, Place and Resources Directorates

What is being done in these directorates to improve sickness absence?

Management Team remedial action:

Overall the sickness figures appear to be positive when compared nationally, however, there is concern that there may be a low level recording of sickness onto Trent in Schools. Consequently this brings the overall accumulative figure down for the Council and therefore potentially masks the true level of sickness. We also need to explore the timescales allowed for adding retrospective sickness absence onto the Trent system. Delays in entries have a direct effect on the ability to report true figures.

Corp Q402 – IPR

Targets have been missed for the whole organisation and all directorates

What is being done to improve performance?

Management Team remedial action:

IPR levels are still a concern, especially with front line services and quarterly requirements are felt to be excessive.

Executive Management Team agreed to revise the Corporate IPR Policy to move to annual appraisal and undertake at least one monthly meaningful conversation per employee.

4. Performance by Priority

Priority: Developing the economy

Measure of Success	Good	Period	Welsh Av 1617	Actual 1617	PCC Target 1718	Actual Performance				Trend (RAG)			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Tourism spend	High	2017-18	Not applicable	729 million (stream 2015)	700m	Annual							
The survival rate of business in Powys	High	2017-18	Not applicable	Not available	90% (after 1 year)	Annual – not yet available (currently only 2015 data available: Source Office for National Stats)							
The number of businesses relocating to Powys	High	2017-18	Not applicable	4	4	Annual							
The percentage of population that are economically active	High	2017-18	Not applicable	80.4%	80.5%	Annual – not yet available (source: Office National Stats)							
Percentage of planning applications determined within 8 weeks or within agreed time	High	2017-18	Not applicable	93%	>75%	88%	95%	82%	87%		↑	↓	↑
Number of businesses has grown in strategic sectors: - Energy & Environment - Health & Life Sciences - Creative Industries - Tourism	High	2017-18	Not applicable	1290 300	1295 302	Annual – not yet available (2016 data only source: Office for National Stats)							

				850	855								
Achieve WHQS, no of elemental improvements carried out	High	2017-18	Not applicable	2649	2600	88	145	551	1172		↓	↑	↑
Number of apprenticeships, work experience placements and graduate placements	High	2017-18	Not applicable	Not available	>	No data supplied	No data supplied	No data supplied	35 APP 32 WE 1 GRAD				
Number of post 16 learners studying key AS and A2 subjects.	High	2017-18	Not applicable	939		Annual			1072				
The percentage of Year 11 leavers not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Low	2017-18	Not applicable	1.93%	<3%	Annual			0.9%				

Performance Challenge (by analysing CIP Tracker and supporting documentation)

Objectives / Activity & Measures of Success

Critical

REF EQ401 - Percentage of planning applications determined within 8 weeks or within agreed time

Although the target for the year was met performance is still lower than the previous year and significantly lower than the 1st half of the year? Why is this and what is being done to rectify the situation?

Management Team remedial action:

Due to the LDP not being adopted in Powys, higher than normal numbers of applications were received during this period. This coincided with a lack of resources caused by one resignation and maternity leave of Planning Officers. It should be noted that the service is still classed as 'Good' under the WG definitions and that the Planning performance was still above target. Enforcement activity was also focussed on which has resulted in a successful prosecution and several other investigations underway

REF EQ402 - Achieve WHQS, no of elemental improvements carried out

Missed the target by more than 50%. Although there was an extended timeframe for completion of WHQS from March to December 2018 is this target going to be met by then?

Management Team remedial action:

The number of properties which have elements which don't achieve the WHQS will reduce far quicker now as surveys are undertaken in properties where we had little or no stock condition data and where programmes of work are being undertaken. The windows and door replacement programme and heating system replacement programmes are now getting up to speed following the recent award of the framework contractors and we are about to re-tender for the reroofing contract in the south of the county, following delays caused by a legal challenge.

Important

REF EQ404 - Brecon Cultural Hub; as previously reported cost issues and delays remain.

This has been AMBER for 3 quarters.

Risk

Corporate Risk

Ref	Trend	Corporate Priority	Risk Identified	Risk Owner	Portfolio Holder
HS9	NEW	All	Heart of Wales Property Services (HoWPS)	Nigel Brinn	Cllr James Evans Cllr Phyl Davies

Priority: Learning

Measure of Success	Good	Period	Welsh Av 1516	Actual 1617	PCC Target 1718	Actual Performance				Trend (RAG)			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals attaining the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at key stage 2	High	2017-18	77.1%	68.3%	78%	Annual							
The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals attaining the CSI at key stage 3	High	2017-18	69.4%	71%	78%	Annual							
The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals attaining the CSI at key stage 4	High	2017-18	35.6%	41.7%	42%	Annual							
% of pupils with additional learning needs achieving the CSI at key stage 2	High	2017-18	62.6%	65%	68%	Annual							
% of pupils with additional learning needs achieving the CSI at key stage 3	High	2017-18	58.9%	62.1%	69%	Annual							
% of pupils with additional learning needs achieving the CSI at key stage 4	High	2017-18	26.1%	24.8%	28%	Annual							
The number of permanent exclusions in primary schools (per 1,000 pupils)	Low	2017-18	n/a	0	0	Annual							
The number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools (per 1,000 pupils)	Low	2017-18	n/a	1.5	0.3	Annual							
Attendance levels at primary schools	High	2017-18	94.9%	96%	96.5%	Annual							
Attendance levels at secondary schools	High	2017-18	94.2%	95%	95.5%	Annual							

% of 15 year olds leaving full time education without a recognised qualification	Low	2017-18	n/a	0	0	Annual	0.156%				
% of schools inspected that were categorised as 'good' or better by Estyn for prospects for improvement	High	2017-18	n/a	59.4%	70%	Annual	62.4%				
% of schools inspected that were categorised as 'good' or better by Estyn for current performance	High	2017-18	n/a	63.5%	70%	Annual	57%				

Performance Challenge (by analysing CIP Tracker and supporting documentation)

Objectives / Activity & Measures of Success

Critical

REF Q4L01 – The number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools (per 1,000 pupils) – **target has been missed and RAG status is RED**

Management Team remedial action:

Scrutiny and Cabinet have considered the 2018 rigorous self-evaluation (SER) of education services, which provides analysis on performance challenges. Cabinet have commenced a fundamental Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Inclusion Transformation Programme. Key elements of this work include improving workforce skills and provision for Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) within schools and school support services.

REF Q4L10 – The percentage of 15 year olds leaving full time education without a recognised qualification - **target has been missed and RAG status is RED**

Management Team remedial action:

Scrutiny and Cabinet have considered the 2018 self-evaluation (SER) of education services. The Secondary Schools Strategy and specific work with schools causing concern will impact on this indicator. The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Inclusion Transformation Programme will also positively impact on this indicator in relation to vulnerable learners.

REF Q4L11 – The percentage of schools inspected that were categorised as 'good' or better by Estyn for prospects for improvement - **target has been missed**

REF Q4L12 – The percentage of schools inspected that were categorised as 'good' or better by Estyn for current performance - **target has been missed and RAG status is RED**

Management Team remedial action:

The target as set was unrealistic given the profile of school performance and governance/ leadership capacity. Scrutiny and Cabinet have considered the 2018 self-evaluation (SER) of education services and a revised improvement plan will be presented to members following the SER and the Estyn improvement conference of April 2018.

REFQ4L09 - Reduce the number of schools with deficit budgets – RED for Q3 and Q4

Management Team remedial action:

Scrutiny and Cabinet have considered the 2018 self-evaluation (SER) of education services and a revised improvement plan will be presented to members following the SER and the Estyn improvement conference of April 2018. Schools are being supported to take action where needed to reduce staffing. Progress has also been analysed in the recent Estyn improvement conference, for which the outcome letter is being presented formally to Cabinet and Scrutiny.

Important

REF Q4L02 - Ensure that a high quality of education is accessible to all, affordable and sustainable with a focus on high quality leadership, teaching and learning. This includes the development and implementation of a school transformation policy which provides a vision and infrastructure for 21st century schooling for a bilingual future – AMBER for Q3 and Q4

REF Q4L03 - Review and re-commission our early years education provision across the authority to ensure a sustainable network of high quality provision for all 3 plus ages in Powys - AMBER for Q3 and Q4

REF Q4L05 – Review Educated Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) provision including Pupil Referral units - This was AMBER all year

REF Q4L06 - To implement the closure of Llandrindod High School and Builth Wells High School and the opening of one school across two sites - AMBER for Q3 and Q4

REF Q4L07 - Implement the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan - AMBER for Q3 and Q4

REF Q4L08 – Implement a revised Home to School Transport Policy - This was AMBER all year

Risk

Corporate Risk

No new Corporate Risks or ones that have had their risk rating increased

Priority: Services delivered for less & CLGP/MIH

Measure of Success	Good	Period	Welsh Av 1617	Actual 1617	PCC Target 1718	Actual Performance				Trend (RAG)			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Savings achieved through remodelling services	High	2017-18	Not applicable	N/A	No target set	No data	No data	No data	Available Mid July				
Customer Satisfaction with Council Services	High	2017-18	Not applicable	60% 2015-16	N/A	Annual			No survey undertaken				

Performance Challenge (by analysing CIP Tracker and supporting documentation)

Objectives / Activity & Measures of Success

Critical

Corporate Leadership and Governance Plan (as at 09/04/2018)

REF CLGPQ401 - Priority Improvement Area G: Communications Strategy/Engagement – **This is RED for Q4. Assurance is sought that this Priority is on track?**

Management Team remedial action:

Cabinet/Management Team exercise due to take place 05/06/2018 to review gold, silver and bronze campaigns. Findings from this session will inform the communications and engagement plan to be completed by September. The draft plan will go to EMT/Cabinet 31st July 2018.

Delays were due to action G1 (Comms review) not being completed in initial timescales due to inclement weather in March.

Risk

Corporate Risk

No new Corporate Risks or ones that have had their risk rating increased

Priority: Social Services Improvement

Childrens Measure of Success	Good	Period	Welsh Av 1617	Actual 1617	PCC Target 1718	Actual Performance				Trend (RAG)			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Measure 24 - The percentage of assessments completed for children within statutory timescales	High	2017-18	90.8%	95%	95%	53%	48%	77%	66% (cum)	↓	↓	↑	↑
						85% for Q4							
Measure 33 - % of children looked after on 31 March who have had three or more placements during the year (This measure is based on a rolling 12 month period and details all those looked children who have been in 3 or more placements during that year as a percentage of all the children looked after on the last day of the reporting period) Formerly SCC/004	Low	2017-18	9.8%	13.5%	6%	14%	13%	14%	13%	↓	↔	↔	↑
% of LAC Statutory Visits carried out within timescale	High	2017-18	Local measure	n/a	95%	72%	70%	73%	75% (cum)		↑	↓	↑
						82% for Q4							
% of CP Statutory Visits carried out within timescale	High	2017-18	Local measure	n/a	95%	74%	71%	70%	73%		↓	↑	↑
						76% for Q4							
% of operational staff who have had Case Supervision on a monthly basis	High	2017-18	Local measure	n/a	95%	4%	33%	60%	76%				

Adults	Good	Period	Welsh	Actual	PCC	Actual Performance				Trend (RAG)			
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Measure of Success			Av 1617	1617	Target 1718	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Measure 19: The number of persons (per 1000 population) aged 75 and over who experience a delay in returning to their own home or social care setting following hospital treatment decreases	Low	2017-18	2.8	8.13	7.5	2.83	1.67	3.28	10.49 (cum)	↑	↑	↓	↓
Volumes are currently high for care transfers also includes delays due to confirmation of funding and through service user choice													
Measure 20b: Following a period of reablement support, the number of clients requiring no ongoing support will increase	High	2017-18	72.3%	66.5%	70%	tbd	79.94%	78.87%	76.43%			↓	↓
The number of adult clients supported in their own home through assistive technology will increase	High	2017-18	n/a	New measure	380	113	89	98	412 (cum)	↑	↓	↑	↑
The Percentage of Carers identified offered an assessment	High	2017-18	n/a	93.87%	91%	96.77%	93.33%	83.78%	88.47% (cum)	↑	↓	↓	↑
The number of service users with learning disabilities receiving residential care or supported tenancies outside of Powys will reduce	Low	2017-18	n/a	n/a	Reduce	0	1	0	0		↓	↑	↔
Reduced by 1 for the year													

Performance Challenge (by analysing CIP Tracker and supporting documentation)

Childrens Improvement Plan (as at 30/04/2018)

Critical

REF Q4CS01 – Already highlighted above the concern that the following 3 measures did not hit target;

- % of LAC Statutory Visits carried out within timescale
- % of CP Statutory Visits carried out within timescale
- The percentage of assessments completed for children within statutory timescales

Management Team remedial action:

% of LAC Statutory Visits carried out within timescale - Performance for April 2018 is 92%. This is showing continued improvement.

% of CP Statutory Visits carried out within timescale - Performance for April 2018 is 87%. This is showing continued improvement.

The percentage of assessments completed for children within statutory timescales - Performance for April 2018 is 99%. This is showing continued improvement.

REF Q4CS02 - % of operational staff who have had Case Supervision on a monthly basis – **Although improvement shown during the year. Still below target**

Management Team remedial action:

Performance for April 2018 is 90%. This is showing continued improvement.

Important

Priority Improvement Area B - Case Management, Practice and Quality Assurance

REF Q4CS03 - Clear protocols between Emergency Duty Team and PPD, to ensure cases are not lost between services. **This is RED for Q4. Assurance is sought that this outcome is on track?**

Priority Improvement Area C – Workforce

REF Q4CS04 - Ascertain current workforce and identify gaps and resource issues. **This is RED for Q4. Assurance is sought that this outcome is on track?**

REF Q4CS05 - All staff to have the required skills and knowledge to undertake their role effectively. **This is RED for Q4. Assurance is sought that this outcome is on track?**

Priority Improvement Area D - Reshaping and Reforming Services

REF Q4CS06 - Consistent support, training and guidance to foster carers to improve the quality and availability of placements. **This was AMBER for Q4 moving from RED. Assurance is sought that this outcome is on track?**

Adults Improvement Plan (as at 29/05/2018)

Critical

REF Q4AS01 – Already highlighted above the concern that the following 2 measures did not hit target;

- The number of persons (per 1000 population) aged 75 and over who experience a delay in returning to their own home or social care setting following hospital treatment decreases
- The Percentage of Carers identified offered an assessment

Management Team remedial action:

- The main reasons for individuals not being able to return home from hospital for social care reasons are individuals not able to access their residential care home of choice and the lack of domiciliary care availability. The limited access to assessments has been addressed and the recruitment of more social workers and occupational therapists from the increased staffing budget has enabled swifter assessment and support. Work is ongoing in trying to increase the capacity in the domiciliary care market by developing the in-house domiciliary care service in the north of the county and by enabling the in-house service to become the service of 'last resort' (i.e. pick up packages that private agencies are unwilling/unable to pick up). Recently completed work on residential care home fees will ensure that there is less discussion around fees and should enable more efficient placements. A review of the reablement service is about to commence with the aim of increasing efficiency and effectiveness in reducing dependency upon domiciliary care, thus increasing the market's capacity. The use of My Care My Home was successful for a small number of service users in a pilot and work is ongoing to consider commissioning a home from hospital service that will support transfer of care. The Dynamic Purchasing System is being developed for domiciliary care with one of its aims to increase the domiciliary care market capacity.
- The increase in carers identified offered an assessment has been significant and the vast majority of carers now do receive the offer of an assessment. However, it is recognised that more work is required in order to promote the offer and take up of these assessments further, as well as ensuring that carers are identified in the first place. Training has been commissioned from Credu (Powys Carers) in order to increase awareness of carers issues and to support uptake of assessments. We also intend to commission (via the Integrated Care Fund) carers' rights booklets to support further uptake.

Important

Priority Improvement Area B - Case Management

REF Q4AS02 - To enable efficient access to services. RED for Q3 and Q4. Assurance is sought that this priority is on track?

REF Q4AS03 - To ensure that timely person centred assessments undertaken by appropriate and competent professionals aim to discover what matters to individuals and that outcomes are related to those matters. AMBER for Q3 and Q4. Assurance is sought that this priority is on track?

REF Q4AS04 - For Care and Support to be available, effective & safe for individuals and their carers, whilst not make individuals unnecessarily dependant. **RED for Q3 and Q4. Assurance is sought that this priority is on track?**

Priority Improvement Area D – Practice Quality and Assurance

REF Q4AS05 - Ensure political and senior manager oversight of quality assurance - **RED for Q3 and Q4. Assurance is sought that this priority is on track?**

Risk

Corporate Risk

Ref	Trend	Corporate Priority	Risk Identified	Risk Owner	Portfolio Holder
ASC28	NEW	Health and Care	Legal case is being undertaken at the High Court with regards to payment for 'sleep-in' care work.	Alison Bulman	Cllr Stephen Hayes

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET EXECUTIVE

10th July 2018

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies
Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport

SUBJECT: Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

- 1.1 A Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) is a statutory document as contained within s.60 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and every Local Authority is obliged to prepare and implement a ROWIP.
- 1.2 The ROWIP sets out how the Council is to manage and improve the public rights of way network.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The Draft ROWIP is set out in Appendix 1 and its associated appendices.
- 2.2 The report seeks Cabinet's approval to undertake a statutory 12 week public consultation in connection with the draft ROWIP, and the results will be duly considered on whether the draft ROWIP needs to be amended. The final amended Draft ROWIP will then be brought back to Cabinet to be approved, and then according to the Council's constitution the ROWIP will need to be taken to full Council for final approval.

3. Options Considered / Available

- 3.1 There are no other options available. The County Council has a duty to prepare and publish a ROWIP.

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 4.1 That Cabinet approves that Countryside Services undertake a 12 week consultation on the Draft ROWIP.
- 4.2. In addition to the Draft ROWIP is the "Delivery Plan" which consists of:
- a) An Evaluation of Progress in delivering the ROWIP and previous Action Plans.
 - b) A Review of Policies.

c) Work Plan.

- 4.3 That Cabinet is not asked to approve that Countryside Services undertake a consultation on the Delivery Plan. It is not considered acceptable or prudent to consult on the Delivery Plan, as this is technically a separate document and can only be developed and consulted upon once the ROWIP has been adopted by full Council. This has been verified by Welsh Government.
- 4.4 Following public consultation, a further report will be brought back to Cabinet for conclusion and decision.

5. Impact Assessment

- 5.1 Is an impact assessment required? Yes /~~No~~
- 5.2 If yes is it attached? Yes /~~No~~

6. Corporate Improvement Plan

- 6.1 The Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Section 1.5) highlights how the Council's Vision 2025 will be supported, and therefore its Corporate Improvement Plan.

7. Local Member(s)

- 7.1 The Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan applies to the whole County.

8. Other Front Line Services

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? Yes/~~No~~

The affected front line services have already been consulted, namely Planning Services, Highways Transport and Recycling, Regeneration Services, Active Travel Officers. Section 7 highlights how the draft ROWIP interacts with its internal and external partners. The Services that are affected by the ROWIP will be included within the 12 week consultation.

9. Communications

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes/~~No~~

This report is of public interest and requires a news release and use of appropriate social to publicise Cabinet's decision.

If the recommendation is approved, the statutory consultation will also be of public interest and will need publicising via a news release and appropriate social media.

10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

- 10.1 Legal - "The Highways and Enforcement Solicitor endorses the proposal in order to comply with the statutory duty."
- 10.2 Finance – The contents of the report are noted with the costs contained within existing budgets.
- 10.3 Corporate Property (if appropriate) – Not required.
- 10.4 HR (if appropriate) – Not required.
- 10.5 ICT (if appropriate) – Not required.

11. Scrutiny

Has this report been scrutinised? Yes

- 11.1 The Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny took place on 23rd May 2018. The comments and observations of Scrutiny Committee is included as attached as Appendix 2.
- 11.2 The Draft ROWIP has been amended following Scrutiny to elaborate the Council's approach on least restrictive access.
- 11.3 The Draft ROWIP has also been amended within Section 3.14 to make the document easier to read.
- 11.4 Scrutiny also recommended that an executive-style summary document be provided for easy reference once the ROWIP has been adopted.
- 11.5 Scrutiny also made an observation as to the value of improving relationships with Building Control, so as to prevent unauthorised development over public rights of way.

12. Statutory Officers

The Head of Financial Services (Deputy Section 151 Officer) notes the contents of the report and the comment provided by Finance.

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) commented as follows :
" I note the legal comments and have nothing to add to the report."

13. Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation: To approve the Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan in Appendix 1 to be subjected to the statutory 12 week public consultation. A report will be presented to Cabinet following consultation in due course.	Reason for Recommendation: For the Council to uphold its statutory duty to review the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
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Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	None
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Mark Stafford-Tolley
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	Effective immediately.

Contact Officer: Stuart Mackintosh Tel: 01597 827583 Email: stuart.mackintosh@powys.gov.uk
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Background Papers used to prepare Report: Nil

Cynllun Gwella Hawliau Tramwy



Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Powys Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Foreword

I am delighted to deliver the Rights of Way Improvement Plan to the people of Powys. Following extensive consultation with the public, landholders, users, Town and Community Councils and many others, a number of amendments have been made to the draft plan so as to incorporate many of the suggestions put forward. It is clear that countryside access is an important issue, and a highly valued asset to the people of Powys and those who visit the county.

The Council's Vision as set out in Vision 2025 highlights four priority themes. This Plan clearly addresses those themes directly and sets out significant aims, objectives and actions to deliver them. As such, engagement with this Plan will make a real and meaningful contribution to all of the Council's key objectives.

This plan presents the Council's aspirations regarding countryside access for the next decade. I am confident it will serve to progress real improvements in access across Powys.

County Councillor Aled Davies
Portfolio holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport

Contents

Foreword

Vision

Executive Summary

Section 1 Rights of Way Improvement – Context

1.1 Introduction

1.2 The County of Powys

1.3 Powys County Council

1.4 Public Rights of Way and Countryside Access in Powys.

1.5 The Council's Strategic Priorities and Targets

1.6 Local Well-Being Assessments and Plans

1.7 Active Travel

1.8 Area Statements

1.9 Strategic Context

1.10 ROWIP Themes

Section 2 – Theme A Public Rights of Way and Open Air Recreation

2.1 The Public Rights of Way Network

2.2 Condition of the Network

2.3 Improving the Public Rights of Way Network

2.4 Public Rights of Way Resource

2.5 National and Recreational Trails

2.6 Condition of the National and Recreational Trails Network

2.7 The Importance of the National & Recreational Trails Network

2.8 Development of the National and Recreational Trails Network

- 2.9 Open Access in Powys
- 2.10 Signing of Access Land
- 2.11 The Future for Access Land
- 2.12 Common Land
- 2.13 Outdoor Recreation

Section 3 Assessing the needs for Users

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Survey Responses
- 3.3 User Group Assessments
- 3.4 Walkers and Dog-Walkers
- 3.5 Cyclists
- 3.6 Horse-Riders
- 3.7 Motorised Vehicles
- 3.8 Assessing the needs of people with mobility and sensory impairments
- 3.9 Context
- 3.10 Assessment
- 3.11 Outcomes
- 3.12 'Least Restrictive' Working Practices
- 3.13 User Needs Assessment Conclusions
- 3.14 Strategic Findings

Section 4 Theme B - Management & Enforcement of Public Rights of Way & Green Spaces

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Existing Policies and Working Practices
- 4.3 Powys Countryside Volunteers

- 4.4 Enforcement
- 4.5 Prioritisation of Works
- 4.6 Signage
- 4.7 Health and Safety
- 4.8 Biodiversity
- 4.9 Access to Water
- 4.10 Agri- Environment Schemes, Brexit and Horizon Scanning

Section 5 Theme C - Definitive Map & Statement

- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 Local Context
- 5.3 The Definitive Map and Commons Registration Team
- 5.4 Legal Searches on the Definitive Map
- 5.5 Legal Events altering the Definitive Map and Statement
- 5.6 Outstanding Work on the Definitive Map
 - 5.6.i) Consolidation
 - 5.6.ii) Legal Orders
 - 5.6.iii) Errors and Anomalies (Definitive Map Review)
- 5.7 Current Policies and Working Practices
 - 5.7.i) Prioritisation for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)
 - 5.7.ii) Prioritisation for Public Path Orders (PPOs)
 - 5.7.iii) Charging Policy for Public Path Orders
- 5.8 Record of Limitations
- 5.9 Conclusions and Actions for the Future

Section 6 Theme D - Publicity & Promotion Review

6.1 Introduction

6.2 Information for the Public and Professionals

6.3 External Publications

6.4 Website

6.5 On site Information.

Section 7 Internal & External Partners

7.1 Internal Partners within Powys County Council

7.1(i) Planning Services

7.1(ii) Highways Transport and Recycling

7.1(iii) Travel Officer for Powys County Council

7.1(iv) Regeneration Services

7.1(v) The Arts

7.1(vi) Healthy Weights Steering Group

7.2 External Partners

7.2 (i) Landholders

7.2 (ii) Town and Community Councils

7.2 (iii) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

7.2 (iv) Natural Resources Wales & Natural England

7.2 (v) User Groups

7.2 (vii) Canal and River Trust

7.2 (viii) Local Access Forums

7.2 (ix) Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust

7.3 Neighbouring Local Authorities

7.4 Walkers are Welcome

Appendices

1. Copies of the Questionnaires.
2. Higher Tier Approach.
3. An Evaluation of ROWIP 2007-2017
4. Survey Findings.
5. Survey Findings Report – March 2017.

Vision

The provision of high quality green space and public access to Powys' countryside and support for its biodiversity and heritage is at the heart of the work of Countryside Services. Public rights of way and Access land offer unrivalled opportunities for the enjoyment of the Powys' countryside.

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan is the means by which Powys County Council will plan and prioritise resources to the current public access available in the county, and will assist others in Powys in developing an accessible countryside. The Plan will set out the priorities and objectives for the future.

The vision of this Plan is to have a well-utilised, well-managed, meaningful and accessible countryside across Powys, supported by high quality information. To achieve this vision, four themes have been identified which broadly address the areas of improvement that will be targeted. These themes are:

Theme A Condition of the Public Rights of Way Network

Theme B Management and Enforcement of Public Rights of Way and Access land

Theme C Definitive Map and Statement

Theme D Publicity and Promotion

Executive Summary

This Rights of Way Improvement Plan has been reviewed and produced as a statutory document under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Plan has sought the needs and aspirations of landholders, users and non-users of Powys' public rights of way network, Access land and public green space. The wealth of information has been looked at in conjunction with an assessment of the network, its current condition, and set against a backdrop of other national and local strategies and plans. This information will be used to set out a framework for improving access to the countryside for the next 10 years.

Consultation has considered a number of dilemmas questions, and it has been focussed on how the public rights of way network is to be prioritised in the future. It has been made quite clear from the consultation that the removal of obstructions, and providing clear waymarking to provide confidence for the user in using public rights of way in the countryside is of paramount importance. The development of local circular trails rather than long distance walks has proved to be popular with consultees, as did increasing the role of volunteers in opening up public rights of way and in their long-term management.

How managing public rights of way are to be managed was split between a Priority Community Approach and providing each individual path with a rating of importance. In liaison with the Local Access Forum, developing a network, and therefore some form of priority community approach was deemed to be essential to develop a network of useable routes. As a result of feedback, the Service has developed the "Priority Project Approach" that takes account of the demand from the community amongst other variables, and will concentrate on developing a network in that area.

Powys' Recreational Trails (including National Trails) are well received with strong support for maintaining and improving infrastructure and information on the existing trails. There was only limited support for creating new long distance routes in Powys, with much more importance placed on developing local, accessible routes. However, respondents felt that equal priority should be given to recreational trails as with other public rights of way.

Consultation has shown that the public rights of way network currently provides the poorest access opportunities for those with mobility or sensory difficulties. Following discussions with local disability groups, the 'least restrictive' working practice was again endorsed affecting all areas of countryside access work, from the installation of path furniture to the production of information leaflets.

The proposals in this Plan support the goals of key national and local strategies, particularly those relating to

- Supporting the local economy
- Improving the nations' and residents health and well-being, and
- Creating a more sustainable environment

The Plan also sets out how it will contribute towards key objectives in the County Council's Cabinet Vision 2025 and the Public Service Board's 2040 Vision. Working with internal and external partners will be crucial to achieving these aims and goals.

Section 1 Rights of Way Improvement - Context

1.1 Introduction

Powys County Council as the local Highway Authority is required under Section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) to publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). This ROWIP sets out how the Council will seek to manage the public rights of way network for the benefit of the residents and landowners of Powys, as well as visitors to the area over the next ten years.

ROWIPs are the prime means by which local highway authorities should identify, prioritise and plan for improvements to local rights of way and set out how they will approach their day to day management-and in doing so make better provision for the public to enjoy a range of outdoor recreation activities¹

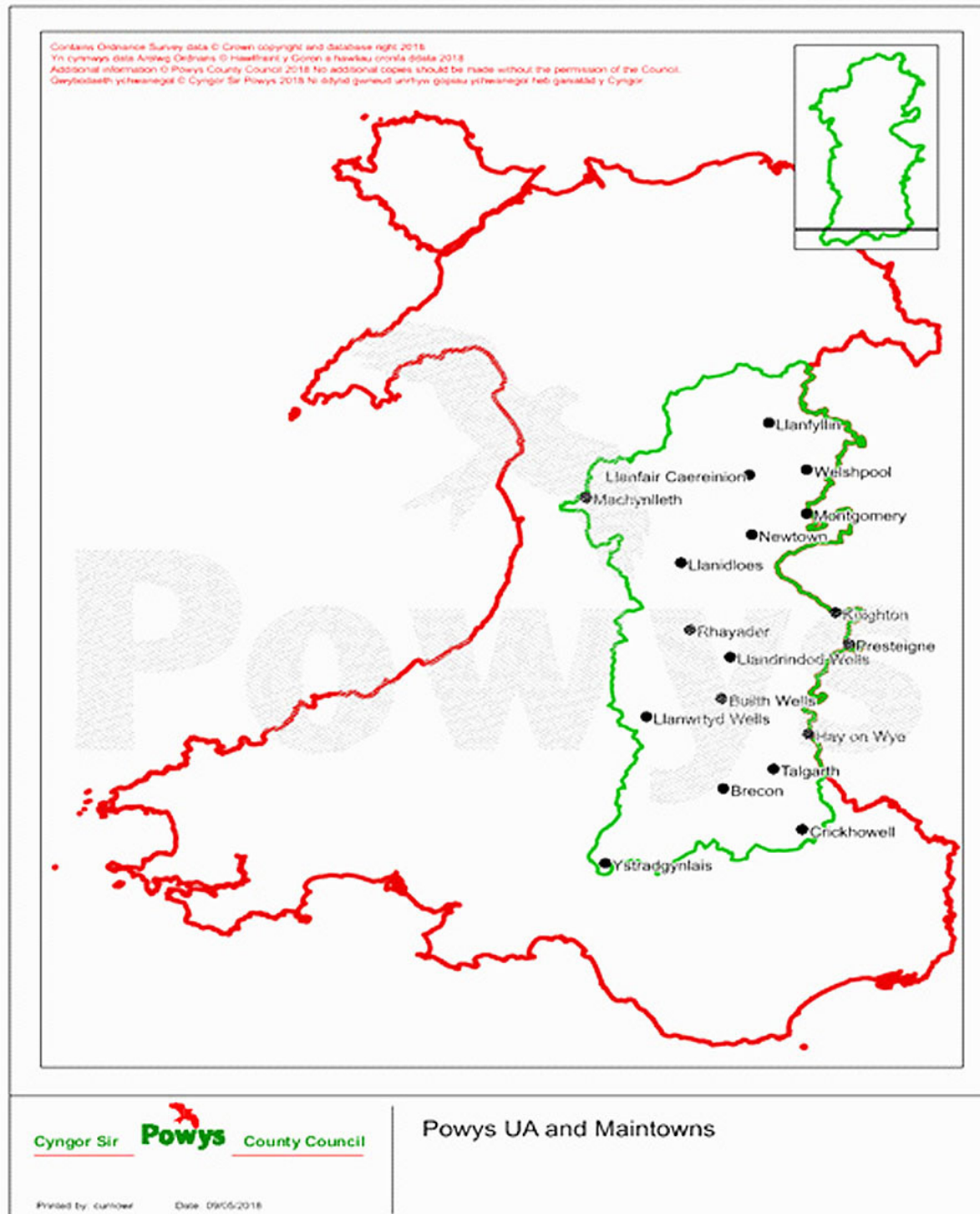
Part of the county of Powys, and its public rights of way network, lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. After agreement with its constituent County Councils, the National Park Authority has undertaken its own ROWIP. Countryside Services Officers from Powys County Council have been involved and consulted throughout their ROWIP process.

¹Welsh Assembly Government, *Guidance for Local Authorities on Rights of Way Improvement Plans* July 2016.

1.2 The County of Powys

Powys is an extensive, largely upland county covering 2,000 square miles, about a quarter of Wales. With a population of only 1 person for every 10 acres (4 hectares), it is one of the most sparsely populated local authority areas in England and Wales.

Map 1 – The County of Powys



The county has tremendous landscape assets; from the Berwyn Mountains in the north, through the rolling hills of the Radnor Forest to the dramatic Brecon Beacons National Park in the south; it also includes some of Britain's most spectacular river valleys – the Severn, Wye and Usk.

Powys has high levels of self-employment and micro businesses. The public sector accounts for 29% of the workforce, with 9% of the population employed in agriculture, forestry or fishing compared to the Welsh average which is only 2.3%.² Powys also has the highest car ownership in Wales with only 15% of households not owning a car or van.³

The population of Powys is 132,1604 and has been falling since 2011, and 18.5% of the population classify themselves as being a Welsh Speaker.⁵

1.3 Powys County Council

Powys County Council is a Welsh Unitary Authority with 73 elected Councillors. It is relatively young, having been first created as a County Council in 1974, and then merged with its constituent district councils to become a Unitary Authority in 1996. The new Authority also took in three communities from the former Clwyd Council. Other minor boundary amendments have since added to the area of Powys. However, its roots are deep, with the three constituent shires - Brecknockshire, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire stretching back centuries.

As a Unitary Authority, the Council is responsible for all local government services in the county, including education, social care, roads and bridges, leisure services, tourism and planning. The Council employs around 4100 full time equivalent staff and has a huge impact on the local economy, both by being its largest employer and by spending more than half of its £237 million turnover within the county.

Powys County Council is managed by the 73 elected County Councillors, and they have overall responsibility for making decisions. Like in central government, the Council is led by the Cabinet and Council Officers provide the executive support.

² Source: 2017 ONS Annual Population Survey © Crown Copyright

³ Source: ONS 2011 Census of Population © Crown Copyright

⁴ Source: 2016 ONS Mid Year Population Estimate © Crown Copyright

⁵ Source: Persons aged 3+ 2011 ONS Census of Population © Crown Copyright

1.4 Public Rights of Way and Countryside Access in Powys

A public right of way (PRoW) is a term that refers to a public highway over which the public have a right to pass and repass. In total, the county of Powys has over 9,250 km of public rights of way.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 also created areas where there is public access on foot, called Access land. This land includes all registered common land as well as mountain, moor, heath and down. In addition, Natural Resources Wales has dedicated most of the land within its control as Access land. In total there is 150,000 hectares of Access land in Powys.

Map 2 shows the distribution of linear and area access in Powys. Included on this map is access provided by organisations outside of Powys County Council, such as the Elan Valley Trust, Wildlife Trusts and others. It must be noted however, that the data is not comprehensive due to the difficulties in obtaining and capturing all of the data from various sources.

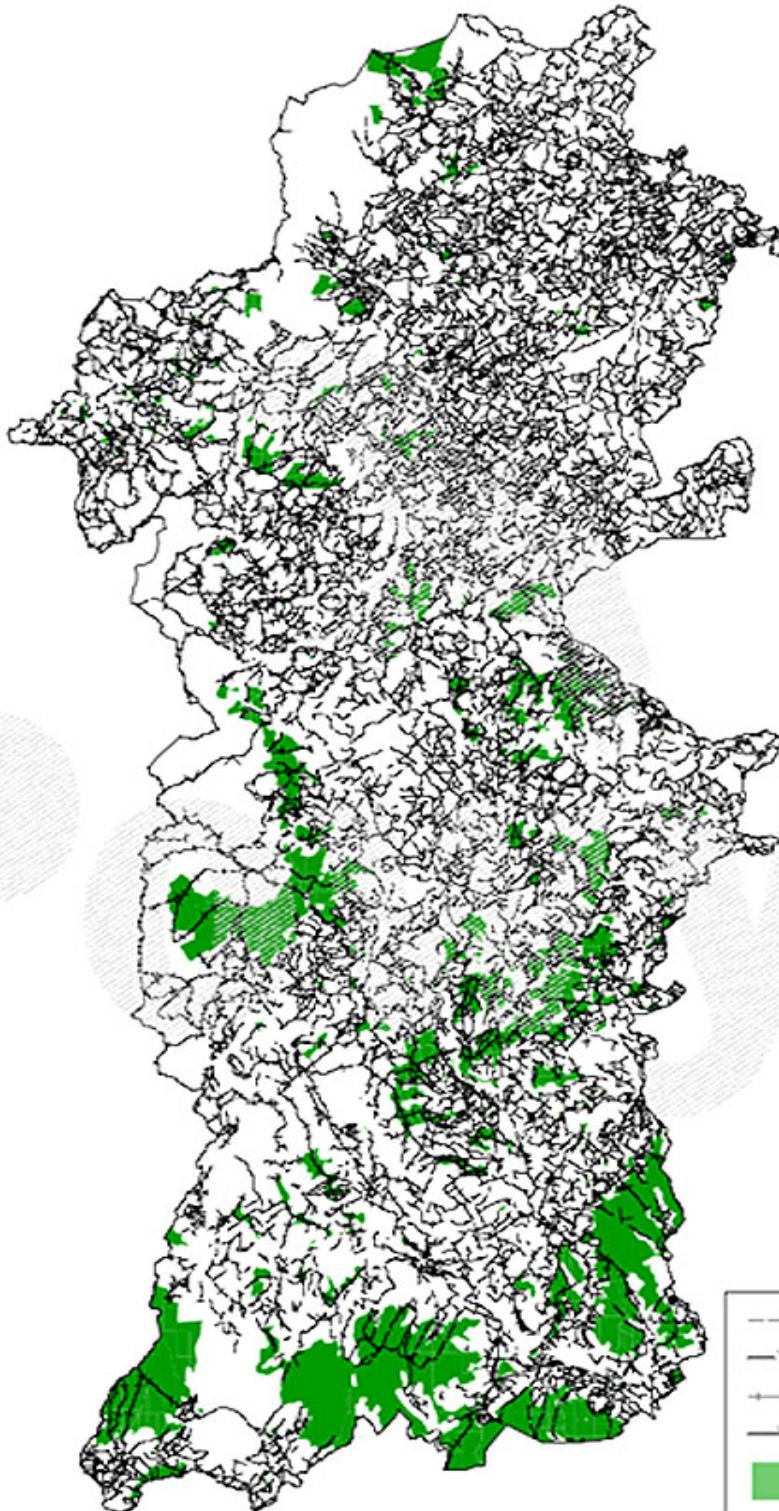
Public rights of way and Access land are the main means by which people can access the countryside of Powys. The importance of this network to the economy and tourism was more fully realised following the Foot and Mouth outbreak in 2001, when access was temporarily removed. Increasingly, the value of the network for improving people's health and well-being has been recognised in primary legislation; and consequently within the ROWIP.

There are a number of public rights of way in the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority within Powys, and the Council currently delegates responsibility to the National Park Authority to manage the public rights of way within their boundary.

For the purposes of clarity, whilst the delegated responsibility remains in place, this Rights of Way Improvement Plan is for the area of Powys that is outside of the National Park Authority boundary.

Map 2 Access Map of Powys

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Gwybodaeth ychwanegol © Cyngor Sir Powys 2018 Ni ddylid genned unrhyw gopïau ychwanegol heb ganiatâd y Cyngor.



1.5 The Council's Strategic Priorities and Targets

The key strategic document for the Council is the Cabinet's 2025 Vision. This sets out the vision of the Council, and is designed to create an integrated, strategic transformational plan. There are 4 high level priorities, which are as follows:

1. **The Economy**
2. **Health and Care**
3. **Learning and Skills**
4. **Residents and Communities**

Countryside Services, and specifically the Rights of Way Improvement Plan will enable Countryside Services to meet the four priorities of the Council as follows.

The Economy

- The PRoW, national and recreational trail networks and green space provide a valuable tourism resource for the county, attracting visitors and their money to the area. This has positive benefits for local businesses.
- The economic opportunities provided by access to the countryside should not be underestimated, for example, it has been estimated that the Wales Coast Path alone accounted for an additional £33.2 million of direct spending in Wales in 2011/12 and a further £32.3 million in 2012/13, and has led to the creation of 28.2 FTE jobs.⁶ Although only a short section of the Wales Coast Path is within Powys, it shows the economic benefits of what a trail can achieve.
- Tourism is a very important industry in Wales, and people will spend money when taking part in outdoor recreation. "In total, £5.6 billion was spent during visits to the outdoors for recreation by people living in Wales."⁷
- Within the Activity Tourism sector, walking alone plays an increasingly significant role. "Walking as an activity generates £562 million of additional demand in the Welsh economy, and around 11,980 person years of employment"⁸

⁶ <http://www.walescoastpath.gov.uk/media/1153/wales-coast-path-end-of-project-report-2007-2013.pdf>

⁷ Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey 2016 - Key facts Summary report page 18

- For those giving reasons for visiting Wales in 2016, 56% cited the landscape, countryside or beach as a reason. In Powys, this figure increases to 68%. They were also more likely to mention taking part in outdoor or sporting activities as a reason for visiting at 41%, compared to the Wales average of 25%.⁹
- Peter Midmore's 2000 report into the 'Economic Value of Walking in Wales' estimates the income from walking in rural Wales at £55 million and concludes that this supports 3,000 jobs.¹⁰
- The total contribution to economic activity (all outdoor activity tourism) in Wales is £481 million. The data suggests that outdoor activity tourism contributes in the region of £302 million to North Wales, as much as the South East and South West combined. Mid Wales is estimated to receive the lowest share of overall impact, within the region of £91 million.¹¹
- Many Powys businesses rely on an open and easy-to-use PRow for their livelihood, or to supplement a farming income. Some examples of this include the many B&Bs associated with the National and Recreational Trails, pony trekking centres, walking holiday companies, mountain bike hire, Adventure centres and equestrian B&Bs.
- The Service also employs a number of contractors to undertake works, and they are in the majority of cases locally sourced.
- Walkers are Welcome status is increasing in settlements across Powys, and this is a recognition of what benefits walking alone brings to the town's economy.

⁸ Economic Impact of walking and hillwalking in Wales. Cardiff Business School, 2011

⁹ Research Report – Wales Visitor Survey 2016 – Powys County Council, Beaufort Research

¹⁰ Midmore, The Economic Value of Walking in Rural Wales, Welsh Institute of Rural Studies, 2000.

¹¹ The Economic Impact of Outdoor Activity Tourism in Wales (Final Report) Visit Wales March 2014 (page 45).

Health and Care

- By encouraging more people to be active and to utilise the PRow network and green space, we can help to improve the health and well-being of both the inhabitants of Powys and visitors attracted to the area.
- Physical activity is known to benefit physical and mental health, and well-being. It improves mood and reduces stress, increases confidence and stamina and helps people relax and sleep better. In the latest national survey, only 54% of adults in Wales were active for at least 150 minutes per week (i.e. at least 5 x 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity per week for adults), and 59% are classed as overweight or obese.¹²
- Leisure facilities and accessible outdoor spaces for activity and recreation are an essential component of a modern, vibrant and physically active society¹³
- The importance of recreational access for health and wellbeing is widely acknowledged. The 2013/14 annual report of the Chief Medical Officer for Wales draws clear associations between activity and health stating: “It has been estimated that the cost of physical inactivity to Wales is around £650 million per year. Regular physical activity such as walking and cycling has significant benefits for health including lowering the risk of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, colon and breast cancer, and depression.”¹⁴
- PRow, and other green space is a free resource available widely across the county. The majority of people living in Powys have access to green space or a public right of way within a few minutes’ walk of their home.
- By providing and promoting recreational trails and shorter circular walks, we are offering high quality routes for local people and tourists to utilise.
- Walking, in particular, requires in the main little or no specialised equipment.

¹² National Survey for Wales 2016/17.

¹³ Getting Wales Moving. A Joint Report by Public Health Wales and Sport Wales. 28 March 2017.

¹⁴ <http://gov.wales/docs/dhss/report/140929cmoreporten.pdf>

- Cycling and horse-riding are very good forms of exercise.
- Activities on PRow and other green space provide the opportunity to meet other people which can help individuals feel part of their community, thereby reducing isolation and improving well-being.
- The work of the Countryside Services Volunteer Coordinator provides an opportunity for people to get active and learn new skills, through the practical installation of path furniture and surface clearance. There is also the inclusion of the volunteers improving their physical health and mental well-being as well as the potential to reduce the onset of rural isolation when meeting new like-minded people.

Learning and Skills

- By providing literature, leaflets, booklets and interpretation boards along routes, Countryside Services is providing learning opportunities for both users and potential users of promoted routes.
- People who access the countryside have the opportunity to learn about the landscape and wildlife around them.
- By providing apprenticeships in managing public access and green space, and how this can contribute to a land-based qualification.
- Provide training and up-skilling opportunities for the volunteer workforce.
- Countryside Services provide important information on PRow, commons and Access land to landholders, forestry and woodland owners, users and developers.

Residents and Communities

- Many Powys businesses rely on an open and easy-to-use PRow for their livelihood, or to supplement a farming income. Some examples of this include the many B&Bs associated with the National and Recreational Trails, pony trekking centres, walking holiday companies, mountain bike hire, Adventure centres and equestrian B&Bs.

- In a speech to local authorities in 2005, the WLGA Countryside
- Spokes-person Powys County Councillor M. Jones stated that ‘every Rights of Way Officer is worth one million pounds to the Welsh Economy’. By opening up and improving the PRoW network within an area, Officers are improving infrastructure, encouraging business development and helping to improve the wealth of the community in monetary and non-monetary ways.
- The aim of Countryside Services is for work to be sympathetic to the local environment using sustainable, local products wherever possible. Where there are alternative approaches, Countryside Services will choose the most sustainable.
- The identification and prioritisation of works by a community group e.g. community council, or constituted cluster group where walking, cycling or horse riding is considered to be important, and has many benefits. As such, and where possible the setting up and assistance to a community group should be a priority for the Service.

1.6 Local Well-Being Assessments and Plans

The Well-Being and Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty for the Council to produce well-being assessments and plans, as well as the general duty to carry out sustainable development. There are seven goals as defined in the Act, which are:-

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

The well-being plan and assessment underpins the Public Service Board’s 2040 vision which provides strategic direction to the statutory partners, being the County Council, Natural Resources Wales, Powys Teaching Health Board and the Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

The Public Service Board’s local objectives within the 2040 vision are:

¹⁵ Report to CCW, The Tourism Company, The Benefits to Business of the National Trails in Wales, March 2006.

- 1. People in Powys will experience a stable and thriving economy.**
- 2. People in Powys will enjoy a sustainable and productive environment.**
- 3. People in Powys will be healthy, socially motivated and responsible.**
- 4. People in Powys will be connected to resilient communities and a vibrant culture.**

Much like the Cabinet's 2025 vision, the Rights of Way Improvement Plan is cross-cutting across all of the Public Service Board's objectives, with specific reference to adventure tourism (walking holidays and active recreational activity) and rights of way offering safe circular walks and cycle routes for all to enjoy.

Further details of the seven goals is provided for in the impact assessment for the ROWIP.

1.7 Active Travel

Public rights of way, being minor public highways have a part to play in contributing to active travel, under the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. The Act requires local authorities in Wales to produce active travel maps and deliver year on year improvements in active travel routes and facilities for both walking and cycling. As a result, there should be a strong relationship with active travel planners to identify local public rights of way that can play a part in providing safe and appropriate active travel routes.

Although active travel within the urban areas of key settlements may well be a priority, public rights of way within a 45 minutes travel distance of each key settlement also have a part to play to improve provision for active travel.

The Existing and Integrated Network Maps for Active Travel has been developed through comprehensive stakeholder engagement, and it reflects the routes and developments Powys residents/stakeholders asked for.

In Powys, there are 11 designated Active Travel key settlements. These are:-

- Brecon
- Builth Wells
- Crickhowell
- Knighton

- Llandrindod Wells
- Llanidloes
- Machynlleth
- Newtown
- Presteigne
- Welshpool
- Ystradgynlais

The Council, in conjunction with Welsh Government has a rolling programme of improvements in Active Travel Infrastructure, through a series of Grants (Safe Routes in Communities and Local Transport Fund). Significant investment has been implemented in Ystradgynlais, Newtown, Llandrindod Wells, Presteigne and Llanfyllin; with further work anticipated for Newtown in 2018-19.

This infrastructure provides additional network that complements and connects to existing public rights of way.

Powys is also at the heart of the National Cycle Network, with 276 miles of completed network running throughout the county. Where possible, the network uses traffic free or quiet lanes away from busier sections of county or trunk roads. Within Powys there are 46 miles of traffic free network offering families and novice cyclists a safe place to ride.

Some of the most popular cycle routes and trails within the county include sections of Lon Las Cymru (National Cycle Route 8) that runs between North and South Wales, Lon Cambria (National Cycle Route 81) from Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury and the Radnor Ring (National Cycle Route 825) which follows a circuit in the heart of Powys. Key sections of the traffic free network include the Elan Valley Trail, the Montgomery Canal towpath, Newtown Riverside and the old railway path between Ystradgynlais and Coelbren.

The existence of sections of the national network is widely believed to contribute to an increase in utility cycling and walking trips within local authority areas (not just for leisure) and plays an important economic role in attracting visitors to the area. The NCN network is therefore included in active travel for the purposes of improving walking and cycling provision.

1.8 Area Statements

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 looks to plan and manage Wales' resources by producing "Area Statements". They will specify priorities, risks and opportunities for the area to manage the natural resource in the area and taking a "place based approach". As such, consideration should be given to contribute to the provision of public access and recreation within the area concerned.

There are seven area statements in Wales, and the mid-Wales Area Statement covers the counties of Powys and Ceredigion. Future NRW funding is likely to focus on objectives under the WB&FG Act 2015 as well as work that aligns itself with the priorities and objectives of the respective "Area Statement" as defined within the Environment (Wales) Act 2015.

Statements of Action

Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all.

Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

Work in partnership with neighbouring local authorities. Consider and participate in cross-border initiatives, where benefits exceed investment.

1.9 Strategic Context

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan does not stand-alone but sits alongside other strategies and plans at a local, regional and national level. Out of the many documents that exist, the key strategies have been identified as being of particular importance and relevance.

The following table draws out the key linkages between these documents and the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Strategy	Relevant Policy or Theme	Link to ROWIP Themes
Public Service Board 2040 Vision.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People in Powys will experience a stable and thriving economy. 2. People in Powys will enjoy a sustainable and productive environment. 3. People in Powys will be healthy, socially motivated and responsible. 4. People in Powys will be connected to resilient communities and a vibrant culture. 	The ROWIP themes contribute to all four of the priorities.
Cabinet Vision 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Economy. 2. Health and Care. 3. Learning and Skills. 4. Residents and Communities. 	The ROWIP themes contribute to all four of the priorities.
WG Taking Wales Forward 2016-21	How Welsh Government will deliver more and better jobs through a stronger, fairer economy, improve and reform our public services, and build a united, connected and sustainable Wales.	Theme B and D.
WG Creating an Active Wales.	Develop and maintain a physical environment that makes it easier and safer for people to choose to be more physically active.	Themes A, B, C and D.
Public Health Wales and Sport Wales – Getting Wales Moving.	All communities in Wales have access to quality facilities and spaces for people to come together to be active.	Theme A, B.
Powys Local Development Plan	Promotion of businesses linked to countryside. Protection of PRow, village greens and common land in planning system.	Theme A, B.
Regional Transport Plan and Active Travel Plans	Resourcing the ROWIP; Walking and Cycling development; National Cycle Network (NCN)	Theme A

Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan	Lists key species and habitats in Powys.	Theme B.
Health and Care Strategy	Physical and mental well-being goals can be aided by the ROWIP and there is a clear link between the objectives of the Public Service Board as well as the Regional Partnership Board.	Themes A, B, C and D.
Regeneration Strategy for Powys Action Plan 2014 - 2017	Improve the physical and social infrastructure in communities.	Themes A, B, C and D.

Table 2 Strategic Context – Links with Local, National and Regional Plans and Strategies

It is not easy to place how the various strategies and visions sit alongside each other, so the Council has prepared a diagram to show how the various Acts and strategic plans fit together.

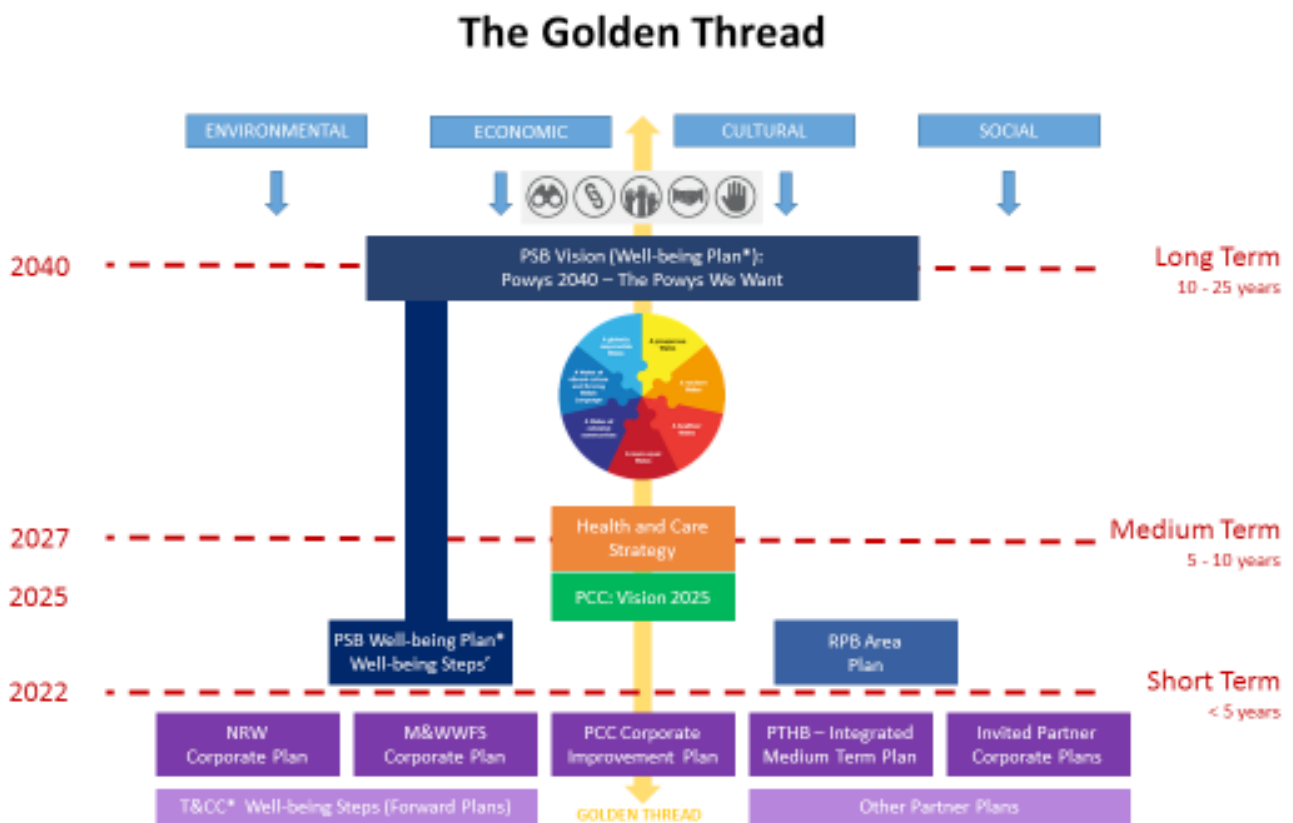


Table 3 The Golden Thread of Strategies

1.10 ROWIP Themes

Four main themes have been identified during the ROWIP process. These themes have been identified as being key to delivering our vision for access to the Powys countryside. They are:

Themes

- A Public Rights of Way and Open Air Recreation**
- B Management and Enforcement of Public Rights of Way and Green Spaces**
- C Definitive Map and Statement**
- D Publicity and Promotion**

Under these priorities, sit the Statement of Actions that will be the key goals supporting each of the themes and the Delivery Plan.

These themes and Statement of Actions address the major issues arising from the public consultation and assessments and provide the backbone to the ROWIP, the Delivery Plan and the improvements planned for Countryside Services over the next 10 years.

Section 2 - Theme A: Public Rights of Way and Open Air Recreation

2.1 The Public Rights of Way Network

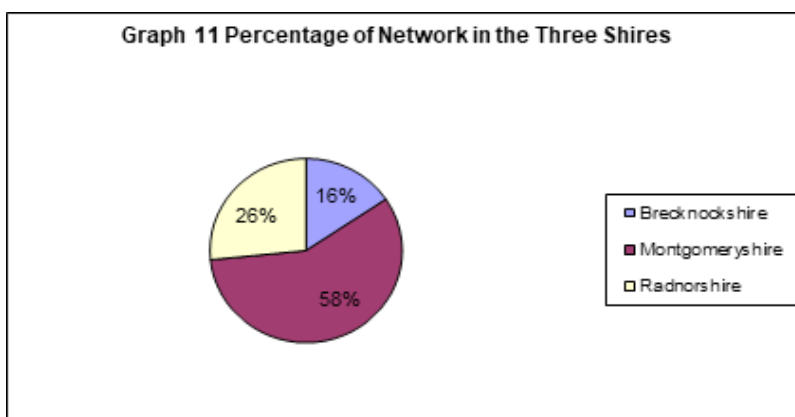
The county of Powys has just under 9300 km of public rights of way. When you exclude the paths that fall under the jurisdiction of Brecon Beacons National Park, Powys County Council is responsible for 8,200 km of PRow. To put this figure into perspective, this is further than the distance across the Atlantic Ocean and back!

Table 8 Public Rights of Way in Powys (km)

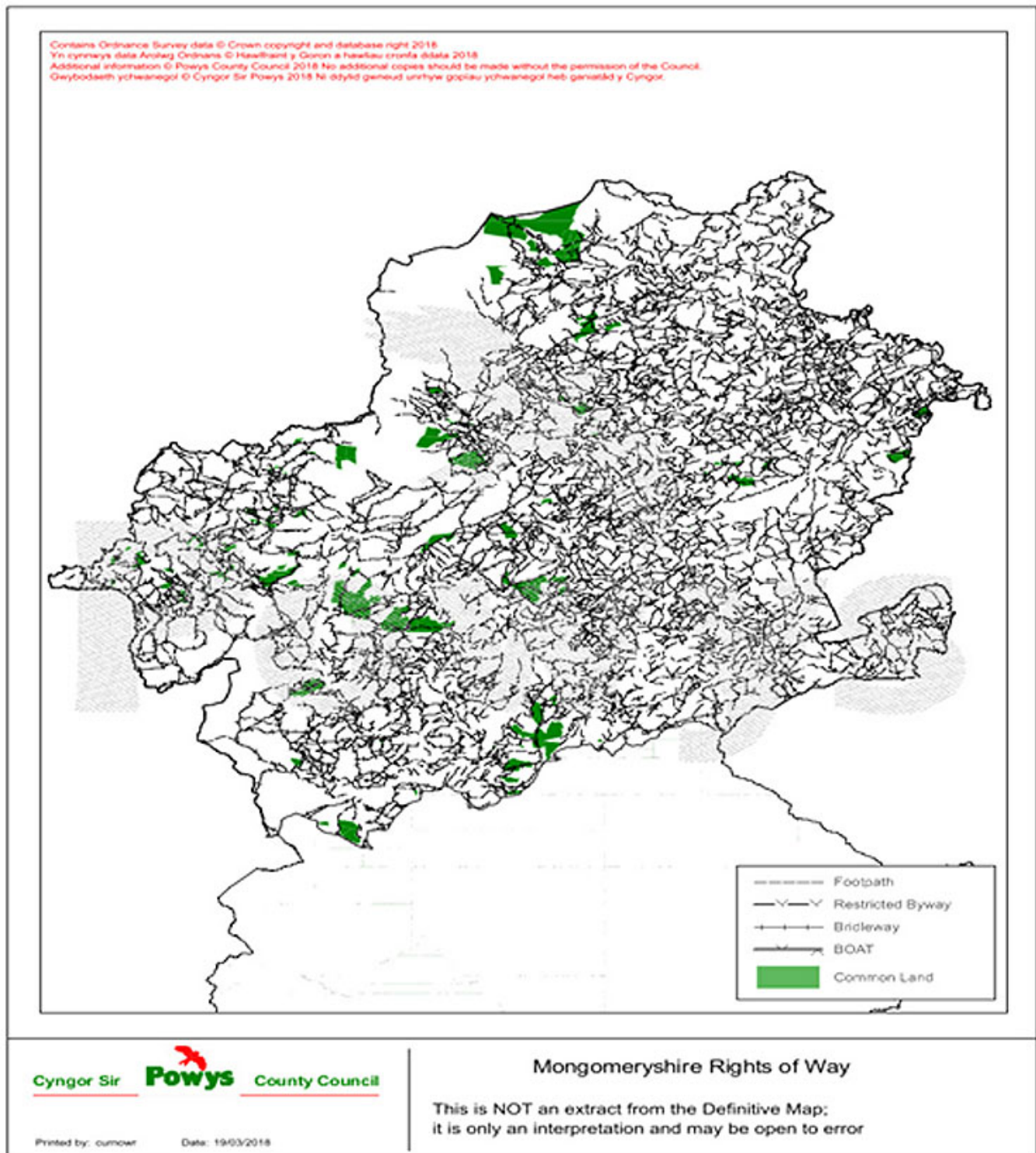
Path Status	Brecknockshire	Montgomeryshire	Radnorshire	Total PCC	BBNP	Total in Powys
Footpath	553.6	3,524.7	1200.9	5279.2	677.2	5,956.4
Bridleway	612.8	926.5	809.6	2,348.9	262.9	2,611.8
Byway Open to All Traffic	37.8	23.2	153.4	214.4	1.7	216.1
Restricted Byway	74.2	283.9	0	358.1	152.9	511.0
Total	1,278.4	4,758.3	2,163.9	8,200.6	1094.7	9,295.3

(These figures are liable to change due to the current work on modifying and consolidating the Definitive Map and Statement)

The spread of the network is not uniform across the county, with more than half of the network occurring in the old county of Montgomeryshire.

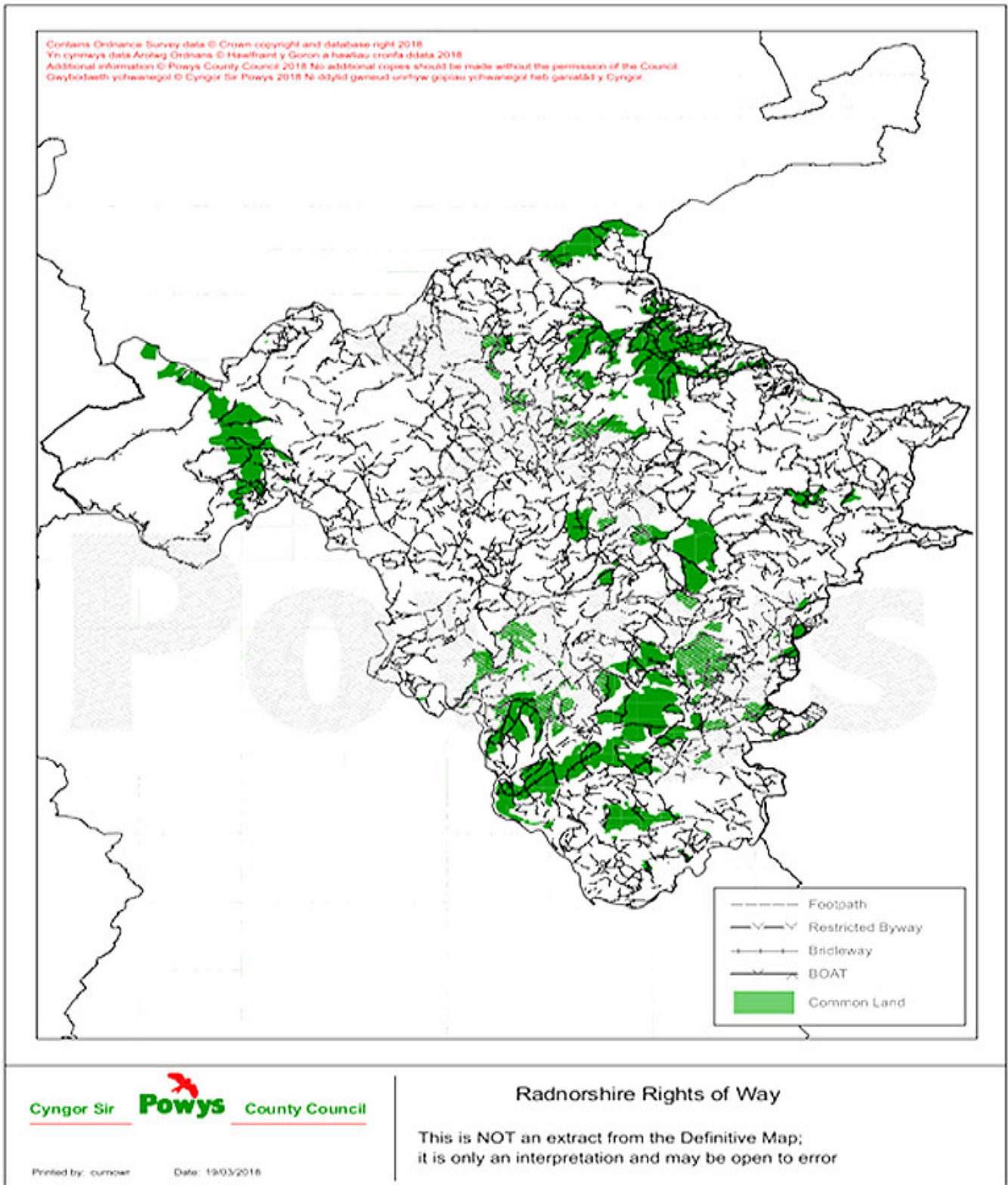


Map 3 Access Map for Montgomeryshire



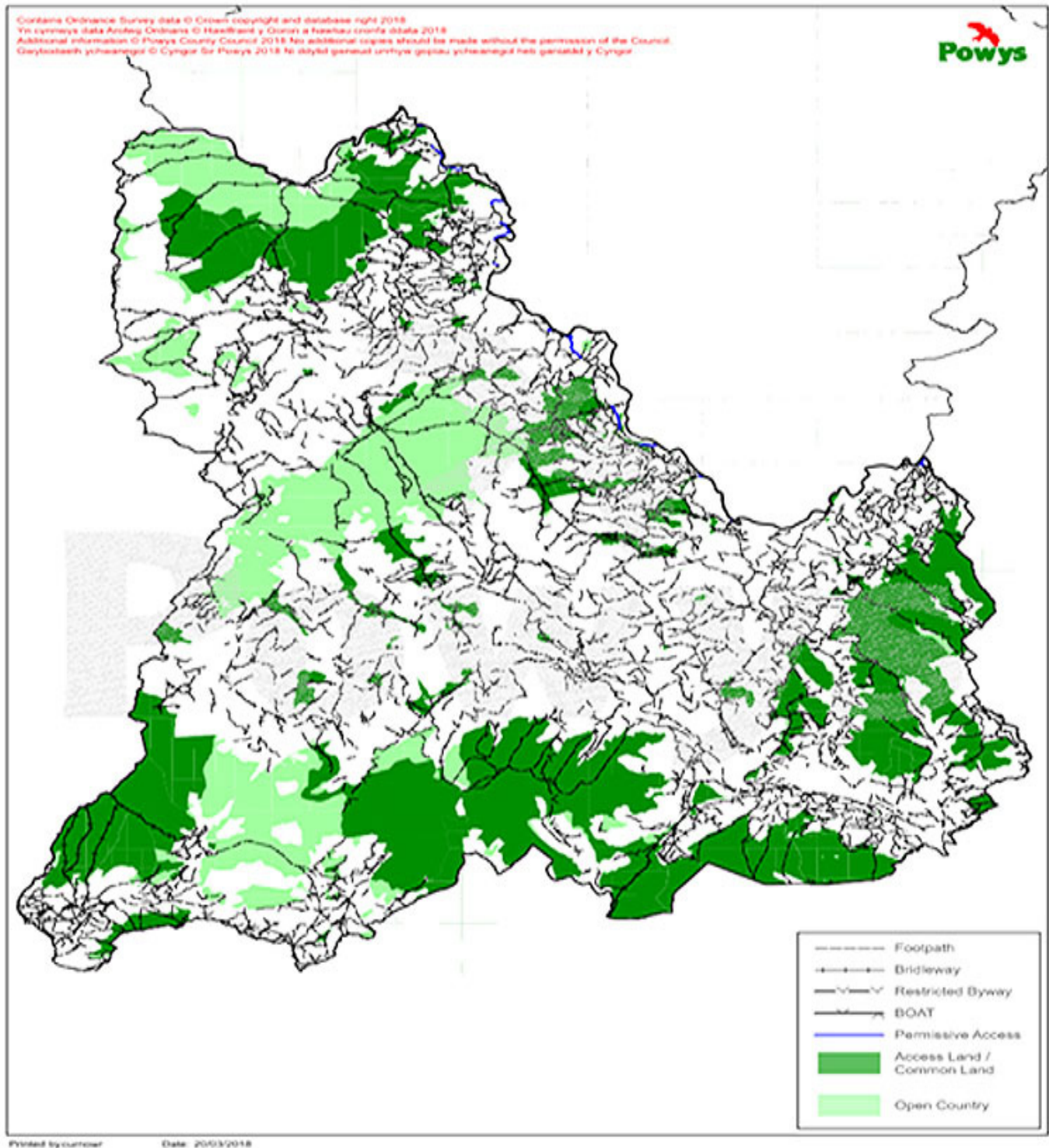
Map 3 above displays the distribution of access across Montgomeryshire. The map clearly highlights the very dense network running across the eastern side of the Shire with a less dense network on the western edge. The gaps in the PRoW network interestingly correspond with the areas of Access land shown in green, leading to a thorough spread of access for walkers across the Shire. Gaps in access are most likely to occur for other user groups; therefore prioritising bridleways and higher status routes is of particular importance in these areas.

Map 4 Access Map for Radnorshire



Proportionally, Radnorshire has a higher percentage of bridleways and byways than Montgomeryshire, allowing a greater range of access. The distribution of paths across the Shire is pretty even, with any gaps in the network again being compensated for by large areas of Access land. By prioritising the higher status paths first, Countryside Services could provide an improved network in Radnorshire, for a wider range of users.

Map 5 Access Map for Brecknockshire

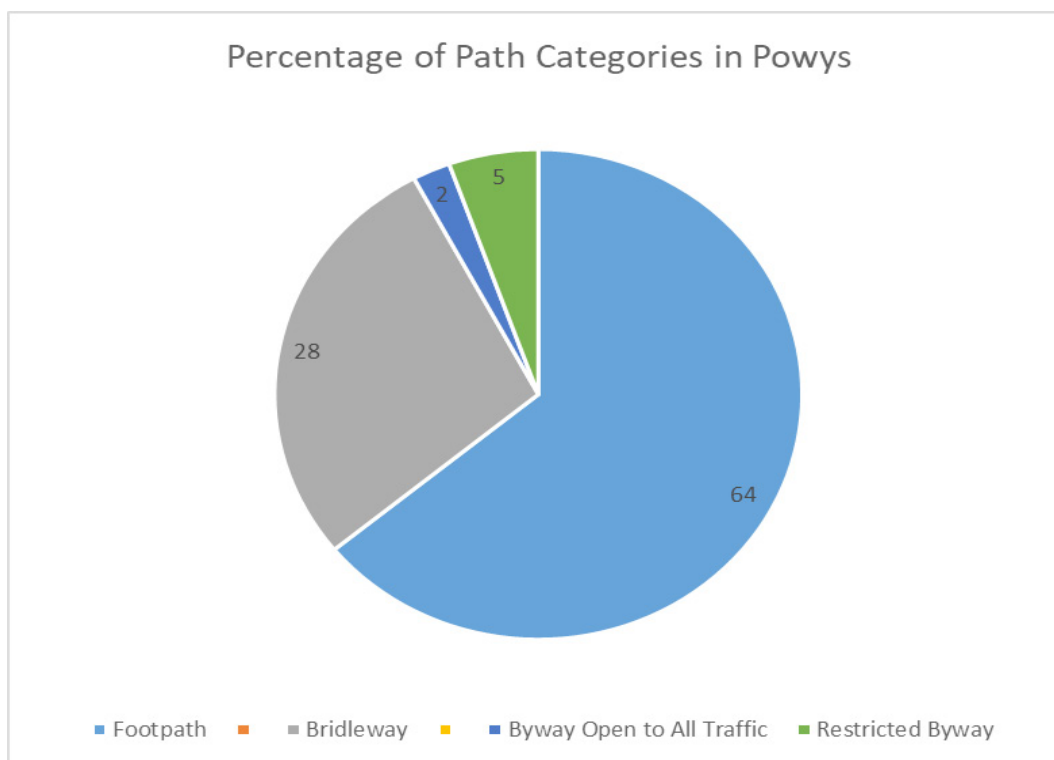


Brecknockshire has a more uneven distribution of paths with large areas of limited linear access. However, as shown in green on Map 5, these too generally correspond with significant areas of Access land with provision for access on foot. There is exceptional provision of Access land, but this is limited to walkers. Prioritisation of higher status paths would benefit a wider range of users in Brecknockshire.

Table 9 Percentage of Network Broken Down by Path Status

Path Status	Legal Users	Total in Powys (including BBNP)
Footpath	Walkers, dog walkers	5,956.4
Bridleway	As above plus horse riders & cyclists	2,611.8
Restricted Byway	As above plus horse-drawn carriages	511.0
Byway Open to All Traffic	As above plus all motorised vehicles	216.1
Total		9,295.3

Table 5 above shows the breakdown of the PRow network by path status. Graph 12 below shows the percentages of these paths. We can see that the majority of the network (64%) is made up of footpaths; bridleways make up 28% of the network; Restricted Byways 7% with Byways Open to All Traffic making up 1% of the network.



Clearly the network provides the most access for walkers and dog walkers. Countryside Services are working to implement a practice of prioritising higher status paths first in a community (as per the Higher Tier Approach), therefore helping to increase access for as wide a range of users as possible.

Statement of Action

Prioritise higher status paths within a community and as part of the Priority Project Approach.

2.2 Condition of the Network

Within the remit of the ROWIP, it was deemed impractical for a 100% condition survey to be undertaken due to the large scale of the network in Powys. As an alternative, a 5% “ease of use” random sample survey (excluding BBNPA) was commissioned that was last undertaken in 2013. The 2017 survey was evaluated and analysed.

Analysis of the available data suggests that 37.6% of the length of paths surveyed in 2017 were in a satisfactory condition.

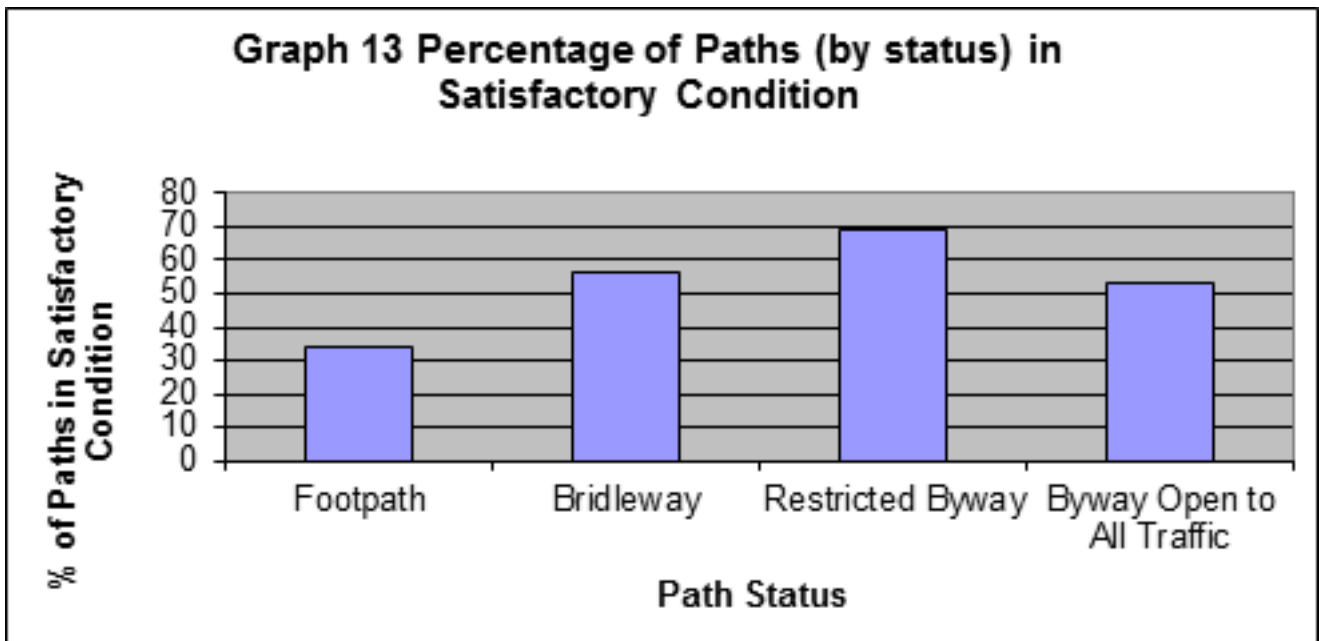
In 2007, the same 5% “ease of use” figure was 46.5% indicating that the condition of the network has been in decline. However, the results for an individual survey should be interpreted with caution. The 5% sample size is relatively small and so confidence levels are not particularly high. It is therefore helpful to view the 2017 survey in relation to previous 5% surveys.

Table 6 of 5% ease of use results

2007	46.5%
2010	38.9%
2012	35.3%
2013	40.7
2017	37.6%

Table 6 highlights the degree of variability between survey periods and suggests that 2017 is in line with previous surveys undertaken over the last decade.

Graph 13 below shows a breakdown of the percentage of paths in satisfactory condition, broken down by path status.



The graph highlights that paths of a higher status would appear to be in better condition than the footpath network. Of the bridleways surveyed, 53% are in satisfactory condition with 75% of restricted byways and byways open and easy to use.

The survey recorded maintenance issues along the rights of way surveyed, on average there were 3.4 maintenance issues (problems) per km, or one problem every 294 metres. In other words there could be approximately 28,025 maintenance problems yet to be addressed on the whole network.

These results are a little better than the findings in 2006/07, but again the confidence levels are not that high due to the 5% random sampling of the network outside of the BBNPA. At that time there were 4.2 issues that rendered paths unusable or inconvenient per km.

These figures are closely matched by the results from the public consultation, which highlighted that 56% of people have encountered obstructions or barriers whilst using the rights of way network.

2.3 Improving the Public Rights of Way Network

The data were separated into problem type and agreed standardised costs were used to undertake a cost analysis of repairs. The average cost per km to rectify all the path problems comes to £898 per km.

An estimated £7,330,500 is needed to rectify all the path problems on the public rights of way network outside of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

This figure only includes structural installation costs (i.e. not Officer costs, travel, etc.), and although includes surface costs does not take into account the large capital outlays to reinstate and maintain a number of byways.

All of these figures are based on the presumption of 37.6% of the network being in satisfactory condition. To date, the 5% BVPI survey results have been variable and this can obviously have a major effect on the accuracy of the statistics. However, the gross costs for improving the situation are still broadly comparable from 10 years ago being £5,800,000 at that time.

The figures so far have related to existing maintenance problems that need rectifying, but attention has also been paid to the ongoing maintenance needed to keep open paths in a satisfactory condition.

With an average of 2.6 items of infrastructure per km on the network, this equates to 21,266 pieces of furniture requiring maintenance. Based on average current costs, an estimated £613,000 per annum is needed to keep the existing level of open paths in their present condition.

An estimated £613,000 per annum is required to maintain the current network and infrastructure in its present condition outside of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

In 2006-07, 67% of all furniture installed on paths were gates, and 33% were stiles. In 2016-17, 97% of furniture installed were gates, compared to 3% of stiles. This shows the success of the 'least restrictive' approach.

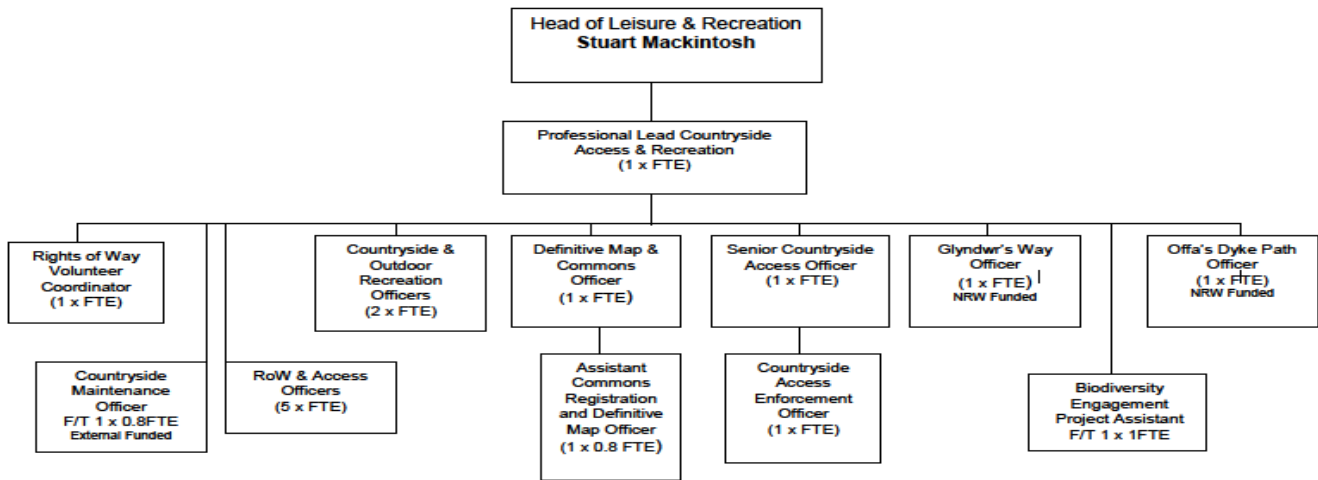
2.4 Public Rights of Way Resources

The countryside access management budget has been decreasing significantly over recent years, with the trend looks set to continue. Officers look to achieve best value for money and work with volunteers and communities where possible. Bids for external grant funding are submitted every year, however, this can be difficult when grants often preclude work that is a statutory duty.

With current resources, it is not going to be possible to achieve a network that is 100% open within the lifetime of the ROWIP when considering the public rights of way network and the hectareage of common and Access land.

Considering the declining budget, and the network and hectareage the Service has to deal with, this needs to be set against the staffing for the work. The structure of the Service is set out below.

COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS AND RECREATION SERVICES – April 2018



F/T = Fixed Term

ROWIP consultation and data analysis have clearly shown that considerably greater resources are needed to bring the full public rights of way network up to a minimum standard in Powys. This includes the need for more staff on the ground and a larger supporting revenue budget. Therefore, it is vital that exploring new options for the delivery of work are explored. With decreasing resources, alternative methods of working will be required to maintain the current situation and prevent more of the network from falling into a state of disrepair.

Statement of Actions

To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network.

Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition.

Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

2.5 National and Recreational Trails

Powys has two National Trails, the Offa's Dyke Path and Glyndŵr's Way and a large number of regionally important promoted trails. The promoted trails currently include the Wye Valley Walk, Severn Way, Ann Griffiths Walk, Kerry Ridgeway, Pererindod Melangell and the Epynt Way. Collectively these regional routes are referred to as Recreational Trails for the purposes of the ROWIP. There are other routes in Powys promoted by outside organisations e.g. Cambrian Way, Radnor Forest Ride and many more, however the ROWIP only looks at those routes managed and promoted by Countryside Services.

The two National Trails are the only trails to have a dedicated officer supporting their management, improvement and promotion. The two Trail Officers are 100% grant funded by Natural Resources Wales and Natural England. Glyndŵr's Way falls fully within the county of Powys, the Offa's Dyke in comparison is managed in partnership with the other authorities that the path runs through.

The Recreational Trails are managed by Area Officers according to the sections that fall within each respective work area. The cycling and active travel routes across Powys are co-ordinated by the Travel Officer based within Highways Transport and Recycling.

2.6 Condition of the National and Recreational Trails Network

The aim is for all promoted routes to be open and easy to use. There is little point in promoting a route if it does not meet the public's expectations. Maintenance and improvement programmes aim to improve path furniture to make routes accessible to as many people as possible. However, 83% of the survey respondents felt that recreational trails should not take priority over other ProW, and that they should all be given equal priority. As such, this has been embedded as a Statement of Action. Although the Service will not pro-actively prioritise recreational trails over the rest of the ProW, it will prioritise reports being received from the public.

The National Trails are substantially financed by either Natural Resources Wales or Natural England depending on which side of the border the Trail is within. For example, 75% of the works are paid for by Natural

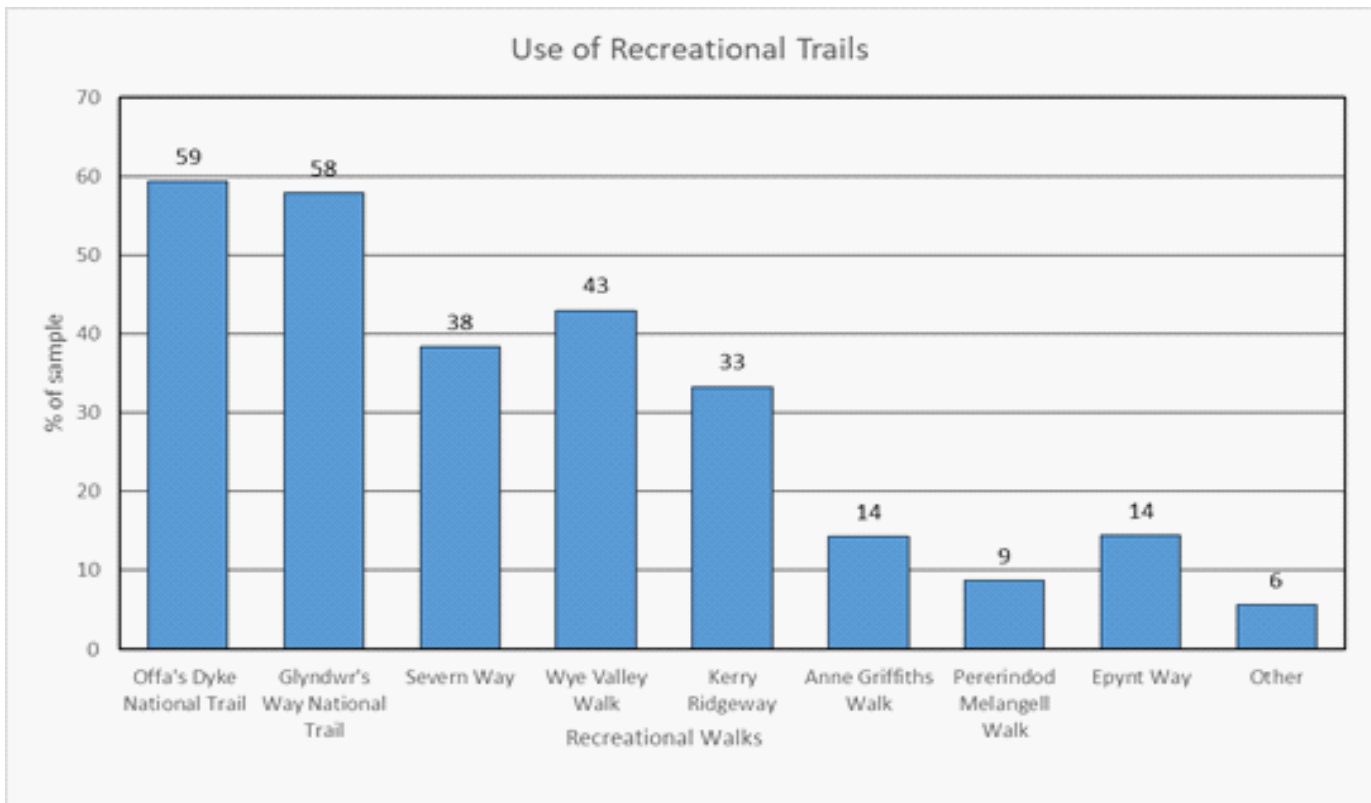
Resources Wales and 100% contributions for costs associated with re-alignment issues as well as Officer costs. The Recreational Trails' budget is managed within the Area Officers' own budget, and the improvement of the trails are often further supplemented with external grant funding when bids have been successful.

The general PRow network has an expenditure of £16.23 per kilometre of path, compared to Glyndŵr's Way which has a maintenance and improvement budget of £211.99 per km. This shows the priority given to the National Trails in Powys, and the comparison in expenditure between the two.

2.7 The Importance of the National & Recreational Trails Network

The importance of National Trails to the local and indeed national economies is being increasingly recognised, especially following the Countryside Council for Wales' funded report into *'The Benefits to Business of the National Trails in Wales'* published in March 2006. There has been no further research on this since 2006. The report concluded that *'National Trails are a marketable attraction... They offer an opportunity for economic development in rural areas where alternatives are limited, often acting as a catalyst for value added development.'* This is also valid for all of the Recreational Trails in Powys.

The ROWIP public consultation has further highlighted the importance of these National and Recreational Trails to local people, visitors and businesses. The general survey has shown that 45% of the respondents use National and Recreational Trails in Powys with the Offa's Dyke path being the most popular of the routes, followed by Glyndŵr's Way and then the Wye Valley Walk. Satisfaction with these trails and their management has been rated as *high* by the respondents of the general survey and the Town and Community Councils, with people being satisfied with the provision and standard of the routes. The landholder survey respondents rated National and Recreational Trails as their fifth highest priority out of all the services provided by Countryside Services.



The ROWIP consultation has targeted local people, landholders, Town and Community Councils and visitors to the area, all of the surveys have shown that demand for the trails is not as high as in the 2007 survey. Only 4% thought that sustaining long distance routes was important despite satisfaction with the provision and standard of the routes being high. Additionally, most of the responses felt that equal priority should be given to the general network and the Recreational trails.

National and Recreational Trails provide a resource for recreation and tourism, offering benefits to the health and well-being of local residents and visitors. They also provide significant economic benefits to local communities, including local pubs, guesthouses, B&Bs, village shops and amenities. All of these elements are important themes in the current strategies of the major bodies, including Powys County Council, Visit Wales, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and Natural England.

2.8 Development of the National and Recreational Trails Network

There are currently limited resources available to support Recreational trails in Powys. Natural Resources Wales substantially supports the Glyndŵr's Way National Trail, with both NRW and Natural England supporting the Offa's Dyke Path. This support has been vital in the development of these trails over the last 25 years. However, there is

limited funding available to support the remaining network of Recreational trails in the county.

Working in partnership with other organisations, European funding has been accessed for improvement and promotional activities on the trails. Projects such as “Walking with Offa” along the Offa corridor has been important in developing a market, including a number of circular walks from the National Trail and a locally brewed ale called “Best Offa” for which a proportion of the proceeds goes back into the management of the trail. Walk Unlimited are the official promoting partner for all National Trails, and manage the Trails’ website.

Partnership working has long been an essential tool in the management of the National and Recreational trails network in Powys. Officers will continue to work in partnership with appropriate organisations and communities; with the aim to extend this work in the future. Securing volunteers to support the surveying and maintenance of recreational trails will be important in terms of sustainability and achieving *best value for money*.

Work is being continually carried out to improve the accessibility of the National and Recreational Trails with improvements being made to the path furniture along the routes to make them increasingly accessible to all. The Offa’s Dyke and Glyndŵr’s Way National Trails work to the “Quality Standards for National Trails and Wales Coast Path’ Edition 3.1, which will no doubt be revised over time.

There is great potential for the increased use of the National and Recreational Trails network in Powys, with increased and improved promotional activities being very beneficial. Any promotional work needs to be fit-for-purpose and utilise new technology such as social media, apps, websites and interactive interpretation, with less of a dependence on the publication of printed leaflets.

Where appropriate, consideration should be taken to provide for short circular walks off a National or Recreational Trail where better provision can be made for providing for accommodation providers or the trail is near to a settlement or place of interest.

One such example is the use of the Offa’s Dyke National Trail alongside the Wales Coast Path as a circuit of Wales and there is a niche market in capitalising on the use of the Offa’s Dyke national Trail in this way.

Statement of Actions

Ensure the long terms success of the National and Recreational trails in Powys.

Work in partnership with appropriate organisations and communities.

Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

Work with volunteers to support the surveying and maintenance of National and Recreational trails.

Recreational trails should not take priority over other ProW, and that they should all be given equal priority.

Improve path furniture to make National and Recreational Trails accessible for all.

Promotional work needs to be fit-for-purpose and utilise new technology such as social media, Apps, websites and interactive interpretation

2.9 Open Access in Powys

Open Access arose from the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and is sometimes referred to as the 'right to roam'. The Act has given the right for people to carry out many recreational activities that can be undertaken on foot. These can include walking, running, bird watching and picnicking; however no additional rights of access have been given to horse-riders, cyclists or vehicle users. However, the restrictions on the use of Access land is currently under review by Welsh Government.

Access land includes all Common land and designated 'open country'. In addition, Natural Resources Wales has also dedicated most of the land within its control as Access land. Due to its largely upland nature, Powys has a higher than average proportion of Access land, with 150,000 hectares (579 square miles) which equates to 29% of the county's land area. This corresponds to one third of the total Access land in Wales.

The legal maps of Access land are maintained by Natural Resources Wales. However, Powys County Council is the 'Access Authority' when it comes to practical management of public access over 'Access land' in the county. That responsibility falls to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority for any land within the National Park area.

Even after deducting the Access land that lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park, and forests managed by Natural Resources Wales, Powys Countryside Services is responsible for managing access to 88,000 hectares (340 square miles), which corresponds to over 24% of the total Common Land and 'open country' in Wales.

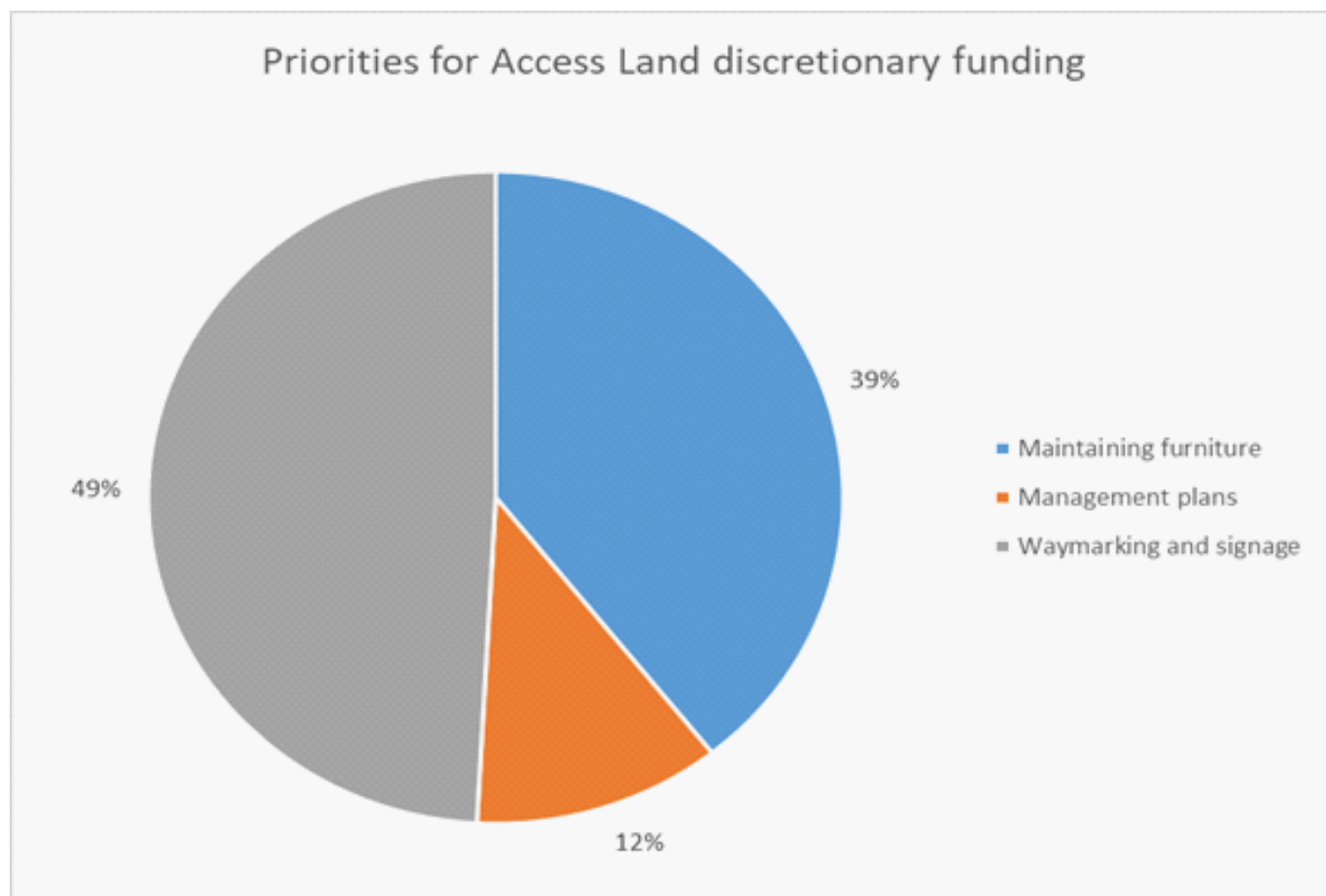
2.10 Signing of Access Land

ROWIP consultation has shown that 49% of the general survey respondents wanted the Council to prioritise waymarked routes across Access land and this was the highest priority of work from the survey on managing Access land.

2.11 The Future for Access Land

The consultation highlighted quite a high use of Access land, with only 3% of the 229 respondents never using Access land and 61% using it on a regular basis. Although there seems to be a high use of Access land, there is clearly still a demand for waymarked routes. In addition to the 49% wanting waymarked routes, reasons for deterring use of Access land was the respondent either did not know where the routes were, the condition of the network surface is an issue or the routes do not go where they want them to go. It is therefore

quite clear that the public still see Access land, as a block of land with definitive routes on the ground, for which using those routes is the preferred choice.



Statement of Action

Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all.
Improve and increase access onto and across Access land.
Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

Provide and improve appropriate waymarking and signage on public rights of way, Access land and public green space.

2.12 Common Land

Much of the Access land in Powys is registered common land. In addition, there are also commons in the county that have public rights of access that pre-date the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Countryside Services manages the statutory process of Commons Registration, which involves maintaining legal registers of the location of common land and Town or Village Greens, together with the rights of common (usually grazing rights) over them. That includes registration of common land and the associated rights within the Brecon Beacons National Park area.

Over and above statutory registration, the Definitive Map and Commons Registration team also have involvement in statutory and non-statutory management of common land.

The team's role includes advising members of the public about their rights of access to and management of common land. The legislation relating to this is particularly complex, with its roots being in the medieval manorial system.

Some commons have no known owner and the Council only has limited powers to prevent encroachment on them, in place of the landowner. A number of these commons have been subject of management plans, agreed with the commoners, which include measures to maintain or improve public access, grazing and biodiversity on the land. Many of these schemes need to be reviewed, to make sure that they remain appropriate and relevant.

Other commons are subject of Schemes of Management, under which the Council has statutory management powers and responsibilities. The Council works with the local community to decide how best to exercise those, which may include the making bylaws to regulate public access.

Some commons are formally owned and managed by the Council. As the landowner, the Council then may be asked to decide whether to grant permission for activities that are outside any other access rights, or to share management responsibilities with the community. On one common, for example, the Council permits canoe launching and this has led to involvement in management of inland water access.

As such, management of common land and Town or Village Greens and providing advice to the public about their rights of access makes a significant contribution to public use of Access land in the county.

Statement of Actions

Seek funding to support the review of non-statutory management plans for common land, to ensure that they remain up to date and relevant in terms of delivering public access opportunities.

As opportunities arise for other non-statutory management that would contribute to public access, on commons where the Council has management control, seek funding as appropriate to support that work.

2.13 Outdoor Recreation

The Outdoor Recreation Service is now incorporated within Countryside Services. The Service manages a varied number of recreational and amenity open spaces throughout the county on behalf of the Council. The sites managed and maintained by the service includes, playgrounds with fixed play equipment, allotment gardens, formal parks, open spaces, riverside access and woodlands. These sites are diverse and used by a wide and varied range of residents and visitors. The main remit of the Service is to maintain these areas to ensure that they are a safe and hazard free environment.

Officers will regularly visit and inspect all of their managed sites throughout the year and will arrange and programme all essential works that will be required to complete, upon discovery the Service will procure and arrange for the relevant and appropriate contractors to complete the required jobs.

The Service also has worked with various internal partners including Housing, offering advice on tree management and grounds maintenance issues. Education, advice with regards to fixed play equipment located within school grounds. Town & Community Councils, the Service officers have had many varied dealings with the majority of town & community councils within Powys, these dealings have included many discussions regarding the future management of numerous outdoor recreation sports fields, playgrounds and amenity spaces and resulting asset transfers of ownership from the County Council to local ownership.

Statement of Actions

Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all.

Provide safe and appropriate outdoor facilities.

Section 3 Assessing the Needs of Users

3.1 Introduction

As part of the review of the ROWIP, a survey was undertaken with the public, landholders, user groups, and Town and Community Councils. The aim was to assess the existing and potential demands and opportunities for the public rights of way network, as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of the 2007-2017 Plan. Copies of the questionnaires can be found in Appendix 1.

Alongside the public consultation, workshops and seminars were held with the Local Access Forum, who have been kept informed and involved throughout the ROWIP process. Focus group meetings were also held with Countryside Services Officers and managers as well as disability groups.

Meetings have been held with a number of interested groups and parties, which have included: -

- Other Powys County Council services including Tourism and Highways
- Disability Powys
- Brecon Access Group
- Physical Loss & Sensory Group
- Montgomery Access Group
- Healthy Weights Steering Group
- Mothers and Toddlers Group.

The information from the public consultation, focus groups, workshops, seminars and meetings with other organisations has been gathered, to allow analysis of the needs and demands of all current and potential users of countryside access.

3.2 Survey Responses

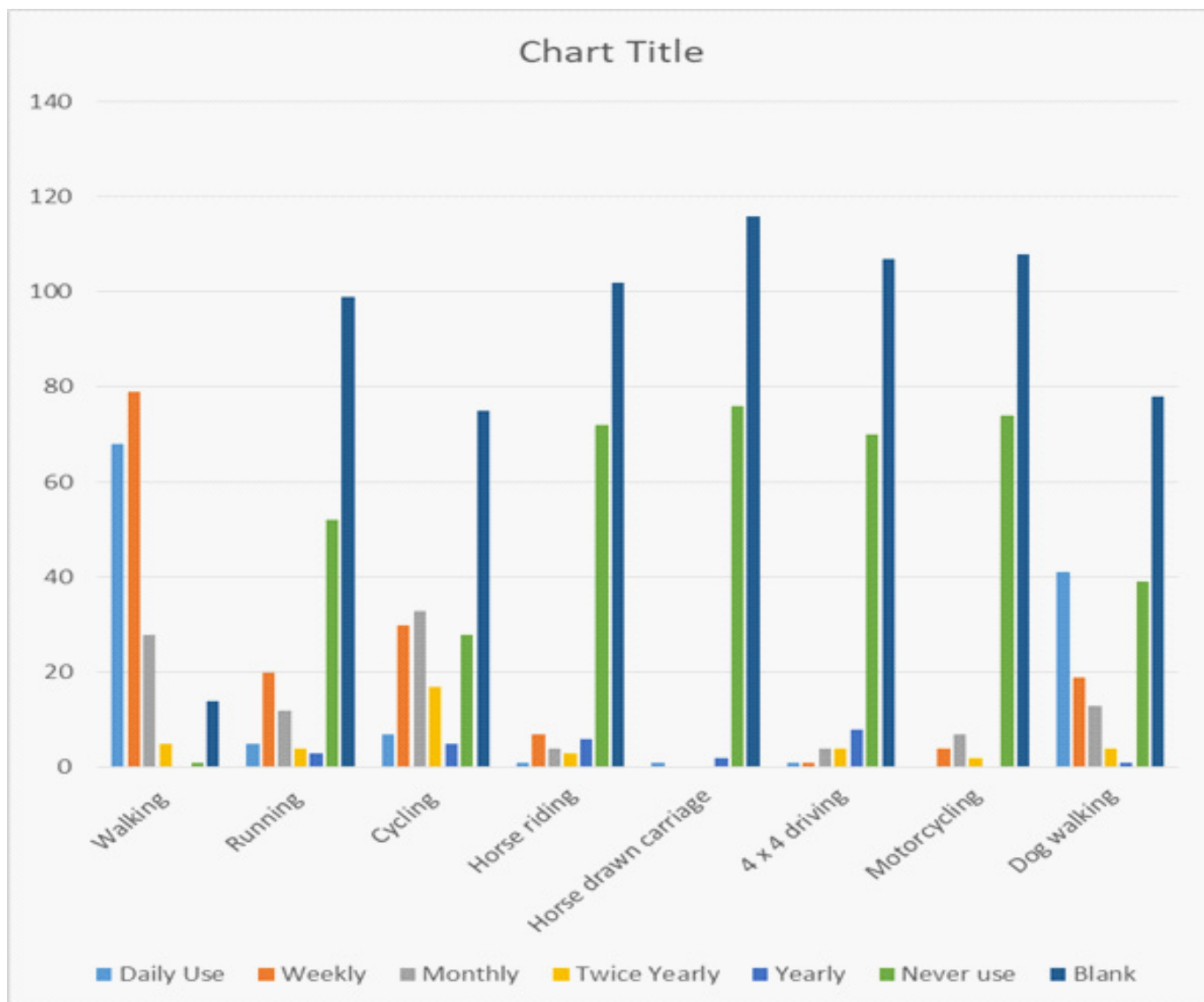
The table below breaks down to whom the individual surveys were sent and number of responses received.

Survey Type	Who was it sent to?	How many responses were received in 2017	How many responses were received in 2007
General	Powys Citizens Panel, all statutory consultees, Stakeholder Working Group, Local Access Forum members, County Councillors, Website and advertised in local media through press releases and Moovly.	289	1072
Landholders	Publicised through Country Land & Business Association, Farmers Union of Wales and the National Farmers Union	71	266
Town and Community Councils	All 110 councils outside the Brecon Beacons National Park	15	44

The response to all the surveys was not as encouraging as in 2007, but this is perhaps because the ROWIP was first produced in 2007 and not necessarily because interest has diminished. The comprehensive information received from our customers (the public) has been utilised to inform the development of the Delivery Plan.

3.3 User Group Assessments

There are many groups and individuals who use the PRoW network to varying extents. The graph below shows a breakdown from the General Survey, outlining the participation in activities undertaken on the PRoW network.



The largest user group are walkers. More people walk on the network than all the other activities put together, and on a more frequent and regular basis. Dog walking is the second most popular activity, followed by cycling.

The ROWIP needs to address the needs and issues of different users. The major user groups have been identified and examined below. Actions relating to each activity are outlined at the end of each section.

3.4 Walkers and Dog-Walkers

Walkers and dog-walkers have a legal right of access to 100% of the PRow and recreational trails network, and the majority of Access land.

The results of the General Survey show us that walking was the most popular activity undertaken on the network, with 36% of those who responded stated that they did so on a daily basis and 44% on a weekly basis. Of these respondents, 66% use the network to walk their dogs on a daily basis. Demand for access on foot is already high and expected to grow in the future.

Although walkers and dog-walkers legally have access to the whole network, there are particular issues. Standard stiles are obstacles to access for many people with mobility difficulties and those with dogs. All the surveys showed that the PRow network provides better access for walkers and dog walkers than for any other user group.

One of the main findings from the consultation was the desire for local, circular routes around settlements. 88% of respondents wanted to see more circular routes opened up, an increase from 79% in 2007. In general, walkers and dog walkers want better provision in their local areas, as opposed to new long distance routes. Since 2007 the Service has directed resources towards providing better provision for short circular walks around settlements, and this could be a direct result of that increased provision.

Following the 2007 ROWIP consultation a 'least restrictive' access practice was adopted. This practice promotes a least restrictive approach, with gap, gate, and standard stile being the descending order of furniture choice. This approach aims to improve access for more people, whether that is individuals, dog walkers, families with pushchairs or people with mobility difficulties.

The recent ROWIP consultation highlighted again that improvements in terms of improved access for all is still a priority. Therefore, the 'least restrictive' approach will be continued and embedded throughout the work of Countryside Services. Resources are an issue and the continuing practice of offering 100% grants for the installation of gates will have to be reviewed.

Although not a direct question within the survey, dog fouling is a persistent problem. It is an offence to let your dog foul in designated land under the Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. Such designated land includes, all publicly owned land in towns and villages and footpaths and bridleways where "No Fouling" signs are displayed to name two.

The Service will therefore work with local communities and internal and external partners to manage dog fouling.

Statement of Actions

Implement 'least restrictive' access practices.

Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.

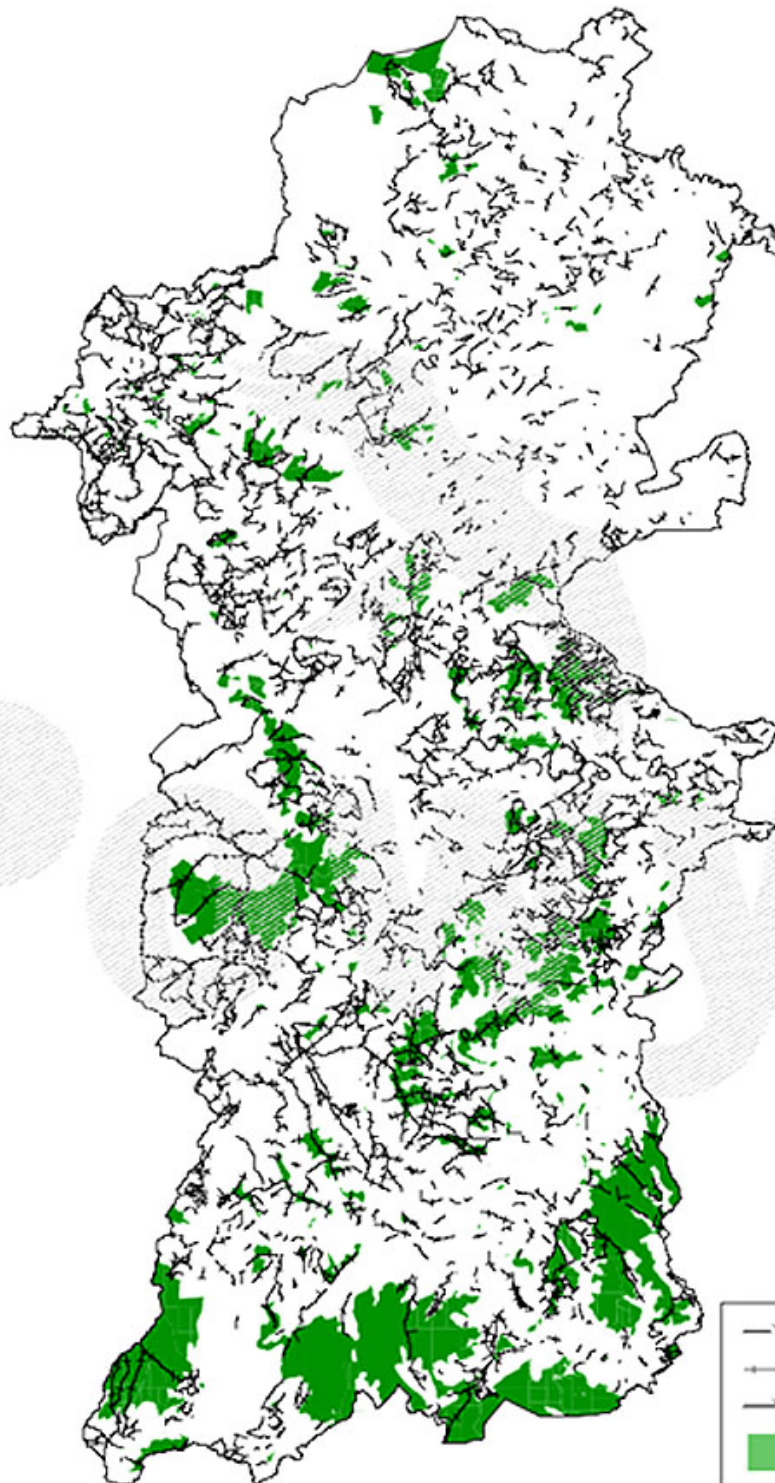
3.5 Cyclists

Cycling both on and off road is a popular activity in Powys, with a wide range of routes available for users. Cyclists have a right of access to 36% of the PRow network, and are the second most regular and frequent use on the network. Powys also has a number of urban cycle paths, active travel networks and other routes and trails that are suitable for everyone, whatever their age or cycling ability. These routes may or may not be on recognised PRow. There are off road mountain biking trails in the Llanwrtyd Wells and Machynlleth areas. Powys' Recreational Trail, the Epynt Way, is fully open to cyclists. The NRW woodland estate is a valuable resource, with many forests allowing access for cyclists.

Powys is at the heart of the National Cycle Network with 129 miles of completed network running through the county and a further 115 miles due for future completion. Where possible, the network uses traffic free or quiet lanes away from busier sections of county or trunk roads. Some of the most popular cycle routes and trails include sections of the National and Regional cycle network running through Powys – Lon Las Cymru NCR 8, Lon Cambria Route 81 from Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury and the Radnor Ring Regional regional cycle route 25.

Map 6 – Public Rights of Way available for Cyclists

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	Restricted Byway
	Bricleway
	BOAT
	Common Land

Of the general survey respondents, 17% cycle on the PRow network at least once a month. The issues raised by cyclists during the consultation were in line with other users, with *signage*, *obstructions* and *furniture* all being important.

As a result of the ROWIP consultation, from 2007 and 2017, it is proposed that a higher priority be given to byways open to all traffic, restricted byways and bridleways within a community, therefore improving access for cyclists and a wider range of users.

Statement of Actions

Implement 'least restrictive' access practices.

Give priority to higher status paths within communities.

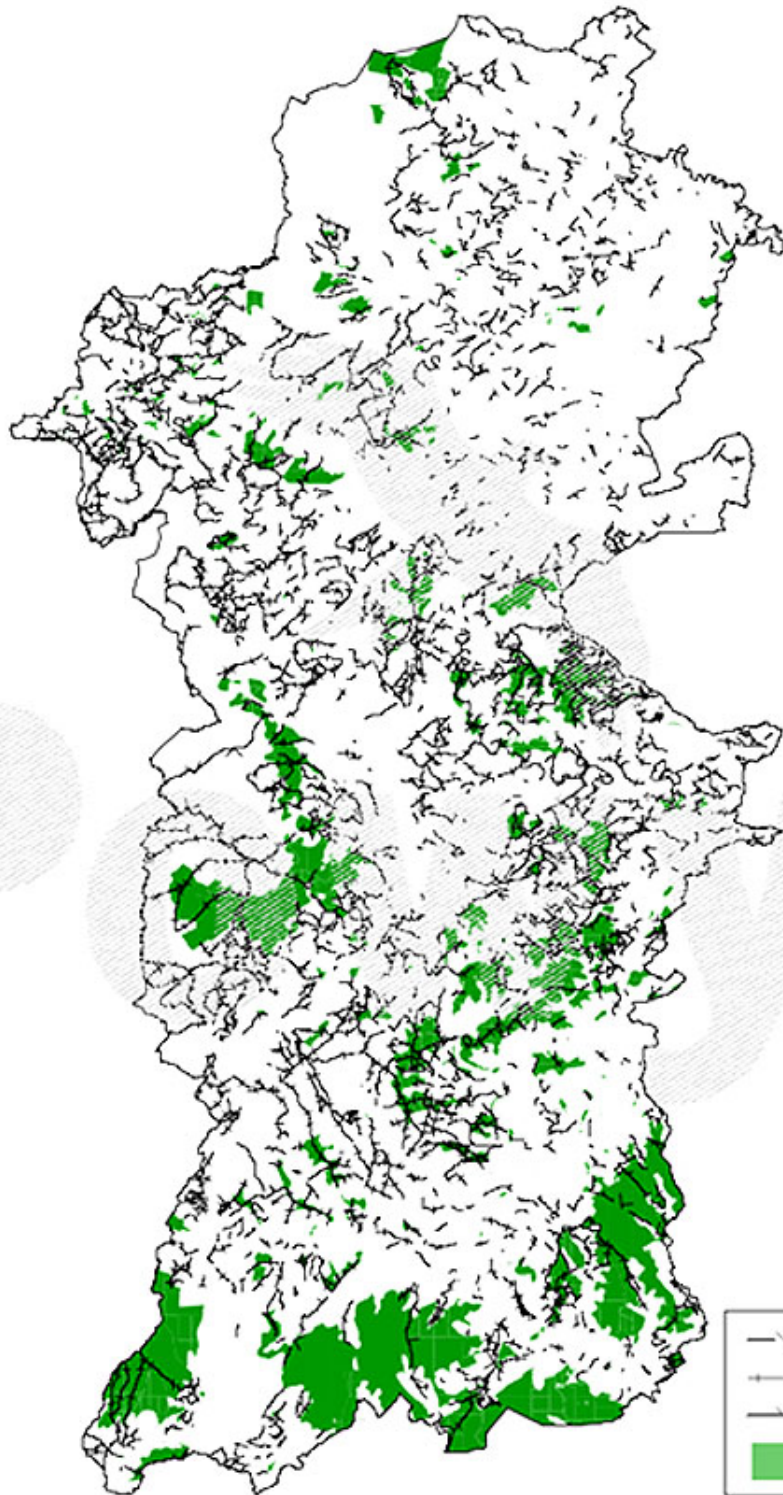
Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.

3.6 Horse-Riders

The county of Powys has a dense network of bridleways offering good opportunities for access on horseback. Riding provides an excellent opportunity for access to the countryside by people with mobility and sensory difficulties. Horse-riders in Powys have the right to use 36% of the PRow network (excluding BBNP). The distribution of access for horse-riders is highlighted on the map below.

Map 7 – Public Rights of Way available for Horse-Riders

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Although the network available to horse-riders is less than that available to walkers, the percentage of their network open and easy to use is far higher. Analysis of the 2017 of Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) data shows that 53% of the bridleway network is open and easy to use, compared to only 38% of the entire network.

As well as the general PRow network, parts of the Recreational Trails network provides access on horseback. The Epynt Way in Breconshire developed in partnership by the MoD and PCC, is a circular bridleway entirely open to horse-riders and cyclists. Parts of other Recreational and National Trails within Powys are also open to horses, such as lengths of the Glyndŵr's Way.

Countryside Services aim to work in partnership with the BHS and others, to improve access, where this can be accommodated within the priority system for managing PRow access across Powys.

The results of the General Survey showed us that 5% of the respondents ride horses on the PRow network at least once a month.

The survey results highlighted the issues horse-riders have with the network; these are similar to those from other users with signage and obstructions being significant considerations. However, they also highlight the specific issue of the difficulties in using road verges, due to the clutter of signs and notices. The provision of *high quality furniture*, especially *gates that are easy to open and close*, is also very important.

Consideration should also be taken with the BHS field trials and the problems encountered with even new gate installations. The recommendation was to install two way opening gates as well as having long reach handles to reduce the amount of times a rider needs to dismount to open a gate.

Statement of Actions

Give priority to higher status paths within communities.

Ensure high quality gates and installation to allow easy access for horse-riders.

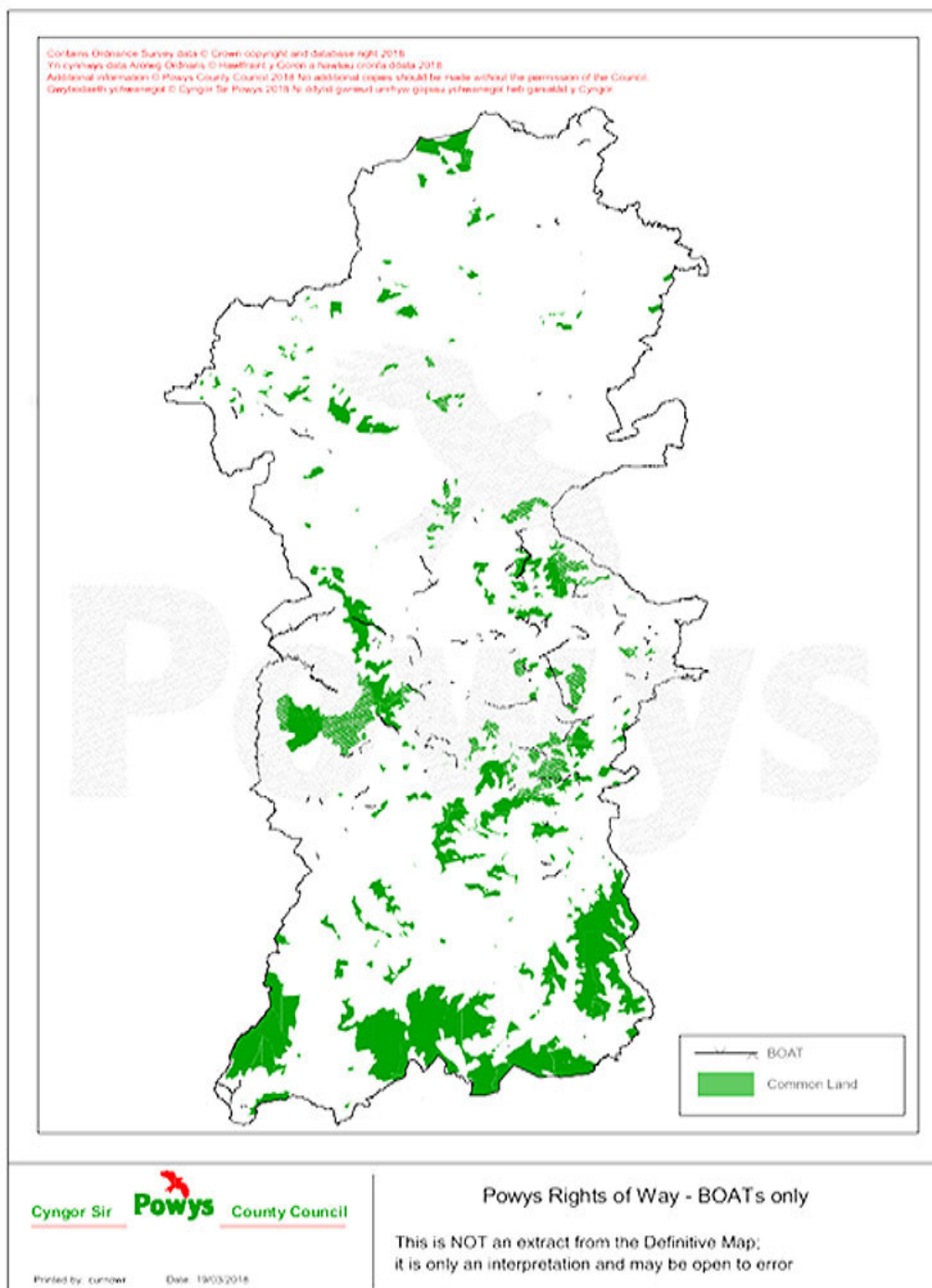
Implement 'least restrictive' access practices.

Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys

3.7 Motorised Vehicles

Mechanically propelled vehicles (MPV's) can include any vehicle powered by a motor, such as a 4x4, off-road truck, car or motorcycle. Powys is a popular area for motorised access, currently vehicles can legally access 216km of PRow in Powys (including BBNP), which equates to 2% of the network.

Map 8 – Public Rights of Way available for Motor Vehicles



The results of the General Survey show that less than 1% of the respondent's use MPV's on the PRow network. Throughout the ROWIP consultation processes, the response from MPV users, both from groups and individuals, has been on a very small scale.

Motorised access can be controversial. The main problem cited by landholders and other users, is the harm caused by inappropriate use of MPV's on un-surfaced routes, leading to severe ruts and surface damage. Whilst the use of MPV's on BOATs is entirely lawful, it can lead to conflict. Motorised access can damage flora and fauna and its activity and management does have visible implications on the landscape. There are also reported cases of conflict between users and landholders, and between vehicular and other types of users.

The problem facing Powys County Council is the scale and technical difficulties in the management and maintenance of the byway network. Resources are currently insufficient to quickly repair byways that have been damaged by vehicle use, and in some cases Traffic Regulation Orders have been used, to allow the surface time to recover. Powys CC is now working with user groups, to identify, prioritise and carry out byway repair work. Consideration of the sustainability of the surface must and does form part of any assessment, with the long-term management of vehicular routes, including surface condition, level of use and seasonal conditions all being looked at. The new Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Act also places a duty on PCC to consider the impact on biodiversity as well as sustainability under the Well-Being and Future Generation Act 2015.

The challenge is to provide quality access for MPV's, which does not impact on the natural environment that the users have come to enjoy. The importance and benefits of motorised access must not be overlooked. There are economic benefits, with people travelling and staying in Powys to use our byway network. MPV's can also provide access to the Powys countryside for people with mobility difficulties.

There are issues surrounding illegal motorised access in Powys. Illegal activity ranges from local motorcyclists to organised groups of 4x4s, driving and riding on commons, Access land, lower status PRow and private property. Illegal riding and driving is primarily a matter for the police as criminal offences; although PCC are being pro-active about the situation by signing areas where there is a known problem and having a reporting mechanism on the website.

Countryside Services will continue to be pro-active in their approach to motorised access and aims to work with user groups on a local and national level to address problems and develop work programmes. The main way to do this is through the existing Powys Byways User Group. Collaborative working with user groups, Dyfed Powys Police, Natural Resources Wales, landowners and neighbouring authorities will be key in this area. Emphasis will be placed on educating people on the situation, including better information on site and in providing clearer details of when routes are subject to temporary closure.

Statement of Actions

Seek resources to manage and maintain the byway open to all traffic network.

Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.

Work with stakeholders to improve provision, education and enforcement with regards to legal and illegal motorised access.

3.8 Assessing the needs of people with mobility and sensory impairments

The Welsh Government's advice on producing a ROWIP highlights that it is a requirement to make an assessment on the accessibility of local public rights of way to blind or partially sighted people and others with mobility problems.

3.9 Context

The term 'equality' can mean different things to different people, so for clarity, when using this term, the Council will work to the definition provided by the Equalities Review¹ (in line with common practice):

"An equal society protects and promotes equal, real freedom and opportunity to live in the way people value and would choose, so that everyone can flourish. An equal society recognises people's different needs, situations and goals, and removes the barriers that limit what people can do and be."

There are an estimated 11 million disabled adults in the United Kingdom, which equates to about 1 in 5 of the total adult population. They include people with physical and mobility impairments, mental disabilities including depression and stress-related conditions such as anxiety, learning difficulties including dyslexia, people with visual and hearing impairments, and people with terminal and long-term illnesses including Cancer, HIV positive and Multiple Sclerosis.¹⁶

There is a lot to consider when looking at access and at how it may affect different groups of people in different ways. A barrier on a PRoW may be a problem for one disabled person but not for another. Consideration must also be given to the friends and family and how different access opportunities impact on them.

¹⁶ Ibid.

The Equalities Act 2010 places a general duty upon all public bodies to promote equality in everything that it does as an organisation, and the Well-Being and Future Generation Act 2015 clearly plays a part as well.

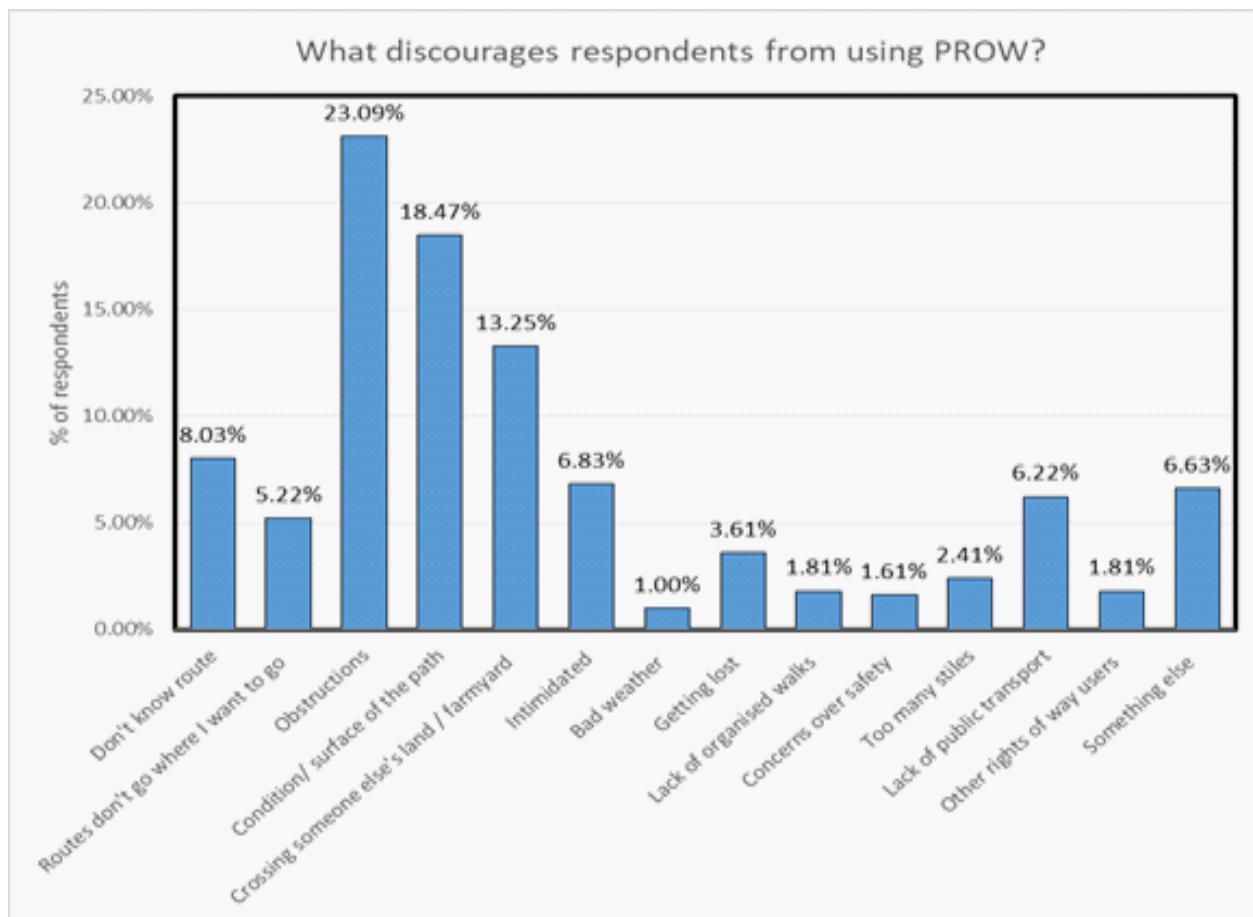
The Powys County Council Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020 states that the aim of the Council is:

“To improve our services and employment practices to meet the different needs of our citizens and employees and contribute towards improving the life outcomes for those who experience disadvantage”.

The plan is for everyone who lives works, and visits, or has an interest in Powys including businesses and organisations. Access to the countryside and other public spaces is no exception to this commitment, and the ROWIP will lay out how the Council will work to achieve this aim.

3.10 Assessment

As part of the consultation process, views were sought from people with mobility and sight impairments. The general survey showed that 19% of respondents fit into these categories. This is in line with the national figures from the Disability Rights Commission, which states that around 1 in 5 people have a disability. All surveys were available in large print format by request.



Graph 10 shows results from the General Survey. The graph shows that obstructions (legal and illegal) are the issue most negatively affecting access, closely followed by the condition of the surface. The issue that people would most like to see improved on the PROW network is for the furniture and path surfaces to be made more accessible. 47% of the respondents who classed themselves as having a disability (temporary or permanent) said they would use the PROW network more if there were more routes available that were accessible for all.

The ROWIP consultation highlighted the concerns that people have over access to the PROW network by people with disabilities. Respondents were asked to rate the network in terms of access provision. Out of all the different user groups; walkers, horse-riders, cyclists, motorcyclists, etc. The PROW network was rated as providing the worst service for people with mobility impairments. This theme came back strongly throughout the consultation and across the different surveys.

Meetings and discussions have been held with local disability groups including Disability Powys, the Physical Loss and Sensory Group, the Brecknock and Montgomery Access Groups, Mothers and Toddlers Groups and with the appropriate Council Officers where their remit includes Equalities, Welsh Language and Sustainability.

3.11 Outcomes

The meetings and results of the consultation have reinforced the continuation of a 'least restrictive' working practice, which operates under the presumption of *gap-gate-stile*. This practice has been in operation for a number of years by the Countryside Services team and results are already visible. In 2006-07, 67% of all furniture installed on paths were gates, and 33% were stiles. In 2016-17, 97% of furniture installed were gates, compared to 3% of stiles. This shows the success of the 'least restrictive' approach.

One of the actions of the ROWIP, prioritises the higher status paths for attention first within a Priority Project Area to develop a cohesive network for multiple types of users. As higher status paths will only have gates not stiles along them, this will help to improve accessibility for disabled users who may walk, ride, cycle, horse-ride or drive on the PRow network.

3.12 'Least Restrictive' Working Practices

Wherever the occasion arises to replace, repair or install items of path furniture, the opportunity will always be taken to negotiate the least restrictive option. The first option to be considered will be a gap, down through the range of gates, kissing gates and any other suitable structure. This is called the "Least Restrictive Principle".

An application or a request for a stile under s.147 Highways Act 1980 will not be granted by the Council. Landholder grants will also not be issued for the installation of stiles. A stile will only be supplied when it is a legal entitlement for a landholder to have a stile, and so the Council can also meet its own statutory obligations.

Bridges and culverts will have a minimum width of 1.2 metres wherever it is reasonably practicable, and ramps will be considered rather than steps. Where diversions of PRow take place, there will be a presumption against stiles on the new path. Stiles are also not to be installed alongside gates, although a smaller 1.2 metre gate maybe provided next to a larger field gate.

Further to the above, the "least restrictive principle" will be assessed on a case by case basis by the relevant Countryside Services Officer taking into account the:

1. Path status.
2. Definitive map and statement.
3. Historical furniture on site.
4. Topography.
5. Nature of farming and land use.
6. Local circumstances.
7. Legal entitlement of the landholder.

Statement of Actions

Implement 'least restrictive' access practices.

Replace stiles with gates wherever possible.

Identify and improve routes that are most likely to be accessed by people with mobility and sensory difficulties.

All information produced by Countryside Services will aim to be available, appropriate, accurate and accessible.

Work with internal and external partners to provide improved access for all.

3.13 User Needs Assessment Conclusions

Public consultation has presented an opportunity to critically evaluate current practices with respect to meeting public demands.

Consultation has thrown up few findings that were wholly unexpected or surprising but has highlighted and focussed existing trains of thought. There is the danger when running a consultation exercise that different surveys might yield contrasting results, however this has not generally occurred. The surveys have come back with remarkably similar trends and viewpoints.

The extensive public consultation exercise has provided for an in-depth look at the issues surrounding countryside access and allowed central themes to be drawn out. These are:-

- *The extent to which local rights of way meet the present and future likely needs of the public.*

The three main surveys all addressed the suitability of the current rights of way network for all users. The message came back clearly that the network provides average to good for walkers and dog walkers. At the other end of the scale the results show that provision is worst for people with mobility and sensory difficulties, and also for families with a push chair and young children. This is an area where future work can be pursued.

The survey response was that anomalies should be resolved and be a priority rather than recording new ones. This highlights that there are connectivity issues, although the provision of a new public right of way can also do this.

- *The opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation, and the enjoyment of their area.*

The General Survey has shown that 89% of the 238 respondents consider themselves to use PRow. The survey results indicate that a large number of people use local paths. Powys has a huge path network of approximately 8200km, which provides many opportunities for exercise and open-air recreation. PRows provide the most comprehensive means of accessing the countryside in Powys. This is further supported by extensive areas of Access land, public woodland, commons, and public owned green space for visiting the countryside.

The Powys PRow network and open recreation is analysed in more detail in Section 2 - This fully explores the opportunities and access available for all users.

- *The accessibility of rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems.*

The accessibility of the PRow network for people of all mobilities was explored in the public consultation. Of all the 171 respondents, 25 classified themselves as having restricted mobility.

One of these residents stated that they didn't use the network and didn't want to whilst three people stated that they only used the network sometimes. However the remaining 21 classed themselves as regular users of the network. In terms of their use the majority of those with a condition were walkers (with or without dogs) and a couple said they ran or rode a motorbike occasionally.

There were no real differences in the views given by this group in comparison to the rest of the sample with regard to any problems encountered. The top four listed by these respondents were the same as the wider sample and were around poor way marking, the condition of the paths, obstructions and stiles and gates being in a poor state or inappropriate for use.

For the majority of the 25 respondents who stated they had a condition that impacted on their health they tended to walk and drive to the start of a public right of way which was similar to those without any condition.

However there was clearly more reliance on getting a bus or a lift for these respondents than other users without a health condition. 16% of residents with a health condition said they got a bus compared to 12% of respondents minus a health complaint, 20% got a lift compared to 11%, and 68% walked compared to 85% of those without a health condition.

All the survey results recognised that the current network provides worst for people with mobility and sensory difficulties; meetings held with local disabled people and Disability Powys have further confirmed this

3.14 Strategic Findings

The consultation has assisted with the development of a number of clear strategic findings that are now contained within the ROWIP. These findings are outlined below:

- The main aim of Countryside Services will be the continued and measured opening up of the existing public rights of way network, but still with an importance placed on maintaining the paths already opened.
- Obstructions are a major barrier to people using the public rights of way network, and they need to be removed as a matter of priority.
- Higher emphasis will be placed on the development of local, circular routes around settlements rather than long distance routes.
- Development and implementation of a “Higher Tiered Approach” to work more with community councils and groups. Working in this way, is likely to mean that public rights of way in more remote areas are less likely to receive resources.
- The Council will divert public paths away from farmyards and property as the highest priority cases.
- There is demand for more and better information, both on and off-route. The website will also be used more effectively to communicate and to deliver information.
- The network needs to improve its provision for people with mobility and sensory difficulties. Therefore, under the “least restrictive principle” an application or request for a stile under s.147 Highways Act 1980 in an existing gap or new boundary will not be granted.
- Continue to invest in the existing promoted Recreational and National Trails, as well as to open and maintain other public rights of way.

Section 4 - Theme B: Management and Enforcement of Public Rights of Way and Green Spaces

4.1 Introduction

Managing the PRow network, Access land and National and Recreational Trails is the backbone of the work of Countryside Services. Fostering good working relationships with users, landholders, and all other interested parties has long been a high priority for the Service.

Fostering good working relationships with users, landholders, and all other interested parties has long been a high priority for Countryside Services. However, more customer focused and efficient working methods and practices are continually being established.

The team of experienced staff in Countryside Services is an invaluable resource. Importance must be placed on retaining this experience and providing development opportunities.

4.2 Existing Policies and Working Practices

The current policies and working practices largely stem from the original ROWIP produced in 2007. The development of working practices has been carried out over the years, to provide the best possible service within budgetary constraints. The Condition of the Rights of Way Network in Section 2 highlights the current state of the network and the resources needed to bring it into a satisfactory state of repair to meet statutory obligations. As these extra resources are extremely unlikely in the foreseeable future, prioritisation is of paramount importance to ensure that existing funding is directed to provide the most cost effective use of resources and to achieve the highest standard of access for the public.

4.3 Powys Countryside Volunteers

The Powys Countryside Volunteers team is an innovative partnership that is delivering increased and improved access to the Powys countryside. As an example, in 2017 the volunteer workforce installed 10 bridges and boardwalks, and 4 flights of steps. Volunteer work-hours also increased from 150 per month in 2016 to 240 per month in 2017.

Countryside Services employs a Volunteer Co-ordinator whose work is supported by approximately 100 volunteers across Powys. The work of the volunteers is largely dependent upon external grant support.

Volunteers are valued members of the Countryside Services team. Working in partnership with stakeholders, recent years have seen a fundamental change in how Countryside Services engages with volunteers. Stakeholders felt that having works supervised by an officer was slowing progress and limiting work. They wanted to see practical works happening on the ground without the need for officer supervision so that more could be achieved. The Countryside Services team took up this challenge and by working with key stakeholders put together a pilot scheme to recruit Volunteer Team Leaders.

In 2015, six Volunteer Team Leaders (VTLs) were recruited and received training in Risk Assessments, Site Supervision, CAT scanning, First Aid and Manual Handling. VTLs now organise and supervise work days around the county. The pilot scheme is proving to be successful, and the ambition is to extend the project across the county; perhaps through closer working with Town and Community Councils. There is also scope to expand the range of tasks undertaken by volunteers, with some people expressing an interest in administration or research-related opportunities.

At present, a pilot project is looking to develop the use of community led volunteers that are maintaining, repairing and improving public access to their own priorities and demands; and therefore outside the scope of the ROWIP. Such a project and method of working should be developed to ascertain whether this is viable.

Statement of Actions

Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all.

Be effective and efficient in the recruitment, retention and management of the volunteer workforce.

Identify and provide opportunities to increase the responsibilities and scope of work able to be carried out by the volunteer workforce.

4.4 Enforcement

An Enforcement policy has been developed and published, and it has set out the approach to be taken by Officers in exercising their countryside access enforcement duties. This will ensure that legislation is effectively complied with, that a consistent approach based on best practice is taken in each instance, and that Powys takes fair and efficient enforcement action when necessary.

Enforcement can be informal, which is often done by approaching and negotiating with a landholder, or it can be formal by the service of notice or direct prosecution through the courts. In the vast number of cases, enforcement work is conducted informally and resolved successfully. The Enforcement Officer carries out both informal and formal enforcement work. However, only 25% of the survey respondents were satisfied and could see enforcement action being taken to remove obstructions.

Where formal notice is served on the Highway Authority, the legal obligations will be met. However, informal and formal enforcement will only take place as set out within the priorities of the Higher Tier Approach. The Council has developed the ROWIP to determine how it is to prioritise its resources. Any resource cannot be re-directed just because a legal notice has been served whatever justification is provided.

Statement of Action

To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network.

Take enforcement action when and where necessary in accordance with policy and the Higher Tier Approach.

Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all.

4.5 Prioritisation of Works

The number of reports received regarding issues on the PRoW network, far outweighs the availability of staff and resources to resolve them. In August 2017, there were in excess of 4,500 outstanding reports on file. After detailed discussion with the Local Access Forums, key interest

groups and through the ROW Committee, Powys County Council previously adopted a Priority Community Area approach. By using the number of reports weighted against the size of the network in each community, Rights of Way and Access Officers concentrated their time and budget in the communities identified as having the highest demand. This approach was successful for a number of years, however, in recent times it has been noted that Officers were not moving on from communities quickly enough, and that some communities were never receiving works.

The 2017 public consultations did not offer a clear steer in terms of prioritisation, however, discussions with Officers, the LAF and user groups has highlighted a desire for change. Therefore, a new system of prioritisation is proposed. The prioritisation will be delivered under a “Higher Tier Approach” (Appendix 2) where serious health and safety issues and externally funded projects for example will be a priority.

The first and foremost priority of the Council is to resolve significant health and safety issues. It should be noted that the range of health and safety issues are too numerous to mention. However, an example would be the reporting of a barbed wire fence obstructing a public right of way. Although a barbed wire fence is potentially a hazard, it would not be dealt with as a significant health and safety issue within the Higher Tier Approach.

The Higher Tier Approach will determine how the Service manages its resources with regard to public access. Within the Higher Tier Approach also sits the “Priority Project Area Approach” that will be providing the focus for Area Officers to develop their work programmes, and to develop a network within a Community.

The Priority Project Area approach will aim to prioritise and provide for improved access, appropriate to the needs of the community over a defined period. This may only be a short section of path that needs surfacing to provide multi-user access along a key route, targeted attention on a network of public rights of way, or a trail several miles long allowing access to a local viewpoint or a nearby settlement. The key is engaging with the local community and volunteers to find out what is most important to that area.

Statement of Actions

Develop and implement the Higher Tier Approach.

Prioritise higher status paths within a community.

To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network.

Effectively manage, monitor and maintain opened paths in a satisfactory condition.

4.6 Signage

The ROWIP General Survey showed that ‘improved signage and waymarking’ is the second highest priority that respondents would most like to see improved. The results showed throughout, the importance of waymarking and signage. Additionally, two of the key reasons people are discouraged from using public rights of way are “*feeling intimidated*” and “*not wanting to cross somebody else’s land*”. These concerns are largely focussing of the confidence of the user, for which signage and waymarking will greatly assist with.

To meet this demand, once a route has been opened or reviewed as being in satisfactory condition, Countryside Services in the majority of cases will install a fingerpost where the PRoW meets a metalled road, but in some circumstances just a waymarker disc maybe appropriate. Waymarker discs are also installed along the path as required.

The level of waymarking will be appropriate to the landscape and likely level of use. The intensity of waymarking will generally be higher in areas with an anticipated greater level of use, such as near urban areas and on promoted recreational trails. In the expansive upland and remote areas, waymarking will be more selective.

Generally, signage is not permitted on the public rights of way for the use of promoted routes by external partners. It is normal practice that should such a promoted route be waymarked, that any literature should reference the following of a public right of way already waymarked. However, in exceptional circumstances, waymarking by external partners could be permitted with the approval of the Portfolio Holder, other than on a National or Recreational Trail. Matters to be considered before permission for limited waymarking to be given include the availability of external funding, the standard of works and the long-term sustainability of the route so as not to increase the financial burden on the Service.

Signage also covers the conveyance of information to users along routes. To assist both landholders and users, Countryside Services has produced a wide range of information signs such as ‘Please close the gate’. Other notices for use in a number of circumstances have also been provided and these have been consistently welcomed by landholders.

Although there seems to be a high use of Access land, there is clearly still a demand for waymarked routes. In addition to the 49% wanting waymarked routes, reasons for deterring use of Access land was the respondent either did not know where the routes were, the condition of the network surface is an issue or the routes do not go where they want them to go. It is therefore quite clear that the public still see Access land as a block of land with definitive routes on the ground, for which using those routes is the preferred choice.

Signage may also be required for the recreational green space open to the public to ensure compliance with health and safety, but also to adequately inform the public of information.

Statement of Action

Provide and improve appropriate waymarking and signage on public rights of way, Access land and public green space.

Where approved by Portfolio Holder work with external organisations to deliver improved signage and waymarking.

4.7 Health and Safety

As with nearly all areas of work, health and safety plays an integral role in how Countryside Services operates. This not only applies to the welfare of Council staff, volunteers and contractors, but the Council also has a duty of care to anybody utilising PRow and any green space managed by Countryside Services. This is in addition to the landholder's legal responsibilities regarding PRow. As a consequence, reports of serious health and safety risks are treated as a high priority and dealt with urgently. It is for Countryside Officers to assess the level of risk and decide when something is deemed to be a health and safety concern.

Work is continuous in managing and improving the capability of the Services' volunteer workforce, so that Volunteer Team Leaders can manage volunteers undertaking practical tasks. The application of health and safety law is integral in how this managed so as much volunteer time as possible is unsupervised which ensuring safe and flexible working arrangements.

4.8 Biodiversity

Powys County Council is required to maintain and enhance biodiversity when carrying out all its functions, as set out under s.6 Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The section states that *'A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems...'*

There is considerable interaction between public access and the wildlife-rich habitats across Powys. Many areas have statutory designations, such as the Pumlumon and Berwyn Mountains all designated as Special Sites of Scientific Interest, or the Elan Valley attracting European Special Protection Area and Special Area for Conservation status as well.

Many of Powys' rivers are also designated as SSSIs. The River Wye is also designated as a Special Area for Conservation, to reflect the wildlife being of European importance. The Montgomery Canal, some of which forms part of the Offa's Dyke Path and Severn Way, is similarly designated for its aquatic wildlife. Careful consideration has to also be made of the number of notifiable species that are not necessarily found on designated land, and how the management of public access and recreational activities inland can affect the river and its wildlife.

The importance of these designations and notifiable species clearly has implications for countryside access work; in seeking appropriate permissions, in considering design, promotion, etc. There can also be a legal tension between highway and wildlife law, and this is largely dealt with by regulating public access, or seeking appropriate permissions to maintain and enhance biodiversity whilst at the same time undertaking works to maintain or improve public access.

Wildlife and wildlife law also has implications for the timing of access work, such as being careful to avoid cutting vegetation in woodlands, or along hedgerows, when nesting birds may be present.

Biodiversity and the ecosystem we live in is intrinsic to our enjoyment of the countryside, and public rights of way and Access land is in the majority the means by which the majority of us can directly experience the wildlife that Powys has to offer. Our biodiversity-rich landscape is recognised as being a key asset to tourism, which plays a major role in Powys' economy.

The key to sustaining our enjoyment will be to maintain the careful balance between conservation and recreation. Supporting tourism measures that conserve and enhance the landscape and its' biodiversity, are key priorities.

4.9 Access to Water

Inland water in Powys includes features such as reservoirs, lakes, rivers and canals. There are a number of locations in Powys where there is a significant amount of water features such as the Elan Valley, Lake Vyrnwy, Clywedog reservoir as well as the Wye and Severn rivers.

The Council has a role to play in providing access to the water to provide and improve public access provision across Powys.

4.10 Agri- Environment Schemes, Brexit and Horizon Scanning

Glastir is the current agri-environment scheme in place for landholders in Wales. Any landholder entering into Glastir will not be treated preferentially, but the same as any landholder with a public right of way on their holding.

With the withdrawal from the European Union; there is almost certainly going to be changes to how agriculture is to be publicly funded in the future. It is considered likely that for any 'public benefit' landholders provide, they will get an element of public funding to replace the current regime of subsidy payments. Although agri-environment schemes have a public benefit in improving biodiversity and the natural habitat, there is also the potential to provide improvements to public rights of way.

There is always the possibility of changes to primary legislation in Wales, which would lead either to divergence or convergence with legislation in England. The ROWIP cannot predict future legislative changes within the lifetime of the Plan, but rather that it should be flexible enough to account for any future changes.

Statement of Action

Any changes to the subsidy payments for landholders should be a consideration in how the Council priorities its resources in the future.

Section 5 - Theme C: Definitive Map and Statement

5.1 Introduction

The Definitive Map and Statement (DMS) is the legal document that records the location and status of public rights of way. The Definitive Map and Statement underpins the work of the whole countryside access team, by providing the definitive record of the location and status of public rights of way. It is also a vital tool in answering questions relating to local land charges, planning applications, agri-environment scheme applications and so on.

5.2 Local Context

The former County Councils of Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire and Breconshire were dissolved in 1974 and since that time Powys County Council has been responsible for the maintenance and review of three complete Definitive Maps and Statement.

Since 1974 several administrative boundary changes have occurred, resulting in Powys becoming responsible for a substantial portion of a fourth Definitive Map and Statement from the former Clwyd County Council, and smaller areas from West Glamorgan and Carmarthenshire. The current Definitive Map and Statement of Powys now comprises approximately 300 A1 map sheets.

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has delegated powers to make its own Public Path Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders within Powys. However, Powys County Council retains overall responsibility for the whole Brecknockshire Definitive Map and Statement (i.e. for consolidation and publication).

5.3 The Definitive Map and Commons Registration Team

Since the ROWIP for Powys was first published in 2007, the Definitive Map team and Commons Registration team have been merged. Both statutory registers are now managed by two staff members.

The work of this team includes responsibility for:

- Management and processing of Public Path Orders and evidential Modification Orders;
- Overseeing property searches;
- Managing the digital dataset of public rights of way for the county, which will be used to republish the Definitive Map and which underpins the team's countryside access management database;
- Management of the Commons Register, including providing advice to members of the public about their access rights and responsibilities on common land and its management.

5.4 Legal Searches on the Definitive Map

The DMS is in daily use for land charges, planning applications and private searches. These demand an accurate response and an up-to-date DMS. In 2006, over 1600 land charges searches were received. Since July 2016, all Local Land Charges (CON29) searches have included a question about public rights of way and the information required is much more detailed. As a result, the number of public rights of way searches received by Countryside Services has increased to around 1800 per year.

Responding to this increased volume of searches has been greatly facilitated by use of the digital datasets that have been produced for the county, showing public rights of way and legal deposits under section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980.

5.5 Legal Events altering the Definitive Map and Statement

'Legal events' are orders that change or correct details of public rights of way recorded on the DMS, and include: Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) and Public Path Orders (PPOs) made by the County Council, Magistrates Court Orders, Side Roads Orders made by Central Government, and Enabling Acts of Parliament required for major civil-engineering projects such as reservoir construction.

The process to alter the Definitive Map by DMMO or PPO is a very public one, with all interested parties including affected landowners being consulted. A period of public advertisement follows the order making, to allow any objections to be lodged. If there are any, a local public inquiry before an inspector is normally held to hear these and determine the outcome.

5.6 Outstanding Work and assessment of the condition of the Definitive Map

5.6.i) Consolidation

‘Consolidation’ of a DMS is the formal process of updating and re-publishing the set of map sheets on a more modern map base, and incorporating details of legal changes that have been made. This requires a significant amount of staff time and other resources.

Using ROWIP funding, a digital dataset has been produced for the whole of Powys; this shows the alignment and status of every public right of way in the county. Some checking and verification of its accuracy is still required, but it will be used as the basis for consolidating and republishing the Definitive Map for the whole county.

However, before republication can happen, the Definitive Statement needs to be updated to show the changes made as a result of legal events. Currently, there are over 400 legal events that are yet to be incorporated into the Definitive Statement.

5.6.ii) Legal Orders

The work of the Definitive Map and Commons Registration team has become increasingly dominated by backlogs of both PPOs and DMMOs.

In recent years, when resources have been available, specialist external contractors have been commissioned to undertake time-consuming tasks such as interviewing witnesses and researching documentary evidence at archives. However, the staff time available to address these applications has been reduced since the 2007 ROWIP was published. Because of that, there are total of 10 pending applications that are in various stages of processing, as at the start of 2018. This represents an estimated minimum of 5-6 years’ work to process existing DMMO applications, within current staffing and budgets.

PPO applications suffer from a similar problem, with around 180 cases currently in the backlog. This represents an estimated minimum of 10 years work at current resource levels. The numbers of new applications have reduced over the last few years; there are now on average, around 6-10 new applications per year, as compared to around 15-20 new applications per year in 2009. This has been achieved by advising potential applicants aware of the backlog and priority system when an initial enquiry is made, and by exploring alternative solutions with them.

Since 2007, systems have been put in place to allow applicants to undertake more of the preliminary work themselves. This does significantly reduce officer time dealing with cases, and allows applications to be processed more quickly. To support this approach, an information pack has been produced to facilitate applicants undertaking pre-order consultations themselves. To date, this approach has been offered to those who are required to seek a diversion of a path because it is affected by proposed development. It is now intended to extend that opportunity to more applicants, in a phased way, so that the oldest applications are addressed first.

However, because of the number of applications already on file, significant backlogs in PPO and DMMO work are likely to remain, unless more resources are consistently made available to address the problem.

5.6.iii) Errors and Anomalies (Definitive Map Review)

Public rights of way shown on the Powys DMS contain a range of anomalies that limit their usefulness. Examples range from “dead-ends” at farmyards, buildings, unadopted roads or old parish or county boundaries, to changes in status and “missing links” between the Definitive Map record and the List of Streets. Some may simply be caused by mapping errors at earlier production stages, or they can result from something inherently wrong with the information upon which the first maps were based.

Although the ‘closing’ of the Definitive Map in 2026 has not been brought into effect in Wales, there has been sustained public interest in “Lost Ways.” This is a phrase used to describe paths which have never been identified for recording on the DMS. The extent of this phenomenon cannot be easily quantified due to its very nature.

Powys County Council has taken the view that priority should be given to resolving problems on paths that are already recorded on the DMS, before seeking to re-search and record new routes. This is supported by the results of the recent ROW-IP survey; the responses suggest that diversions to resolve anomalies on existing paths are a higher priority for the public than recording new ones.

It has been provisionally concluded that about 2,000 anomalies exist throughout Powys. If every anomaly were to become a potential DMMO case, the resource implications would be enormous.

ROWIP funding between 2007 and 2017 has been invaluable in seeking to address anomalies through public path Orders. This has been approached through use of external contractors to pro-actively address anomalies on a community by community basis. In the communities nominated so far, uptake by landowners has been good.

Continued resource to deal with anomalies via public path Orders is needed. Otherwise, the backlog of DMMO cases may rise and this will be much more resource-intensive to address, with no certainty that a solution will be reached that is acceptable to both landowners and path users.

Picture

5.7 Current Policies and Working Practices

5.7.i) Prioritisation for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)

The demand for DMMOs greatly outstrips the current capacity to supply. As a consequence, prioritisation of casework has to apply and Committee has approved a “statement of priorities”. Factors such as the potential benefit of a DMMO application to the local PRow network can be considered, as well as whether efficiency gains can be made through combining the research effort of more than one claim in a given area. Whilst chronological order remains the initial basis for prioritisation, other factors determine whether one is promoted in the queue.

The responses to the public survey carried out in 2016-17 indicates that a review of priorities may be appropriate. Respondents ranked the following as taking the highest priority:

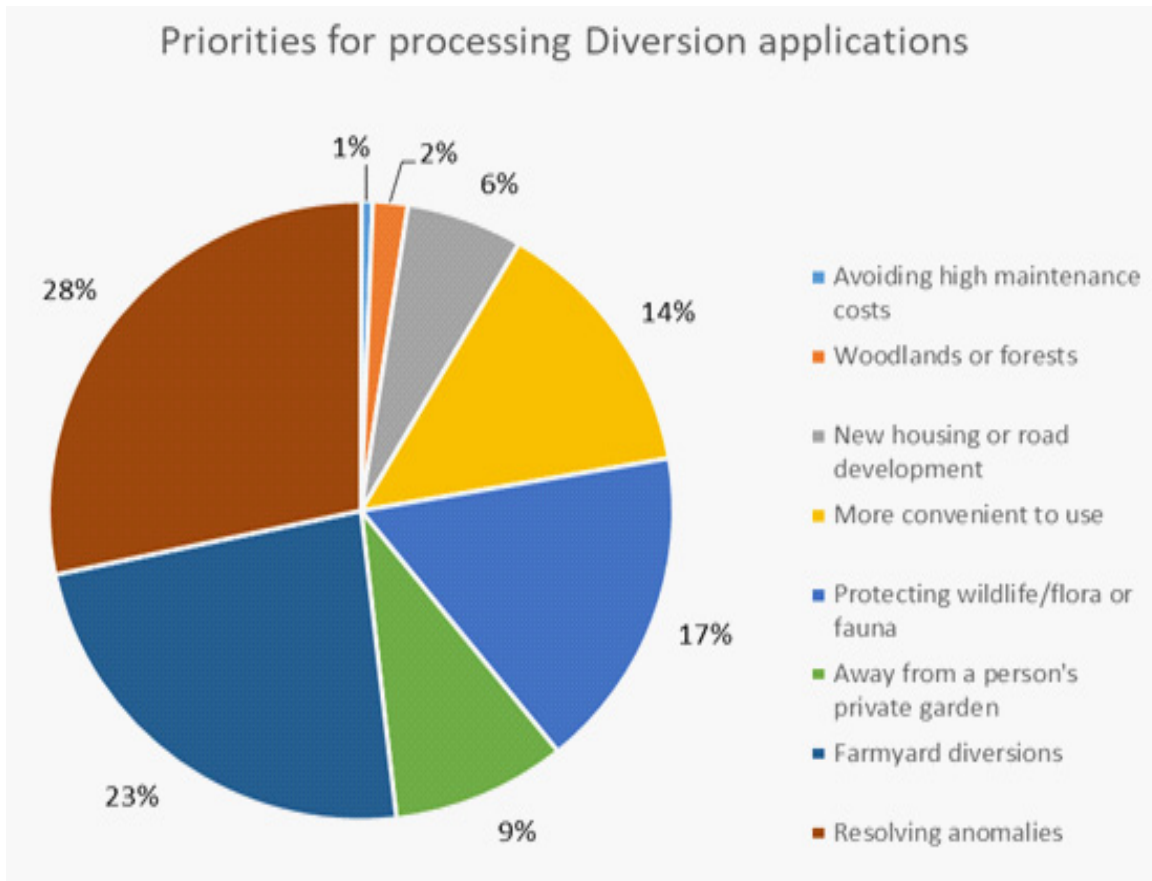
Priority	Ranking	% of sample
Applications where someone's privacy or business are affected	1	31%
By date of receipt	2	31%
Applications where adding or upgrading a public right of way should add significantly to the network e.g. a missing link	3	9%
Applications where the possible error has meant that the public cannot use the path at all e.g. the path on the map passes through a very old building	4	8%
Applications affecting sites where development is proposed	5	3%
Applications that have strong supporting evidence	6	3%

Table 8 Prioritisation for DMMOs

5.7.ii) Prioritisation for Public Path Orders (PPOs)

Officers have delegated authority to prioritise PPO applications, in accordance with the merits of the case. To help potential applicants to understand the rationale that is being used to allocate priorities, a working practice was approved by the former Rights of Way Committee in 2010 and is still in use now. The priorities are as follows, highest priority first:

1. Proposals where a path is affected by permitted development; applicants must carry out their own preliminary work.
2. Proposals removing significant maintenance liabilities or those resolving immediate health and safety risks; these include, for example, paths affected by river erosion.
3. Proposals resolving longer-term, potential health and safety risks and those resulting in overall improvement to the rights of way network; this includes resolving anomalies and moving paths out of working farmyards.
4. Proposals that are felt to be primarily in the interests of the applicant (but not related to permitted development); this includes diversions away for residential property for privacy reasons.



The ROWIP survey responses suggested that these priorities are broadly in line with those of the public. Officers have been given authority to make and confirm Orders in uncontested cases.

5.7.iii) Charging Policy for Public Path Orders

Charging levels for PPOs vary widely across England & Wales. In 2010, Powys County Council reviewed its policy. The administration fee set for making an order, under both the Highways Act and the Town and Country Planning Act was set at £1500, plus the actual costs levied for the newspaper advertisements that must be placed. It was decided that the costs should be increased annually in line with inflation, where positive, without the need for further formal review. The administration fee in 2017-18 is £1542.

The cost of diverting restricted byways and BOATs in a Magistrates Court is more difficult to assess, but is likely to be in the region of £1,500.

There are categories of exemption from charging, such as in the resolution of anomalies, or other public benefits and issues of public safety such as farmyard diversions.

5.8 Record of Limitations

Public rights of way, being public highways, should be free from obstruction for the passage of the user. The exception to this is when a landholder needs to erect a structure to control farm animals. There are many lawful structures already recorded when the Definitive Map was first made (such as stiles and gates), and these are referred to as lawful limitations and obstructions.

However, landholders for various reasons often need to erect new fence-lines. When this happens, they need to apply to the Council for an authorisation of a new structure under s.147 Highways Act 1980. If an application is not submitted or authorised, then any new structure would be an obstruction to the public highway, which would be a criminal offence.

When authorising a new structure, Countryside Services will always take into account the “least restrictive principle”, and consequently a stile being the most restrictive structure will not be considered. Any authorisation issued will be recorded on a database, with details of the structure and its location.

The standard of the structure is of importance, and any such authorisation will cite the current British Standard or of a standard acceptable to the Council. Authorisations only refer to a current standard, in case there are revisions in the future.

5.9 Conclusions and Actions for the Future

The main problem faced by the Definitive Map Team is the lack of resources to maintain the accuracy of the DMS record and improve its quality and utility, while keeping pace with order applications.

The work involved in legal orders is increasingly complex, with the evolution of case law and an increased use of consultants and lawyers to challenge the decisions of the Council.

Overall, the PPO workload has increased since 2007, but the number of new applications per year has significantly reduced. The issue now is to try to reduce the existing backlog and continue to deal with new proposals where a PPO is the only reasonable solution available. Examples include paths illegally obstructed by buildings given planning consent many years ago by predecessor authorities, or not subject to the planning process at all. Although the Highways Act gives the County Council power to remove them, the moral authority to do so perhaps 20 years after the event is not so obvious.

The DMMO backlog is growing, because the staff time to deal with these applications has reduced since 2007. Digitisation of archive records so that they can be viewed on a public website has been of assistance in reducing the time needed to inspect documents. Tithe Maps, for example, can now be seen on the 'Places of Wales' website. It is only to be hoped that further records will be made available in this way. Other than that, it is difficult to see how anything other than changes to legislation could increase the efficiency with which these applications can be processed.

There are many advantages to having a digitally produced version of the DMS, although maintaining a large paper version cannot currently be avoided. The digital dataset is already proving invaluable in allowing other Council services access to public rights of way data to inform their work, as well as underpinning the work of the Countryside Services team.

The next step is to publish the dataset on the Council website. Although it will not replace the paper-based record for those needing information for legal reasons e.g. property searches, it will certainly be of assistance to members of the public wishing to use public rights of way or report problems, in a large rural county where visiting Council offices to inspect the paper record may involve a long journey.

Statement of Actions

- Achieve an accurate and up-to-date Definitive Map and Statement.
- Make the Definitive Map and Statement widely available on the website and other appropriate formats

Statement of Action

Review publications to ensure they are accurate and up to date and to distribute effectively.

Section 6

Theme D: Publicity and Promotion Review

6.1 Introduction

Countryside Services see the provision of information as important and provides a range of leaflets, guidebooks and online resources. All information is available in Welsh and English. Currently none are available in large print or braille. However, copies of the information in electronic form can be sent out, so that people can enlarge them to a size to suit their needs. Throughout the design process, thought is given to making the information as accessible as possible in line with corporate standards.

Current information includes:-

- The *Accessible Powys* series promoting routes, activities and accommodation,
- Leaflets aimed at providing information for landholders and developers,
- Information promoting various routes across the county.

6.2 Information for the Public and Professionals

As well as guides to encourage people to use the PRow and Trails in Powys, Countryside Services also produces a range of specific literature and what services are available to assist key stakeholders.

The Public Rights of Way in Powys: A Guide for Farmers, Managers and Landholders has been very popular and sets out the legal background to public rights of way and their rights and responsibilities. The guide was produced in conjunction with the Country Land and Business Association, Farmers Union of Wales and the National Farmers Union and has been distributed widely across Powys.

The Development and Public Rights of Way: A Practitioners Guide is aimed at raising awareness of PRow law within the Planning System. It is envisaged that the guide will help minimise conflict between public access and planning developments.

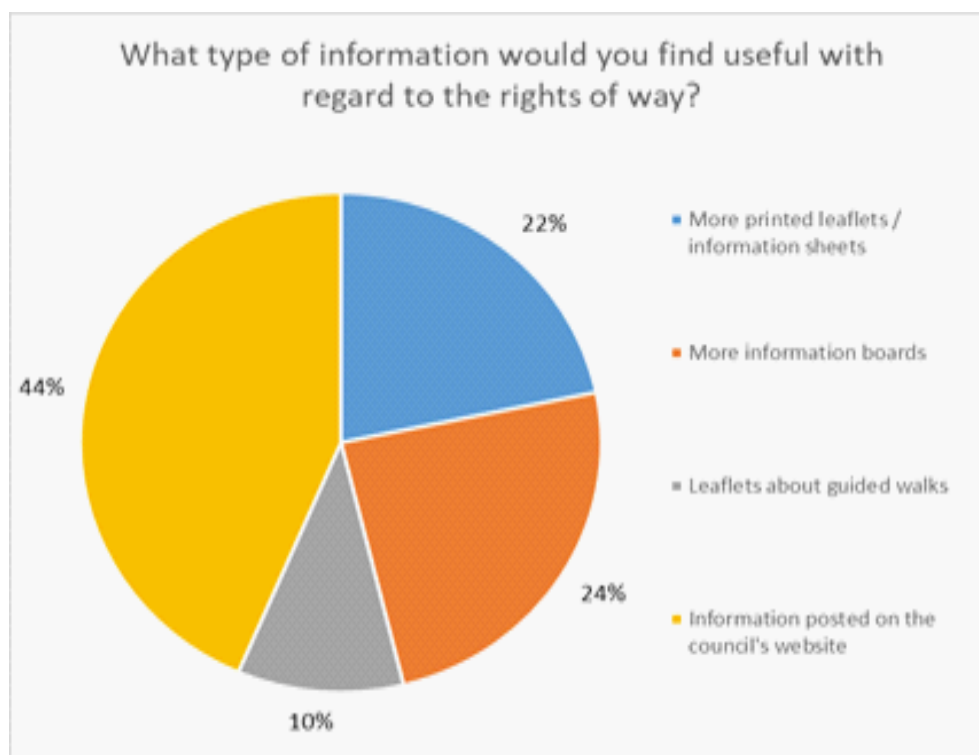
6.3 External Publications

As well as the guides and leaflets produced by Powys County Council, there are a huge number produced by outside organisations and groups. These publications vary in quality and nature. Routes publicised by external bodies will not receive maintenance and promotion, unless it is incidental with another priority of the County Council.

6.4 Website

Countryside Services has web pages within the Powys County Council's website. The web pages provide a range of information regarding PRow and the work of Countryside Services. The webpages are still under review and further development is planned. There are plans to have a digitised interpretation of the Definitive Map on the webpage, and interactive maps so users can find promoted route information. Detailed information is also included on PRow maintenance, enforcement, Access land and links to the other council pages, which provide information on local countryside amenity sites.

Information posted on the council's website which highlights the routes and the definitive map were deemed to be the most useful forms of information the team could provide for users of the network. 44% of the survey responses felt that information on the website would be useful as shown in the graph below. This was followed by information boards positioned at the start of or at a half way point of a route. There has been a change from the 2007 survey results and a clear move away from users wanting printed leaflets or literature about the rights of way network.



It is important to have a comprehensive and detailed web presence to provide information, which may also help to reduce the number of enquiries that the Service receives.

6.5 On site Information

Another form of information provided by Countryside Services is site based. Information can take many forms from a standard waymark disc, to notices stating 'Please shut the gate', and 'No through route', etc to interpretation boards detailing local history, geography and route plans.

The Countryside Act 1968 imposes a duty on highway authorities to signpost all PRow where they leave a metalled road and along the route where it may be confusing. Countryside Services has a working practice of waymarking routes once they have been opened up from metal road to metal road. Beyond signposting and waymarking; promoted long-distance recreational trails may have a higher standard of information provision, such as providing destination and distances to settlements on fingerposts.

Many Recreational Trails also have interpretation boards installed at appropriate points. A stone cairn with panorama boards has been constructed along the Kerry Ridgeway, whilst bronze bibles produced by the local community provide information along the Ann Griffiths Walk. Tastefully and carefully done, interpretation can enhance a route experience.

Statement of Action

Increase the range and quality of public information in a variety of formats.

Make digital information on public rights of way and open spaces available on the website.

All information produced by Countryside Services will aim to be available, appropriate, accurate and accessible.

Section 7 - Internal and External Partners

Countryside access is not the exclusive domain of Countryside Services, but rather there is an inter-relationship with a range of other internal and external partners. This section briefly looks at some of these, and how they are linked with public rights of way and countryside access.

7.1 Internal Partners within Powys County Council

Improving communication between the different sections of the Council, is one of the main methods to reduce any burden on finances by increasing efficiency.

Countryside Services has been working over a number of years to improve internal communication. Some examples of internal working partnerships are outlined below.

Statement of Action

Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

7.1 (i) Planning Services

The work of Powys County Council's Planning Services can affect public rights of way and countryside. The granting of planning permission for buildings can have a negative impact if paths and access are obstructed. In seeking to tackle this issue, in 2007 Countryside and Planning Services published Development and Public Rights of Way: A Practitioners Guide, which has been distributed to all developers and agents operating in Powys and Community Councils. It will also be made available to others seeking planning permission.

By making developers aware, in the early planning stages, of rights of way and the issues surrounding them, it will help minimise problems later on.

Statement of Action

Seek planning gain at every available opportunity.

7.1 (ii) Highways Transport and Recycling

Highways Transport and Recycling and Countryside Services work together to look after selected PRow. Generally, surfaced paths within urban areas are managed directly by the Service, alongside other surfaced roads and footways.

It is also important that there is close liaison regarding the relationship of the List of Streets and the Definitive Map and Statement as the List of Streets is managed by Highways Transport and Recycling. Both legal documents show public highways, but it is only the Definitive Map and Statement that show highways that carry conclusive public rights. The List of Streets only shows highways that are publicly maintainable such as unclassified roads, which are also shown as Other Routes with Public Access (ORPAs) on Ordnance Survey maps.

If a ProW as shown on the Definitive Map and Statement is publicly maintainable, then it should also be shown on the List of Streets so there is a strong relationship between the two public documents.

7.1(iii) Travel Officer for Powys County Council

Powys County Council employs a Travel Officer who works closely with officers across the Authority within Road Safety, Traffic Management, Highway Design and Tourism services and with external partners (such as local community groups, Sustrans and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency and the Regional Transport Consortia (TraCC)).

The County Council's aims and objectives in respect of cycling are set out in its Regional Transport Plan (RTP) for the Regional Transport Consortia.

Around 8% of car journeys in Wales are less than 1 mile, 26% are under 2 miles and 60% are under 5 miles.²⁰ When seen alongside employee and school travel surveys undertaken by Powys County Council, statistics such as these indicate significant potential to transfer shorter journeys from the car to walking or cycling. As such, one of the key objectives of this post is to implement the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

To encourage more walking and cycling, the County Council and its partners aim to:

- Provide coherent, linked pedestrian and cycle routes – on or “off-road”.
- Build walking and cycling routes into new development design - e.g. segregated cycle or shared use routes.
- Provide safer environments – street lighting, Toucan, Zebra or Pelican crossings and traffic calming.

7.1 (iv) Regeneration Services

Tourism is a key remit of Regeneration Services, promoting and publicising access to the countryside in Powys. In partnership with Countryside Services, marketing information on the national and recreational trails is published, along with an Accommodation Guide as well as the promoted circular walks across Powys. This information is distributed at a local, national and international level.

7.1 (v) The Arts

Discussions have begun over the potential of joint projects between Countryside Services and the Arts Development Officer; enhancing the experience of access to the countryside with providing sculpture along a recreational trail is one idea that has been discussed.

7.1 (vi) Healthy Weights Steering Group

Links have been developed with Public Health Wales and the Powys Teaching Health Board on formal and informal intervention regarding obesity levels, and a joined up approach to providing a healthy living. Countryside Services is a partner Service that can assist with delivering

²⁰ DfT, National Travel Survey, 2004.

assets that will enable opportunities for physical activity and improved mental well-being.

Statement of Action

Develop and promote how public access contributes to health and well-being through the Council, Powys Teaching Health Board and Public Health Wales.

7.2 External Partners

Access to the countryside is not just the domain of Powys County Council. There is a wide spectrum of access provided by other individuals and organisations. Building strong and healthy external partnerships has always been central to the work of the Service.

This will be increasingly important with external funding opportunities as when other organisations obtain funding, the Service can be a partner to deliver and provide advice on public access and the benefits that brings to a partner.

Statement of Action

Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

7.2 (i) Landholders

The vast majority of access through public rights of way and Access land is across privately owned land, and as such Countryside Services staff have to work in partnership with a huge number of individuals and groups who own or manage land. Building good partnerships with landholders is very important to manage and improve access to the countryside.

In association with the Powys LAFs, the publication of 'Public Rights of Way: A guide to farmers, managers and landholders' has been part of the process of building relationships, providing information and giving confidence.

7.2 (ii) Town and Community Councils

Communication and positive relations with Powys' local Town and Community Councils are essential to successful engagement with local communities and management at a local level.

Local Councils are a consultee for proposed Public Path Orders and Modification Orders as well as Traffic Regulation Orders. Dialogue and participation is also sought from Area Officers before a work programme in communities start.

Consultation also showed that 64% of the Community Councils who responded indicated that they were involved in path management or they sometimes were. There were only 14 responses from Community Councils, but nevertheless there is scope to progress a closer working relationships with community councils.

Local councils can offer significant support to the Service in building community support in developing and opening up paths in their areas. Feedback and individual support to and from local landholders can make real differences in delivering more effective and efficient work programmes.

Statement of Action

Liaise with Town and Community Council before implementing works as part of a Project Area Approach.

Work in partnership with Town and Community Councils or constituted Cluster groups to repair, maintain and improve public access.

7.2 (iii) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority represent a key partner for the County Council. Through agreement, they act for the Council in managing and maintaining PRoW, and in pursuing all Modification Order work related to their area of Powys. The National Park Authority also independently hold powers to carry out public path orders and can make traffic regulation orders for PRoW, but not other classifications of public highway.

The National Park Authority have undertaken its own research and published an independent ROWIP in liaison with the Council for the National Park area.

Statement of Action

Work with internal and external partners to improve countryside access in Powys.

Develop efficient working practices that are mutually beneficial to the Council and the National Park Authority.

7.2 (iv) Natural Resources Wales & Natural England

National Trails are substantially supported by NRW who also produce a number of key publications that provide best practice and observe at the Local Access Forum.

NRW is also the largest landholder in Powys, managing 19,000 hectares of Access land across the county, outside of the BBNP.

The Offa's Dyke Path National Trail Officer is also jointly supported by Natural England and NRW.

7.2 (v) User Groups

Interaction with user groups and their members happens in a variety of ways. The local membership can provide very effective 'eyes and ears' in monitoring and reporting issues affecting the path network. They significantly support the work of officers in delivering work programmes through work with the Powys Countryside Volunteers, and independently in undertaking surveys and guided walks.

User group representatives also act as consultees for proposed legal orders, offering advice and comment to officers from a local user perspective. At a national level, user groups can also affect change through lobbying, and are often able to promote issues on a political stage with greater effect than may be achieved by local authorities and their staff.

Working closely with local user groups takes place mainly through the Stakeholders Working Group, and there are regular meetings.

7.2 (vii) Canal and River Trust

The Montgomery Canal offers a substantial access corridor within the Severn Valley, and has considerable links with the wider PRow network. Much of it is designated as Offa's Dyke Path National Trail or Severn Way, and Countryside Services have worked in partnership to develop a series of circular trails linked to the canal. The Canal and River Trust are also central to maintaining and improving access along the towpath which mostly has permissive access.

7.2 (viii) Local Access Forums

The Powys Local Access Forum (PLAF) is a statutory body that offers independent advice on outdoor recreation issues, and their membership includes a range of user and landholder interests. With Countryside Services officers offering a secretariat service and acting as advisors to the LAFs, partnership working has led to the publication *Public Rights of Way: A guide for farmers, managers and landholders* and also *Public Rights of Way: A guide for woodland managers, owners and professionals*. A revision of the *Public rights of Way: A developers guide* is also on the work programme.

The LAFs have also contributed significantly to the review of the ROWIP, development of working practices and priorities for Access land, and offer advice to the County Council on budgets and staffing issues. Within the consultation for the ROWIP, the LAF has advised the Service on its "Higher Tier Approach" and this has been beneficial and proactive in prioritising resources.

Within Glastir, the LAF also provides advice to WG on permissive access within the Glastir scheme and will provide recommendations on every application that is submitted.

7.2 (ix) Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust

The Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) is an educational charity and one of four regional trusts that cover Wales. Set up in the 1970s their role has developed from the traditional 'rescue archaeology' type work to a more curatorial role in recent decades. The trust is based in two offices in Welshpool. The Trust keeps and updates the Regional Historic Environment Record on behalf of Powys County Council who partly helps to fund the organisation.

The promotion of the PRow network is also an opportunity to educate people on the archaeological sites of interest in the countryside they will be passing through. Interpretation boards along routes are another opportunity to educate and improve awareness on archaeological issues. If people are better educated on the historic landscape, then they are less likely to cause damage.

7.3 Neighbouring Local Authorities

Powys County Council's Countryside Services have worked in partnership with a number of neighbouring authorities over recent years.

Examples include the Walking with Offa project;; the management and monitoring of Pistyll Rhaeadr by Denbighshire Countryside Services; joint local authority partnership groups to review, evaluate and promote the Wye Valley Walk and Severn Way; arrangements with Gwynedd CC to manage cross-border Access land; an agreement with the BBNPA to manage PRow in the National park within Powys; joint arrangements with Gwynedd, Herefordshire and Shropshire to manage bridges along the County boundaries.

The list of partners of Countryside Services is extensive and only a few have been mentioned here. However, every partner is valued. Countryside Services, throughout the life of this Plan, will seek to extend and improve internal and external partnerships, and take all reasonable opportunities to improve access to the countryside of Powys.

Statement of Action

Participate in collaborative partnership working with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial aims.

Work in partnership with neighbouring local authorities. Consider and participate in cross-border initiatives, where benefits exceed investment.

Take the opportunity to learn from the best practice of other local authorities.

7.4 Walkers are Welcome

Many towns and villages have gained “Walkers are Welcome” status, for which the purpose is to develop and promote walking in the town or village. This scheme of course has health and well-being benefits, as well as that for tourism and visitors to the area. The Service will assist and advise on walking facilities where there has been consultation.

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Countryside Services staff are working to review and update the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Powys which has been in existence now for over 10 years.

We would like your help to do so.

The purpose of the consultation is to find out your views on the current state of the network i.e. surface, waymarks, signage, trails etc.

- how, where and what you use the network for i.e. dog walking horse riding, mountain biking etc.
- what your priorities are so we can sustain and where possible improve those aspects
- what barriers exist that prevent people from using the network

County Councillor John T Powell, Cabinet member for Countryside Services said:

"The public rights of way and open access land are a key asset to the Powys economy in terms of attracting tourists and spend in our county. They provide our residents and tourists alike with plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy our beautiful countryside and boost their health and mental well-being whilst doing so. We'd really like to continue to enhance the network but with reducing resources we would value your views on what you feel our priorities should be."

The closing date for comments is 31 January 2017.

Privacy Statement

Before we take you to the survey, please read the Privacy Statement below. By completing this survey you state that you have read and accept it.

Powys County Council accepts the following responsibilities for personal information recorded through this survey:-

1. The information will only be used for the agreed reason and will be looked after securely
2. The information will only be kept for as long as needed or to comply with statutory requirements and will then be securely destroyed
3. If the information has to be shared with other agencies initial consent will be gathered at this point and explicit (signed) consent will be obtained by the service / department concerned as soon as possible. Unless we are obliged by law to disclose the information.

Detailed guidance can be found on our Freedom of Information Web pages or from the Information Management Team Tel 01597 827512

A note on privacy

This survey is anonymous.

The record kept of your survey responses does not contain any identifying information about you unless a specific question in the survey has asked for this. If you have responded to a survey that used an identifying token to allow you to access the survey, you can rest assured that the identifying token is not kept with your responses. It is managed in a separate database, and will only be updated to indicate that you have (or haven't) completed this survey. There is no way of matching identification tokens with survey responses in this survey.

The current use of the rights of way network

Background:

The public rights of way network consists of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways that are open to all traffic.

There are a number of terms and definitions which can be confusing for users.

The following aims to help you understand these before you complete the survey.

- Public rights of way - these are highways that are made available for the public to use e.g. footpaths, bridlepaths and byways open to all traffic.
- Footpath - for use on foot only, may be accompanied by a dog or pushchair
- Bridleway - this is the same as a footpath but with additional rights to ride or lead a horse or ride or push a pedal cycle
- Restricted by-way - as above but with the addition of rights to drive a horse drawn carriage.
- Byway - this is the same as above but with additional rights to drive a motorised vehicle
- Open access - this allow the public right of access to registered common land and 'open land' and NRW Forestry land as shown on the OS map in yellow
- Definitive map - this is the legal record of the public rights of way showing their alignment and status. The definitive statement may record further details for each public right of way.
- Promoted or recreational trails of regional or national status e.g. Glyndwr's Way, Offa's Dyke Path, Severn Way, Wye Valley Walk and also local and circular routes
- Waymarking - Signs posted at either end and along public rights of way
- Furniture - Stiles and gates along public rights of way

Q1: Do you visit any of the following?

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Parks
- Playgrounds
- Lakes
- Common land and open countryside
- Nature reserves
- Farmland
- Woodlands and forests
- Riversides
- Other:

Q2: Which of the following best describes your use of the public rights of way in Powys?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- I regularly use the rights of way network (all year round - come rain or shine)
- I regularly use the rights of way network (seasonal user - fair weather only)
- I sometimes use the rights of way network
- I don't use the rights of way network but would like to (go to Q2a)

Q2a. Please could you tell us what currently prevents or stops you from using the network and what might help you to do so.

Please write your answer here:

Q3: Do you use any of the following recreational trails within Powys?

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Offa's Dyke National Trail
- Glyndwr's Way National Trail
- Severn Way
- Wye Valley Walk
- Kerry Ridgeway
- Anne Griffiths Walk
- Pererindod Melangell Walk
- Epynt Way
- Other:

Q4: The following activities are popular on our rights of way network. Please state which ones apply to you and how often you do them. Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Twice yearly	Yearly	I never do this
Walking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Running	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cycling incl Mountain biking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horse riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horse-drawn vehicle	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 x 4 driving	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Motorcycling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog walking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q4a Please give details re- the "something else" that you do.

Please write your answer here:

Q5: What makes you use the public rights of way? Please choose all that apply:

- It's how I like to spend some of my leisure/recreation time
- It's about getting some exercise / staying healthy
- It's about my personal well-being/it helps me to relax and unwind
- I use them to get to work or go to the shops locally
- I use them for another reason not listed above (Go to Q5a)

Q5a Please tell us your reasons? Please write your answer here:

Q6: How do you usually travel to the start of a public right of way?

Please choose all that apply:

- I walk
- I run
- I cycle
- I ride my horse
- I get there via a train
- I drive my car
- I get a taxi
- I get a bus
- I get a lift
- I use community transport
- I do something else(indicate what)

Q7: Which type of route do you prefer to use? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- A long distance promoted trail
- A town walk
- A promoted circular route
- The general public rights of way network
- All of the above
- I don't have a real preference

Q8: What problems, if any, have you encountered whilst using the public rights of way in Powys? Please choose **all** that apply:

- Signage and waymarking (poor or missing)
- Surface or vegetation (poor or overgrown areas)
- Intimidation (from other users or landowners)
- Stiles or gates (in a poor state or inappropriate for user)
- Obstructions or barriers (blocked by fallen trees/gated or boulders preventing access)
- Inaccurate information (on leaflets or given by a member of staff)
- Animals (dogs not on leads or bulls, sheep etc preventing access)
- Something else (please go to Q8a)

Q8a: Please give details.

Q9: What are your views on the suitability of the public rights of way network in Powys for each type of the following users? Please choose the appropriate response for each:

	excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
Walker	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horse rider	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person with a mobility difficulty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A family with a pushchair/young children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horse-drawn carriage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Motorcyclist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
A 4 x 4 driver	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog walkers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

By suitability we mean 'ease of use'

Q10: The Countryside Services section deals with a number of things to promote and improve the rights of way network. This includes:

- the repair and maintenance of paths and furniture
- taking appropriate enforcement action when a user of the network has found an obstruction to a path
- promoting long distance routes/trails

We'd like to know your level of satisfaction with any that you have experience or knowledge of. Draw a line through for any that don't apply to you.

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Fairly satisfied	Very satisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
The quality and standards of network surfaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The quality and standard of the furniture e.g. stiles and gates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Signage e.g. Waymarks and signposts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The quality of practical improvement work that you see whilst out using the network	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evidence of any enforcement action that has been taken to remove obstructions to a path etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promotional information (leaflets, noticeboards) that give details re the network and what we do to look after it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Fairly satisfied	Very satisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Information about long distance trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our staff response to you if you contact the service i.e. professionalism, politeness etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use and maintenance of the definitive map including diversions or dealing with modification orders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open Access advice and assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall rating of the whole service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q11: Where would you normally get information from about the public rights of way network in Powys? Please choose **all** that apply:

- Tourist information centres
- Ordnance survey maps
- A local library
- The internet
- A guidebook or leaflet
- Local knowledge
- A bookshop
- A club or association e.g. Ramblers, fishing club
- A friend or family member
- A local hotel/guesthouse/B&B
- The Rights of Way team in Powys County Council

Q12: What discourages you from using the public rights of way? Please choose **all** that apply:

- I don't know where the routes are
- The routes don't go where I want to go
- The paths I use can be obstructed sometimes
- The condition/surface of the path can be an issue
- I don't like crossing someone else's land or walking through a farmyard
- I feel intimidated
- I don't want to get caught in bad weather conditions
- I'm worried about getting lost

- There is a lack of organised walks
- I have concerns over my safety
- There are too many stiles to negotiate for me to enjoy using the network
- There is a lack of public transport to get me to a right of way
- Other rights of way users
- Something else (please go to Q12a)

Q12a: Please give details:

Q13: How often do you use open access land? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Regularly - (daily, weekly, monthly)
- Sometimes - (every couple of months - once or twice a year)
- Never

Open access land is land which the public have a right of access. It is registered common land and 'open land' and includes NRW Forestry land which is shown on OS maps in yellow.

Q14: What would, or does deter you from using access land? Please choose **all** that apply:

- I don't know where the routes are
- The routes don't tend to go where I want to go
- Bad weather
- There is a lack of organised walks
- I have concerns over my own safety
- I feel intimidated
- I am worried about getting lost
- The condition of the network surface is an issue
- There are too many stiles on the network
- There is a lack of public transport to get me to the start of a right of way
- Something else (Please go to Q14a)

Q14a: Please give details?

The network in the future

Q15: In simple terms there are six key aspects of the work that is conducted by the team to improve the rights of way network. Please place in order of importance and number each box in order of preference from 1 to 6

- The surface i.e. the quality and condition of the network's paths/trails
- The signage that is on display to guide people
- The furniture that allows people to navigate certain parts of the network e.g. gates, stiles
- The upkeep and clearance of vegetation
- Sustaining the long distance promoted trails e.g. Offa's Dyke, Wye Valley Walk
- Reducing obstructions on the network e.g. blocked access issues which can be caused by disputes re- landowners and users

Q16: In more detail what do you think our priorities should be for the future of the rights of way network. Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 13

- Waymarking and signage - maintaining and erecting more waymarkers to help people navigate the network on the public rights of way at entrances to access land
- Information & promotional work - doing more to publicise and promote the network to both landowners and the general public. e.g. information boards, website
- Practical improvement work - this would focus on making the network more easily accessible for people with mobility difficulties
- General maintenance - opening up and maintaining routes and trails including installing gates and stiles and clearing overgrown vegetation
- Resolving anomalies - working with landowners to resolve issues around things like access to cul de sacs paths etc.
- Unrecorded routes -discovering and recording unrecorded routes
- Definitive map work - updating and improving the definitive map where there is evidence to suggest this is needed
- Active travel work - provide paths which link to public transport, places of work, shops and other amenities

- Access management - work to improve user access to common land and open country
- Health routes - target work on routes which can be used and promoted for exercise and recreation
- School routes - increase links for access to the network by and for schools and their pupils
- Education - to increase their knowledge and awareness of the countryside
- Promoted routes - sustain the provision of promoted local and long distance trails

Q17: The council has some discretionary powers to carry out work in relation to access land. If funding becomes available in the future, what do you think our priorities for this work should be? Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 3

- Waymarking and signage - putting waymarkers up and maintaining them on public rights of way and at entrances to access land
- Management plans - reviewing management plans for commons under local authority powers/County Council ownership for nature conservation, grazing and public access
- Maintaining furniture - maintaining gates and other path furniture that allows access onto, or across access land

Open access land is land which is registered as common land or open land or is owned by the NRW Forestry and is shown on OS maps as yellow areas.

Q18: What type of information would you find useful with regard to the rights of way network?

Please choose **all** that apply:

- More printed leaflets / information sheets which I can pick up and carry with me on a route /trail
- More information boards which are positioned at the start of a route or at a half way point
- Leaflets about guided walks that I could take part in.
- Information posted on the council's website which shows all the routes and the definitive map etc.

Q19: The council currently processes applications for diverting a right of way around a person's property or new housing developments or for conservation purposes.

Looking at the list below please rank in order of importance. Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 9

- Farmyard diversions
- Diversions due to a new housing or road development
- Diverting rights of way from a person's private garden
- Diversions around woodlands or forests
- Diversions which protect wildlife/flora or fauna i.e. conservation
- Diverting rights of way to link with open access land
- Diversion to avoid high maintenance costs
- Packages that would resolve anomalies e.g. linking dead end paths to the network or roads
- Diversions to make paths more convenient to use e.g. by moving them off steep ground

Q20: The council also processes applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders, where someone believes that the DM is incomplete or incorrect and has evidence to support that. We must deal with all of these applications by law, but we do give some high priority to others. How do you think we should do that? Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 6

- By date or receipt
- Applications that have strong supporting evidence
- Applications affecting sites where development is proposed
- Applications where someone's privacy or business are affected
- Applications where adding or upgrading a public right of way should add significantly to the network e.g. a missing link
- Applications where the possible error has meant that the public cannot use the path at all e.g. the path on the map passes through a very old building

Q21: With limited resources in the Countryside Services budget, prioritising our workload is something we are having to do much more of. We cannot do everything we want to do but have considered some options. To help us we would like to know your views on what matters most.

We will now ask you a series of dilemma questions. Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Open up routes on the definitive map which up to now have received no maintenance work at all
- Maintain the routes that are already opened up and improve their standard

Q21a: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Create new long distance promoted routes
- Create new, local circular routes

Q21b: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Keep the priority community approach
- Provide a priority rating for each individual public right of way
- No answer

*The **current priority community** approach is developed by receiving a report that is given a rating. Each rating is added to each community area and the total rating for that community is then divided by the length of public rights of way. This gives a final priority rating and then work is undertaken in this community before moving onto the next.*

*There are approximately **12,000 individual public rights of way** and each one would need to be individually rated to determine its priority.*

Q21c Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Negotiate wherever possible to open obstructed public rights of way
- Serve formal enforcement notices and discuss works afterwards
- No answer

The landowner has a responsibility to keep public rights of way open and unobstructed. The council has enforcement powers but tends to negotiate the opening up of paths as much as possible before taking enforcement action. This does however take up a lot of time and resources.

By taking enforcement action first, rather than negotiating, this is likely to reduce officer time and resources but could well result in opening up less paths due to increased number of prosecutions where there is non-compliance by the land owner.

Q21d Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Recreational trails should be given priority over other rights of way as resources allow
- Equal priority should be given to recreational trails and other public rights of way
- No answer

About you

We would now like to ask some questions about you as a person. This should only take a few minutes to complete. By collecting this type of information and comparing it across many different types of people, we are able to see patterns that can tell us about where we can do things better, to meet people's needs.

The information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence and used only for making statistical comparisons. You don't have to answer any question that you don't want to; however, the more that you can tell us, the better our information will become, so please try to provide us with as much as you possibly can.

All questions are optional. Please leave blank any that you prefer not to answer.

What is your home postcode?

If you'd rather not give your full postcode, please let us know the first part (e.g. SY16).

What is your gender? Please choose **only one** of the following:

Male Female

What is your age? Please choose **only one** of the following:

Under 16 16-17 18-19
 20-24 25-34 35-44
 45-54 55-64 65-74
 75 or over No answer

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions, illnesses or impairments, lasting, or expected to last, 12 months or more? Please choose **only one** of the following:

Yes No Don't know

In answering question this question, please include any sensory deficit, non-temporary mobility problems such as dyspraxia and cerebral palsy, developmental conditions such as Autism and Asperger's Syndrome, conditions associated with learning impairment such as Down's syndrome or dyslexia, difficulties associated with injury as well as common conditions and illnesses if they have lasted or are expected to last 12 months or more. Any seasonal conditions such as hay fever which recur and have lasted or are expected to recur in the future should also be included.

If you answered 'Yes' to question the above does your condition, illness or impairment/ do any of your conditions, illnesses or impairments reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

Yes, a lot Yes, a little Not at all

In answering this question you should consider whether you are affected whilst receiving any treatment or medication for your condition or illness and/or using any devices such as a hearing aid, for example.

Do you have any health conditions, illnesses or impairments which affect you in the following areas? Please choose **all** that apply:

- Vision (for example blindness or partial sight)
- Hearing (for example deafness or partial hearing)
- Mobility (for example walking short distances or climbing stairs)
- Dexterity (for example, lifting and carrying objects or using a keyboard)
- Learning or understanding/concentrating (for example associated with Dyslexia or Down's syndrome)
- Memory
- Mental Health
- Stamina or breathing or fatigue
- Socially or behaviourally (for example, associated with autism, attention deficit disorder or Asperger's Syndrome)
- Other:

In answering this question you should consider whether you are affected whilst receiving any treatment or medication for your condition or illness and/or using any devices such as a hearing aid, for example.

Can you understand, speak, read or write Welsh? Please choose **ALL** that apply. Please choose **all** that apply:

- Understand spoken Welsh
- Speak Welsh
- Read Welsh
- Write Welsh
- None of the above

What is your main language? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- English
- Welsh
- Other:

How would you describe your national identity? Please choose **all** that apply:

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh | <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> British | <input type="checkbox"/> Irish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Polish | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | |

What is your ethnic group? Please choose JUST ONE of the options below that best describes your ethnic group or background.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed /Multiple ethnic groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian / Asian British |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black /African /Caribbean/British | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Ethnic group | <input type="checkbox"/> No answer |

IF AGED 16 OR OVER: What is your current marital or same-sex civil partnership status?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Single, that is, never married and never registered in a same-sex Civil Partnership
- Married
- In a registered same-sex Civil Partnership
- Other

What is your religion? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No religion | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian (all denominations) | <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu | <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish | <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sikh | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Which of these best describes what you are doing at present? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Working full-time (30 hours or more per week)
- Working part-time (less than 30 hours per week)
- Self-employed; full or part-time
- On a government supported training scheme
- Full time education (school, college or university)
- Unemployed and available for work
- Permanently sick or disabled
- Wholly retired from work
- Looking after the home
- Caring for a child or adult
- Otherwise not in paid work
- No answer

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Consultation Feedback report (which will set out the public response to our proposals), please enter your email address in the space below. A paper reference copy of this report will also be available in each of our libraries and will also be published online at www.powys.gov.uk/haveyoursay.

Please write your email address or home address here:

Thank you for completing this survey.

Please return the completed application form to:-

Mark Stafford-Tolley
Countryside Access Officer
Gwalia Offices
Ithon Road
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 6AA

or e-mail rights.of.way@powys.gov.uk



Rights of Way Improvement Plan Questionnaire 2016 - Town and Community Councils

Countryside Services staff are working to review and update the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Powys which has been in existence now for over 10 years. We would like your help to do so.

The purpose of the consultation is to find out:

- your views on the current state of the network i.e. surface, waymarks, signage, trails etc.
- what your priorities are so we can sustain and where possible improve those aspects

County Councillor John T Powell, Cabinet member for Countryside Services said:

"The public rights of way and open access land are a key asset to the Powys economy in terms of attracting tourists and spend in our county. They provide our residents and tourists alike with plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy our beautiful countryside and boost their health and mental well-being whilst doing so. We'd really like to continue to enhance the network but with reducing resources we would value your views on what you feel our priorities should be."

The closing date for comments is 31 January 2017.

Privacy Statement

Before we take you to the survey, please read the Privacy Statement below. By completing this survey you state that you have read and accept it.

Powys County Council accepts the following responsibilities for personal information recorded through this survey:-

1. The information will only be used for the agreed reason and will be looked after securely
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APPENDIX 1

you have (or haven't) completed this survey. There is no way of matching identification tokens with survey responses in this survey.

The current use of the rights of way network

Background:

The public rights of way network consists of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways that are open to all traffic.

There are a number of terms and definitions which can be confusing for users. The following aims to help you understand these before you complete the survey.

- Public rights of way - these are highways that are made available for the public to use e.g. footpaths, bridlepaths and byways open to all traffic.
- Footpath - for use on foot only, may be accompanied by a dog or pushchair
- Bridleway - this is the same as a footpath but with additional rights to ride or lead a horse or ride or push a pedal cycle
- Restricted by-way - as above but with the addition of rights to drive a horse drawn carriage.
- Byway - this is the same as above but with additional rights to drive a motorised vehicle
- Open access - this allow the public right of access to registered common land and 'open land' and NRW Forestry land as shown on the OS map in yellow
- Definitive map - this is the legal record of the public rights of way showing their alignment and status. The definitive statement may record further details for each public right of way.
- Promoted or recreational trails of regional or national status e.g. Glyndwr's Way, Offa's Dyke Path, Severn Way, Wye Valley Walk and also local and circular routes
- Waymarking - Signs posted at either end and along public rights of way
- Furniture - Stiles and gates along public rights of way

Q1: Please can you state firstly which town and community council you represent?
Please write your answer here:

Q2: To what extent is your community council involved in the development and maintenance of public rights of way and countryside access. And how involved would you like to be? Please consider the aspects below and answer accordingly.

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Always	Sometimes	Never
Maintenance of existing routes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Permissive access agreements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dedication of new access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

APPENDIX 1

	Always	Sometimes	Never
Research to define unrecorded routes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Production of leaflets/guides/maps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establish walking group or work parties	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involvement with other countryside sites e.g. nature reserves, National Trust	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q3: What are your views on the suitability of the public rights of way network in Powys for each type of the following users? Please choose the appropriate response for each:

	excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
Walker	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horse rider	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Person with a mobility difficulty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A family with a pushchair/young children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horse-drawn carriage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Motorcyclist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A 4 x 4 driver	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog walkers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

By suitability we mean 'ease of use'

Q4: This question allows you to answer two aspects around the rights of way network at the same time. Firstly, we'd like to know how adequate the provision is within your community, followed by how important you feel it is. Please answer both aspect for each of the 13 aspects listed here or leave the no answer option highlighted if you don't have a view or don't know. Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	good	average	poor	Very Important	A bit important	Not at all important
Routes from centres of population which allow access to the countryside	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Links which create local circular routes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

APPENDIX 1

	good	average	poor	Very Important	A bit important	Not at all important
Routes to enable people to avoid busy roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Routes used in conjunction with public transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to areas or features of particular interest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to common land and open access land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Routes that link with other forms of access e.g. nature reserves, forestry land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Routes accessible for less mobile residents (e.g. wheelchairs, pushchairs, less agile)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Routes accessible for blind or partially sighted people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attractive routes which support local tourism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Routes for local journeys such as walking to the shops, work, doctors and local amenities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Routes used to improve health and well-being	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoted long-distance routes in your community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The network in the future

Q5: If there are any other public rights of way related activities that your community council is already, or would like to be involved with in the future please give details. Please write your answer here:

Q6: With limited resources in the Countryside Services budget, prioritisation is an important factor. If the choice has to be made between the following areas of work, what would you consider to be of more importance or benefit. Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Create new long distance promoted routes
- Create new. local circular routes

Q7: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Keep the priority community approach
- Provide a priority rating for each individual public right of way

*The **current priority community** approach is developed by receiving a report that is given a rating. Each rating is added to each community area and the total rating for that community is then divided by the length of public rights of way. This gives a final priority rating and then work is undertaken in this community before moving onto the next.*

*There are approximately **12,000 individual public rights of way** and each one would need to be individually rated to determine its priority.*

Q8: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Negotiate wherever possible to open obstructed public rights of way
- Serve formal enforcement notices and discuss works afterwards

The landowner has a responsibility to keep public rights of way open and unobstructed. The council has enforcement powers but tends to negotiate the opening up of paths as much as possible before taking enforcement action. This does however take up a lot of time and resources.

By taking enforcement action first, rather than negotiating, this is likely to reduce officer time and resources but could well result in opening up less paths due to an increased number of prosecutions where there is non compliance by the land owner.

Q9: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Recreational trails should be given priority over other rights of way as resources allow
- Equal priority should be given to recreational trails and other public rights of way

Q10: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Open up routes on the definitive map, which up to the present have received no maintenance work
- Maintain routes already opened up and improve their standard

Q11: What do you think our priorities should be for the future of the rights of way network. Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 13

- Waymarking and signage - maintaining and erecting more waymarkers to help people navigate the network on the public rights of way at entrances to access land
- Information & promotional work - doing more to publicise and promote the network to both landowners and the general public. e.g. information boards, website
- Practical improvement work - this would focus on making the network more easily accessible for people with mobility difficulties
- General maintenance - opening up and maintaining routes and trails including installing gates and stiles and clearing overgrown vegetation
- Resolving anomalies - working with landowners to resolve issues around things like access to cul de sacs paths etc.
- Unrecorded routes -discovering and recording unrecorded routes
- Definitive map work - updating and improving the definitive map where there is evidence to suggest this is needed
- Active travel work - provide paths which link to public transport, places of work, shops and other amenities
- Access management - work to improve user access to common land and open country
- Health routes - target work on routes which can be used and promoted for exercise and recreation
- School routes - increase links for access to the network by and for schools and their pupils

Education - to increase their knowledge and awareness of the countryside

Promoted routes - sustain the provision of promoted local and long distance trails

Q12: If you had to select just three aspects of work as being the most important what would they be? Please write your answer here:

Q13: Finally, if there is anything that your community council would like the Rights of Way Improvement Plan to address please use this space to tell us what this is. Thank you. Please write your answer here:

Q14: If you would like a response or would like to be consulted further on the draft Powys Rights of Way Improvement Plan please provide your name and preferred contact details in the space below. This can be a phone number, an email or postal address.

Thank you for taking the time to respond. Please write your answer here:

Thank you for completing this survey.

Please return the completed application form to:-

Mark Stafford-Tolley
Countryside Access Officer

Gwalia Offices
Ithon Road
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 6AA

or e-mail rights.of.way@powys.gov.uk

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Rights of Way Improvement Plan Questionnaire 2016 - Landowners

Countryside Services staff are working to review and update the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Powys which has been in existence now for over 10 years. We would like your help to do so.

The purpose of this survey is to find out your views as landowners.

County Councillor John T Powell, Cabinet member for Countryside Services said:

"The public rights of way and open access land are a key asset to the Powys economy in terms of attracting tourists and spend in our county. They provide our residents and tourists alike with plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy our beautiful countryside and boost their health and mental well-being whilst doing so. We'd really like to continue to enhance the network but with reducing resources we would value your views on what you feel our priorities should be."

The closing date for comments is 31 January 2017.

Privacy Statement

Before we take you to the survey, please read the Privacy Statement below. By completing this survey you state that you have read and accept it.

Powys County Council accepts the following responsibilities for personal information recorded through this survey:-

1. The information will only be used for the agreed reason and will be looked after securely
2. The information will only be kept for as long as needed or to comply with statutory requirements and will then be securely destroyed
3. If the information has to be shared with other agencies initial consent will be gathered at this point and explicit (signed) consent will be obtained by the service / department concerned as soon as possible. Unless we are obliged by law to disclose the information.

Detailed guidance can be found on our Freedom of Information Web pages or from the Information Management Team Tel 01597 827512

A note on privacy

This survey is anonymous.

The record kept of your survey responses does not contain any identifying information about you unless a specific question in the survey has asked for this. If you have responded to a survey that used an identifying token to allow you to access the survey, you can rest assured that the identifying token is not kept with your responses. It is managed in a separate database, and will only be updated to indicate that you have (or haven't) completed this survey. There is no way of matching identification tokens with survey responses in this survey.

The current use of the rights of way network

The public rights of way network consists of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways that are open to all traffic.

There are a number of terms and definitions which can be confusing for users.

The following aims to help you understand these before you complete the survey.

- **Public rights of way** - these are highways that are made available for the public to use e.g. footpaths, bridlepaths and byways open to all traffic.
- **Footpath** - for use on foot only, may be accompanied by a dog or pushchair
- **Bridleway** - this is the same as a footpath but with additional rights to ride or lead a horse or ride or push a pedal cycle
- **Restricted by-way** - as above but with the addition of rights to drive a horse drawn carriage.
- **Byway** - this is the same as above but with additional rights to drive a motorised vehicle
- **Open access** - this allow the public right of access to registered common land and 'open land' and NRW Forestry land as shown on the OS map in yellow
- **Definitive map** - this is the legal record of the public rights of way showing their alignment and status. The definitive statement may record further details for each public right of way.
- **Promoted or recreational trails of regional or national status** e.g. Glyndwr's Way, Offa's Dyke Path, Severn Way, Wye Valley Walk and also local and circular routes
- **Waymarking** - Signs posted at either end and along public rights of way
- **Furniture** - Stiles and gates along public rights of way

Q1: Do you have public rights of way crossing your land? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No (please go to Q5)
- I'm not sure/dont' know

Q1a: What positive contributions do the public rights of way on your land make? Please choose any that apply.

- Benefits tourism e.g. campsite, farm shop, B&B
- Education – improve awareness and knowledge of countryside
- People report problems they might see with regard to your animals
- Social interaction – people using the network chat to you
- Other

Q1b: Looking at the following list, please tick any where you have had a problem in the last two years. Please choose any that apply.

- People getting lost

- Dogs being off the lead and bothering your stock
- People not closing gates behind them
- Crime and security issues
- Trespassing
- Littering
- Damage to path surfaces from overuse/misuse
- Illegal use – eg footpath used by motorbikes
- Other

Q2: Do you have any of the following promoted routes crossing your land?

	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Answer
Long circular route	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Long distance route	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q3: Are you aware of the legal duties regarding the public rights of way? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No
- Not sure / don't know

Q4: Do you know about the service that Powys County Council can provide to assist you with your legal obligations? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No
- Not sure / don't know

Q5: Have you received a copy of the Powys Landholder Guide to public rights of way? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes (Please go to Q6)
- No

Q5a: If you would like a copy please provide your details below so we can send one out to you?

Q6: Have you had any dealings with Countryside Services regarding rights of way in the past two years? Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No
- Can't remember

Q7: Looking at the following list, please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the level of service provided by the service. Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Provision of furniture e.g. stiles, gates, signposts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of furniture e.g. stiles, gates, signposts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Waymarking - provision of signs and waymarkers along the route/s	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work on surfaces - clearance of vegetation along paths or work to surface	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Definitive Map - maintaining the map, doing diversions or modification orders and providing information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enforcement - taking appropriate steps to remove obstructions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improvements - carrying out practical improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Very Satisfied Satisfied Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied

to make paths more accessible

Promotion - providing information about the path network and what we do to look after it

Staff - helpfulness and professionalism of rights of way staff

Open access - advice and assistance available

Overall satisfaction with the Rights of Way service

The network in the future

Q8: With limited resources in the Countryside Services budget, prioritisation is an important factor. If the choice has to be made between the following areas of work, what would you consider to be of more importance or benefit. Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority.

Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Create new long distance promoted routes
- Create new local circular routes

Q9: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Keep the priority community approach
- Provide a priority rating for each individual public right of way

*The **current priority community** approach is developed by receiving a report that is given a rating. Each rating is added to each community area and the total rating for that community is then divided by the length of public rights of way. This gives a final priority rating and then work is undertaken in this community before moving on to the next.*

There are approximately **12,000 individual public rights of way** and each one would need to be individually rated to determine its priority.

Q10: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Negotiate wherever possible to open obstructed public rights of way
- Serve formal enforcement notices and discuss works afterwards

As a landowner, you have a responsibility to keep public rights of way open and unobstructed.

The council has enforcement powers but tends to negotiate the opening up of paths as much as possible before taking enforcement action. This does however take up a lot of time and resources. By taking enforcement action first, rather than negotiating, this is likely to reduce officer time and resources but could well result in opening up less paths due to an increased number of prosecutions where there is non-compliance by a land owner.

As a land owner we'd like to know your views on what we should do.

Q11: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Recreational trails should be given priority over other rights of way as resources allow
- Equal priority should be given to recreational trails and other public rights of way

Q12: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Open up routes on the definitive map, which up to the present have received no maintenance work
- Maintain routes already opened up and improve their standard

Q13: What do you think our priorities should be for the future of the rights of way network. Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 13

- Waymarking and signage - maintaining and erecting more waymarkers to help people navigate the network on the public rights of way at entrances to access land
- Information & promotional work - doing more to publicise and promote the network to both landowners and the general public. e.g. information boards, website
- Practical improvement work - this would focus on making the network more easily accessible for people with mobility difficulties
- General maintenance - opening up and maintaining routes and trails including

APPENDIX 1

- installing gates and stiles and clearing overgrown vegetation
- Resolving anomalies - working with landowners to resolve issues around things like access to cul de sacs paths etc.
- Unrecorded routes -discovering and recording unrecorded routes
- Definitive map work - updating and improving the definitive map where there is evidence to suggest this is needed
- Active travel work - provide paths which link to pulbic transport, places of work, shops and other amenities
- Access management - work to improve user access to common land and open country
- Health routes - target work on routes which can be used and promoted exercise and recreation
- School routes - increase links for access to the network by and for schools and their pupils
- Education - to increase their knowledge and awareness of the countryside
- Promoted routes - sustain the provision of promoted local and long distance trails

Q14: If you had to select just three aspects of work as being the most important what would they be and why? Please write your answer here:

Q15: The County Council currently processes applications for diverting public rights of way. What type of diversions do you believe should receive the highest priority? Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 7

- Farmyard diversions
- Diversions due to new housing/road developments
- Diverting rights of way out of private gardens
- Woodland/forestry diversions
- Diverting rights of way to link with open access land
- Conservation protection



- Diversion to avoid high maintenance costs

Q16: If you have any further comments or suggestions you'd like the team to consider as part of this consultation please use this space to share them. Thank you. Please write your answer here:

Q17: If you would like a response or would like to be consulted further on the draft Powys Rights of Way Improvement Plan please provide your name and preferred contact details in the space below. This can be a phone number, an email or postal address.

Thank you for taking the time to respond.

Please write your contact details here:

Q18: Finally, in analysing the results from this landowner survey, it would be helpful for us to be able to map out and consider the responses from landowners based on the whole county.

If you are happy to do so please provide your postcode below.

The first three or four characters is sufficient if you don't wish to give your full postcode. e.g. SY16

Please write your postcode here:

Thank you for completing this survey.

Please return the completed application form to:-

Mark Stafford-Tolley
Countryside Access Officer
Gwalia Offices
Ithon Road
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 6AA

or e-mail rights.of.way@powys.gov.uk

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Powys County Council

Countryside Services

Prioritisation of Works on Public Rights of Way

When a report is received by Countryside Services, it will be assessed and logged. Priority 1 work will receive the most urgent attention, the higher the number, the lower the priority.

Higher Tiered Approach

Priority 1	Issues where risk has been assessed as significant in terms of potential harm to people, animals or property.
Priority 2	Reports of development being undertaken that are negatively affecting PRoW or where there are re-occurring offences.
Priority 3	Work on external grant funded projects (including capital works on byways/bridges, WG or NRW funded projects etc.)
Priority 4	Issues reported on Powys recreational trails.
Priority 5	Priority Project Approach (see details below).
Priority 6	Glastir and Landowner Requests (supply materials only).
Priority 7	Maintenance of previously maintained routes → pass to volunteers (if works cannot be resolved by volunteers, issue to sit within prioritisation system as outlined here).
Priority 8	All other works.

Note - Where notice is served on the Highway Authority, legal obligations will be met. However, any works required will fit into the priority list above.

The maintenance of Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) are to be prioritised in the same way as other public rights of way, but the sustainability of the use of BOATs across Powys will be determined by the Council's "Motorised Access Strategy".

Priority Project Approach

Priority projects will aim to provide improved access, appropriate to the needs of the community. This may be a short section of path that needs surfacing to provide *access for all* along a key route, targeted attention on a network of public rights of way, or a trail several miles long allowing access to a local viewpoint or a nearby settlement. The key is engaging with the local community and volunteers to find out what is most important to that area.

Area Officers are to have a 3 year rolling plan in place by 1st April each year. This will enable communities' time to plan their project, seek funding where appropriate and get volunteers in place. The intention will be to complete one project each financial year. Therefore, the scale of projects will need to be appropriate to the availability of resources.

Officers will:

- Consult and take advice from the LAF to help determine Priority Project Areas as per criteria outlined below.
- Consult respective Town and Community Councils and other interested community groups.
- Ask communities for put forward their own prioritised plans, taking into account guidance provided by Countryside Services.

The criteria to be taken into consideration when choosing/planning Priority Projects are as follows:

- a) The number of reports within a geographic community council area.
- b) The availability of a volunteer workforce in the area.
- c) Whether there is external funding available.
- d) The Community have requested works on their public rights of way (this can be from Town or Community Councils or other established community groups).
- e) Whether this area has been a *Priority Community* in the past.
- f) The existence of *honeypot* sites that attract a lot of visitors.
- g) The project meets health and well-being objectives.
- h) There are links to recreational trails.
- i) The project would improve access for all, with the potential for disability friendly access being made available.

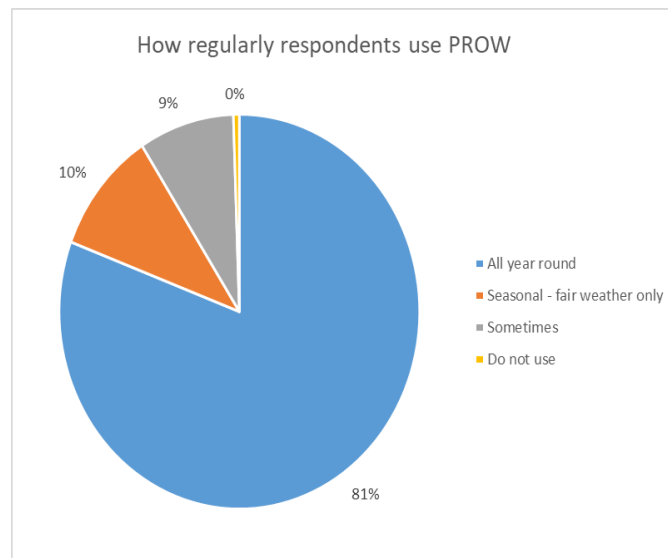
- j) The project meets current Regeneration objectives/the area is in the Walkers are Welcome scheme.
- k) The potential for multi-user networks.

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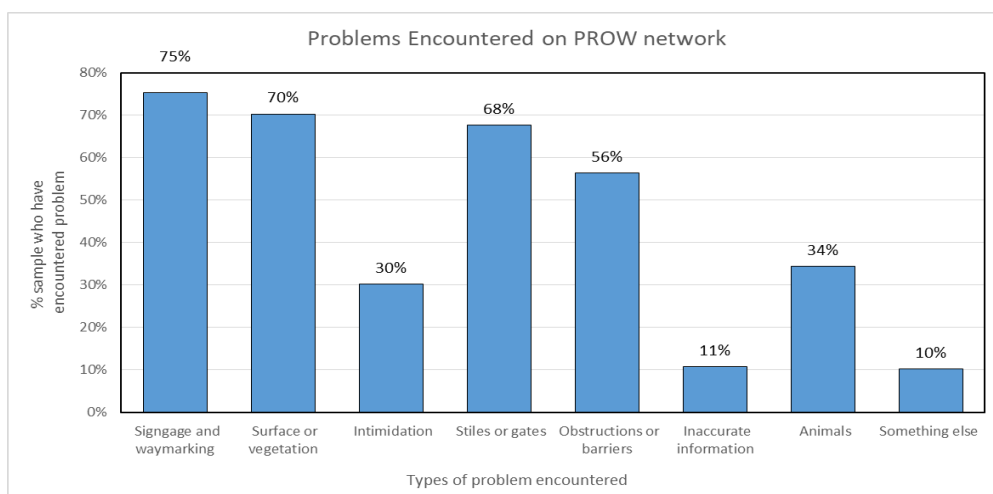
2.3 Findings

2.3i) General Survey

The General Survey has provided Countryside Services with a wealth of information regarding the current usage of, and demand for the PRow network and Access land. The survey sought clarification on a wide range of issues affecting legal and practical management of rights of way.

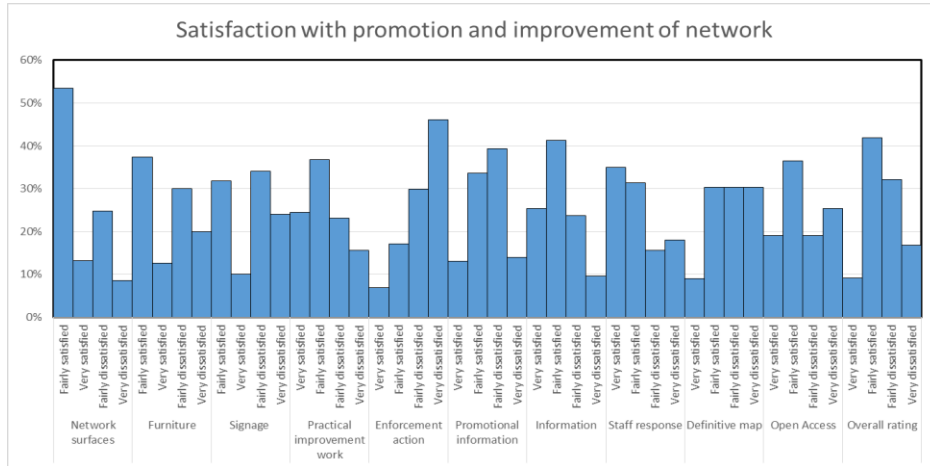


- Graph 1 highlights that a very large percentage of the respondents use the PRow network all year. The majority of those that utilise the network do so for *leisure, recreation and for physical exercise*.

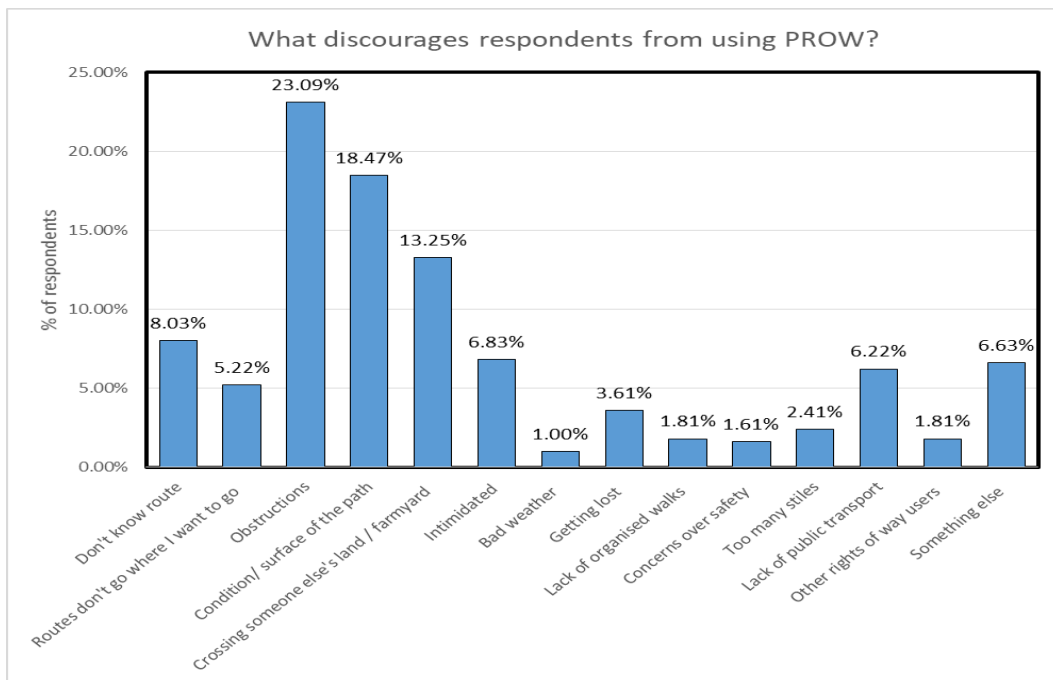


- Over half of the respondents have encountered problems whilst using the PRow network with *lack of signage* being the most commonly encountered problem.

Table 5 Satisfaction with Services Provided by Countryside Services

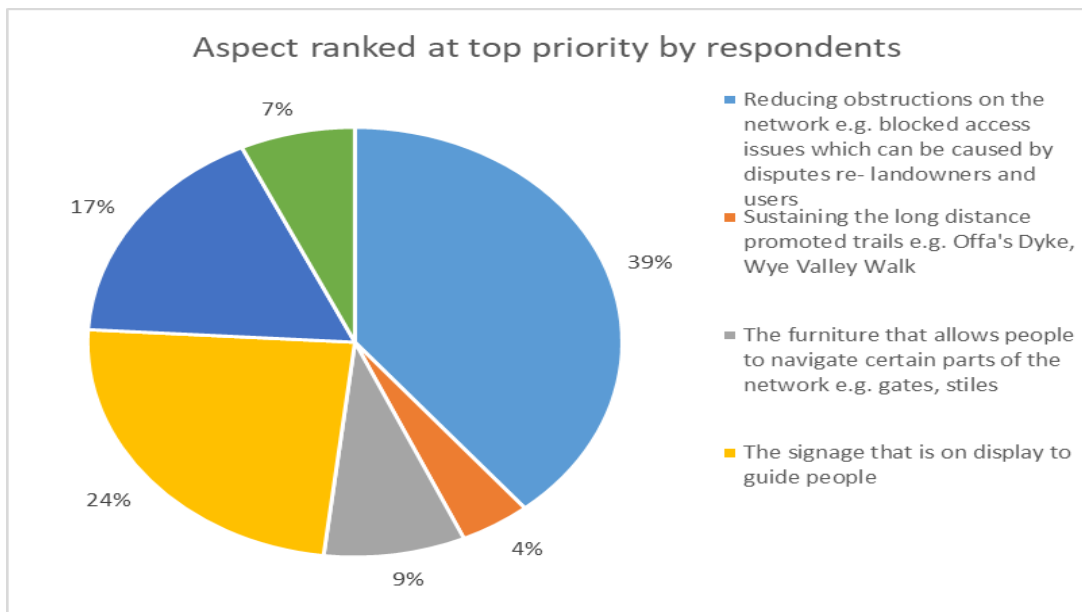


- Respondents were most satisfied with *surfaces*, *staff* and *promoted long-distance trails* and least satisfied with *enforcement*.

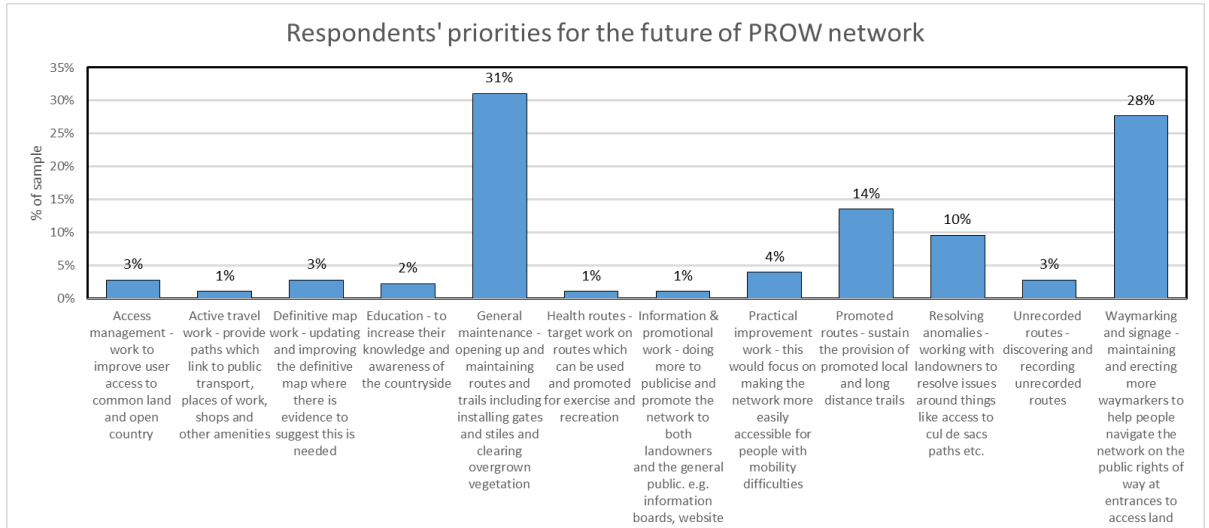


- Obstructions* were the most common reason why people didn't use the network, closely followed by the condition of the path and a dislike of walking on someone else's land.

Table 6 Where should future work be prioritised? Priority Rankings



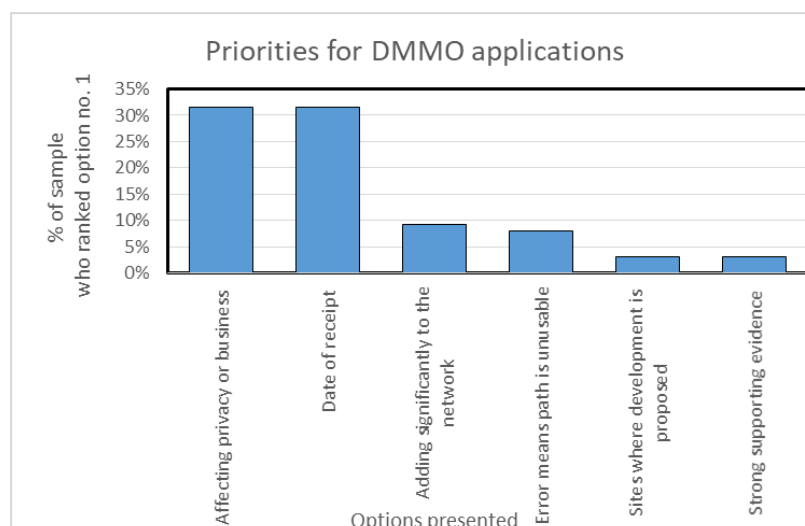
- The key aspect that respondents thought was important is to remove obstructions on the network with 39%. 25% chose signage and then followed by the network surface with 17% as their key aspect.



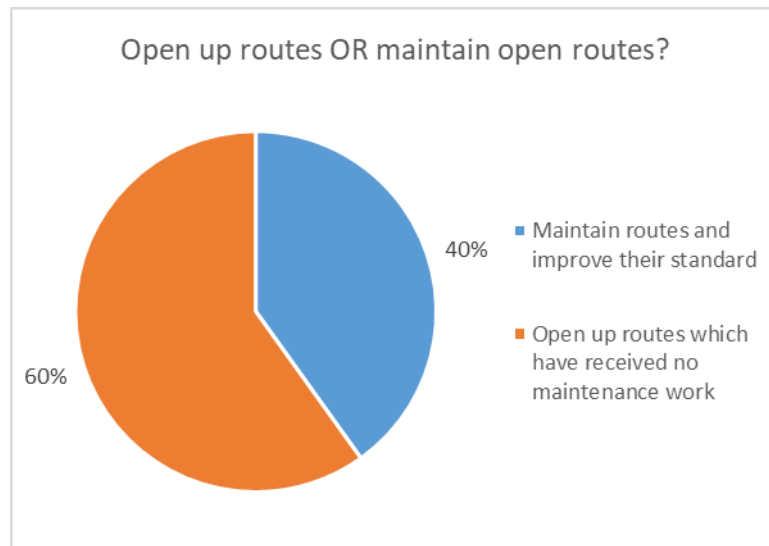
- One of the main aims of the public consultation was to find out where Countryside Services should be prioritising future resources. Maintenance came back as the number one priority followed closely by waymarking and signage.

Priority	Ranking	% of sample
Packages that would resolve anomalies e.g. linking dead end paths to the network or roads	1	28%
Farmyard diversions	2	23%
Diversions which protect wildlife/flora or fauna i.e. conservation	3	17%
Diversions to make paths more convenient to use e.g. by moving them off steep ground	4	14%
Diverting rights of way from a person's private garden	5	9%
Diversions due to a new housing or road development	6	6%
Diversions around woodlands or forests	7	2%
Diversion to avoid high maintenance costs	8	1%

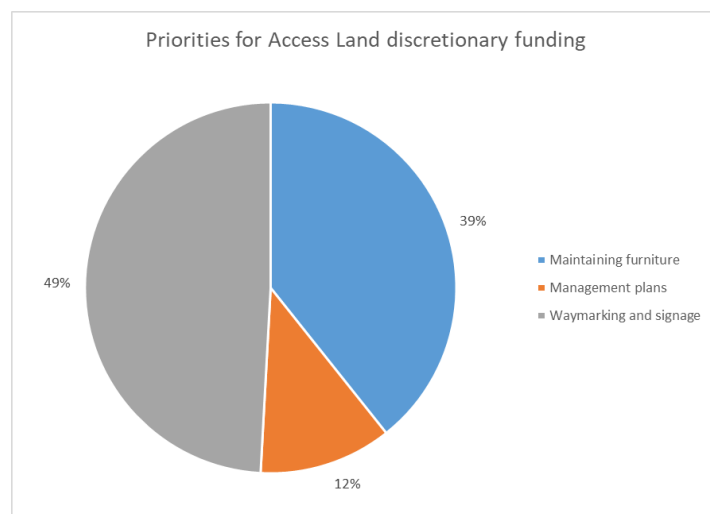
- Respondents were asked to prioritise Public Path Orders, the results showed that a package of work to *resolve anomalies* was the highest priority followed very closely by *diversions out of farmyards* and *private gardens*.
- Respondents strongly felt that information needed to be made more accessible, with *the website* being the most popular location for access for the definitive map and statement.



- The Council processes Definitive Map Modification Order applications to include or extinguish a public right of way by way of providing evidence. The Council needs to prioritise these applications. The priority out of the six choices outlined, was *where an error has meant that the path cannot be used at all*, followed closely by *an application that benefits the existing network*.



- Respondents were asked to make a choice between opening up currently obstructed paths OR maintaining routes already open, as this was a particular issue that Countryside Services felt needed resolving. The results show that more emphasis needs to be placed on the opening of routes in the future.

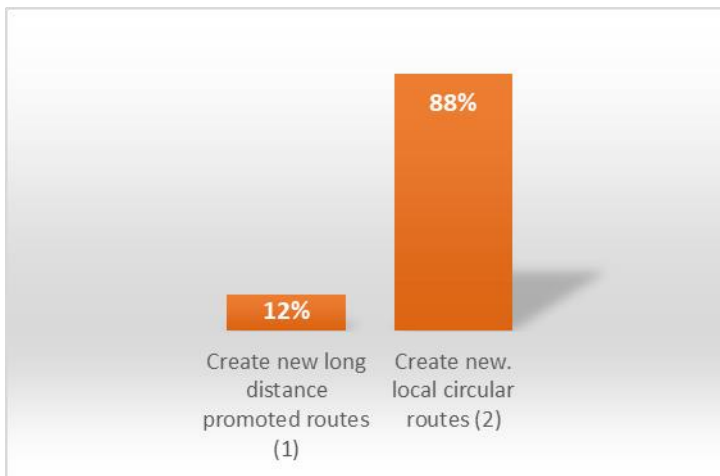


- The priorities for Access land are very similar to that for public rights of way with *waymarking/signage* and *maintaining furniture* accounting for

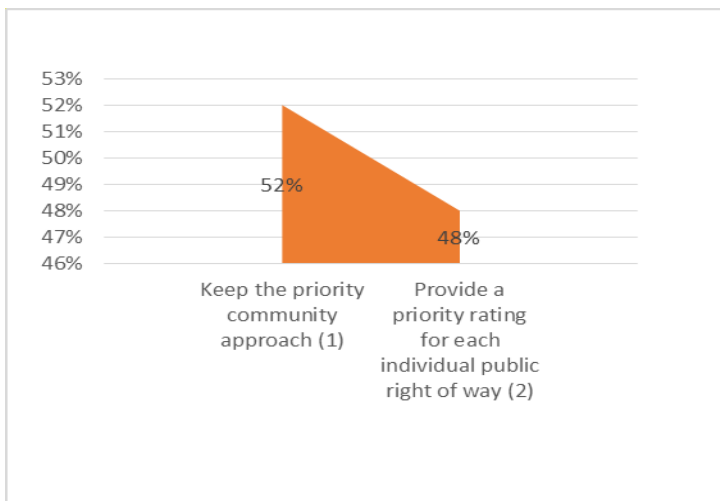
49% and 39% of the responses. The other 12% thought that *management plans for commons* was a priority.

DILEMMA QUESTIONS

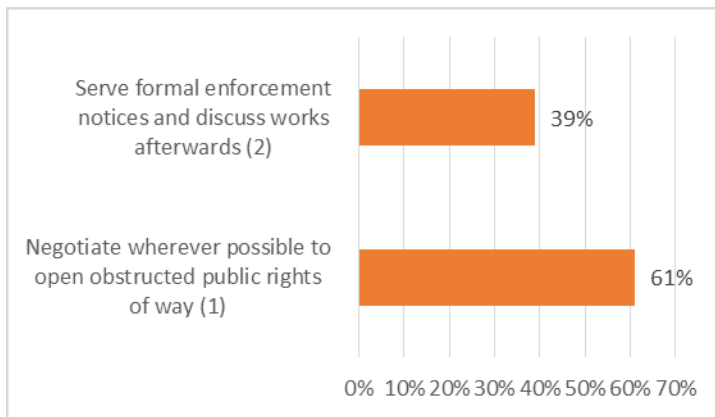
- Respondents were given a series of dilemma questions and were asked to decide which of the options they would prefer to see the Service prioritise in the future.



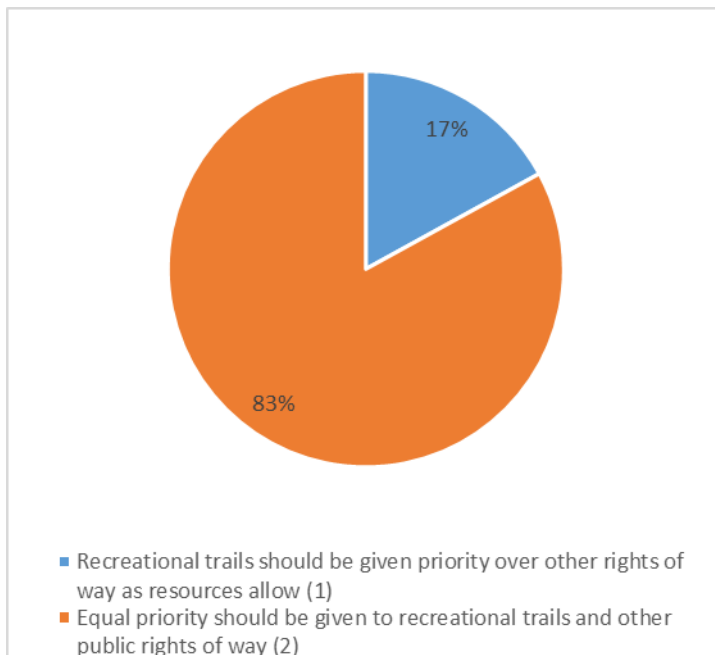
- Overwhelmingly, respondents were in favour of the council creating new local circular routes as opposed to new long distance trails.



- The second dilemma question resulted in a closer view, with 52% wanting the council to continue with the current priority community approach as opposed to creating a rating for each and every individual public right of way.



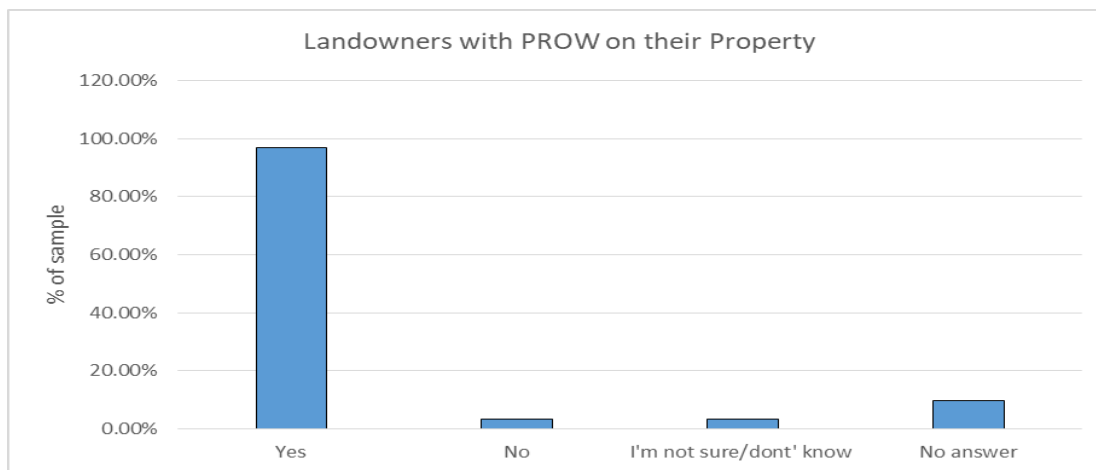
- The penultimate dilemma question resulted in 61% of respondents stating that they wanted the council to negotiate with landholders around obstructions to the network wherever possible. Just under a third felt we should move towards serving enforcement notices to progress things.



- 83% of respondents felt that recreational trails should not take priority over other rights of way on the network and that they should all be given equal priority.

2.3ii) Landholder Survey

The Landholders Survey looked at the issues surrounding countryside access for the owners and occupiers of the land, and how Countryside Services can improve its management in the future. Key findings from the landholder survey include:



- 97% (30 respondents) of landholders are aware of the existence of PROW on their property. The vast majority did not think there was a positive benefit to tourism and education etc. 84% did not think there was a benefit to tourism for example.
- Of those landholders with known PROW on their land, the most common problems were *gates being left open*, with *dogs off leads* and *people trespassing* as the next most frequent issues followed by *littering*.
- 46% of respondents stated they were aware of their legal duties regarding PROW, with a further 46% aware of the assistance and support available from Countryside Services with regards to assisting landholders with their responsibilities on their PROW.
- Landholders agreed with the general survey results, being that *negotiation should be sought before formal enforcement*, and *equal priority should be given to recreational trials to the rest of the ProW network*.

2.3iii) Town and Community Council Survey

All of the Town and Community Councils, lying partially or wholly outside the Brecon Beacons National Park, were contacted and their views sought on the demand for and management of the PRow network. Some of the main issues highlighted by the local Councils are shown below:

- Three out of the fourteen responses (21%) of the local Councils are already involved with PRow maintenance to some extent, with a further six Councils saying they are sometimes involved.
- 73% want to see more work to *maintain and improve routes already open*.
- 79% want priority to be given to the development of *local, circular routes rather than long distance routes*.
- The local Councils were asked to rate the provision and importance of suggested improvements to the PRow network. These improvements fall outside general PRow work. The results from these questions have been calculated to give a priority ranking for the different issues. Table 7 on the next page, shows the results of this ranking.

Table 7 Provision and Importance of Countryside Service Improvements

Q11 -What do you Think our Priorities Should be for the Future of the Rights of Way Network?

	Priority Ranking												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Waymarking & Signage	5	2			1		1						1
Information & Promotional Work						2	1	1	1		3	1	
Practical Improvement Work	1		1	1			2	1		1	1	1	
General Maintenance	1	6	2										
Resolving Anomalies		1	1		2		1		1	1	1	1	
Unrecorded Routes							1		1		1	1	6
Definitive Map Work		1	2					3	1	1	1	1	
Active Travel Work				1	1	3	1			1	1	1	
Access Management			1	2	1	1			1	2			1
Health Routes			2	2		2		1		1		1	
Schools Routes	1		1	1	3			2		1		1	
Education				1			1	1	3	1	1	1	
Promoted Routes	2			1	1	1	1		1		1		1
Number not responded				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

- *Amend.* Local, circular routes, attractive routes to support tourism and routes to enable people to avoid busy roads are the improvements that the local Council's feel require increased funding, whereas *access to commons* and *long-distance routes* are generally already well catered for, or of low importance.
- The local Councils were also asked to prioritise general PRow management issues and the results show that work should concentrate on *maintenance*, *waymarking* and the *Definitive Map*.

Key findings report

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan



Date of report: March 2017

Report author: Sue Ling, Communications and Engagement Officer

Contents Page

Page 3	Background and context to the consultation
Page 5	Key Findings – Generic Survey
Page 10	Key Findings – Landowners Survey
Page 12	Key Findings – Town and Community Council Survey
Page 14	Question by question analysis – Generic Survey
Page 16	Top 4 activities for rights of way users
Page 18	Problems encountered using the network
Page 20	Satisfaction with aspects of the network
Page 23	Views on open access land
Page 25	Priorities
Page 28	Diversions
Page 29	Dilemma questions
Page 31	Profile questions summary

Background to the service:

The first Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) was produced by Powys ten years ago to meet the legislation set out under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. This legislation placed a duty on local authorities to review their plan on a 10 year basis. This review is now due.

The plan sets out how the council is going to identify, prioritise and plan for any improvements so as to aid both access to and enjoyment of the network for all who wish to use it.

Powys has over 12,000 individual public rights of way which are used for recreation – particularly walking, cycling, horse-riding and driving “off-road”. The network is open to everyone and a right of way can consist of roads, paths and/or tracks – some of which go through Powys towns, the countryside and over private property.

Background to the consultation/engagement etc.

To comply with the duty, Powys County Council has to carry out a review of its current plan to establish and check progress on the objectives and actions listed within it. Alongside doing this it sought to engage interested stakeholders to capture their views on the current use of and condition of the rights of way network and seek views on priority actions so as to incorporate them into the next plan.

To do so effectively three surveys were developed using the originals created as an initial template to enable views to be compared in the ten year period since the original plan. The three surveys were aimed at specific groups:

- 1) A generic survey for all users of the network
- 2) A landowner survey for all those whose land includes a right of way
- 3) A town and community council survey

All three surveys were built using an online software package and translated into Welsh so residents/stakeholders could respond in the language of their choice.

The surveys were published on the councils Have Your Say website and press releases were issued to promote the opportunity for people to respond by the deadline date.

Emails were also sent to all the town and community councils and known landowners seeking their views on the network. The surveys closed on 31st January.

The legislation also sets out some very specific target groups that have to be engaged including any Local Access Forums that may exist and specific disability groups that may struggle to access the network. The council has subsequently been working to engage other groups that may have access issues including families with young children and thus pushchairs, residents and students with learning disabilities who may wish to utilise the rights of way but need support to reduce barriers and various access groups that exist in the county like the Brecknock and Montgomeryshire Access groups.

A short bi-lingual Moovly was also produced to help residents get an overview and information about the network and the purpose of the consultation before completing the survey.

Report format:

This report sets out the key results from the generic survey and highlights any significant similarities or differences to the original results, followed by the key results from the landowner survey and the town and community council responses. There is then a more detailed question by question analysis for the generic survey. A separate shorter report has been produced for both the landowner and the town and community council survey responses. This is available on request but will be sent to those landowners/town and community councils who requested a copy.

Response rate:

The generic survey resulted in 289 responses.

The landowner survey had 71 replies

The town and community council survey elicited 15 responses and a handful of emails which were sent directly to the service.

Key findings from each of the other two surveys follow on from the key findings for the generic survey but fuller reports are also available with regard to the views of landowners and town and community councils to support the development of the next ROWIP.

Key Findings:

The key findings for the **general survey** are as follows:

- 78% of respondents said they used the rights of way network all year round come rain or shine with 11% stating they used it regularly but generally more on a seasonal basis. This gives a total of 89%. *(In 2006 84% of respondents said they used the network per se. The question had a yes or no answer)*
- Five respondents said they didn't use the network but would like to and two people said they didn't use the network and didn't wish to.
- The most popular recreational trails used were Offa's Dyke, Glyndwr's Way and the Wye Valley Walk. *(These were the same in the 2006 survey)*
- Walking was the most popular reason for using the network with 36% of those who responded stated that they did so on a daily basis and 44% stating they did so on a weekly basis. *(This activity was again the most popular in the original survey followed by dog walking)*
- Again 36% said they walked their dogs daily on a right of way.
- Running and cycling were more popular on a weekly or monthly basis with numbers for use by people horse riding and 4x4 or horse drawn carriage riding being lower. *(Similar results were gained in the 2006 survey).*
- 27 respondents said they used the network for other activities. Eight of these stated they like to wildlife watch. Other reasons included scouting sessions, mountain biking, fishing, shooting, climbing and taking part in running type events. One person said they used the network to walk to work every day whilst a few others were volunteers working to fix and improve the network for others.
- Just under three quarters of respondents stated they used the network because it was how they liked to spend their leisure time. 69% said it allowed them to stay healthy and get some exercise and 66% felt it also

added to their personal well-being and mental health. *(These results were similar to those expressed by residents in the 2006 survey)*

- When asked how people usually travelled to a right of way the top two answers were they walked or they drove there. *(These were the top two answers in 2006 as well).*
- 78% of respondents stated that they didn't really have a preference on the type of route they used and used circular, long distance and the generic network. *(Respondents in 2006 felt that they had no preference and used all types of routes)*
- The key problems users experienced on the network were poor way marking and signage, overgrown paths, styles or gates being unsuitable for the user and obstructions like a fallen tree blocking a path etc. Some concerns were expressed around dogs barking or not being on leads and being wary of farm animals in fields. *(Respondents in 2006 were also concerned primarily around signage and way marking, followed by the issues above).*
- 44% of respondents who classed themselves as walkers felt the network was suitable for their use compared to 28% of horse riders and 31% of cyclists.
- Residents felt families with pushchairs and those with a mobility issue would find the network difficult to use. *(Only 5% and 3% respectively felt the network would be suitable for these users).*

Note: Interesting a higher number of men than women rated the network as poor or very poor for families with pushchairs (38 versus 28) and no women stated they had given birth in the past six months although the age profile of the women who responded suggested that some could be mothers or grandmothers with children in pushchairs. In terms of mobility three respondents out of the six respondents who stated they had mobility issue had rated the network for this question. One stated they felt it was average and two felt the suitability to be very poor (2).

- Just over half of respondents (52%) felt satisfied with the service overall with more specific figures ranging from 69% of respondents stating their satisfaction with the quality and standard of the network surfaces to only 25% (a quarter) stating they felt satisfied and could see evidence of enforcement action taken by the service to reduce obstructions to a pathway.
- Respondents used Ordnance Survey maps, the internet and local knowledge primarily for information about the network. *(In the 2006 survey Tourist*

Information Centres were a key source of information alongside leaflets. The growth and ability to access information via the internet has changed these figures).

- Obstructions to and the condition of a pathway were the top two things that discouraged people from using the network. This was followed by a dislike of crossing over someone's land or walking through a farmyard. *(Not knowing the routes and walking over someone's private land were secondary concerns expressed in the 2006 survey with the top two being the same as shown above).*
- 38 respondents choose "something else" and said that farm dogs barking or biting them, paths being completely blocked and overgrown and farm animals like bulls and cows being in fields were intimidating and discouraged them from using the network.
- 61% of respondents said they used open access land regularly. 36% sometimes did and 3% never did.
- The main issue that deterred people from using open access land with just under a third of respondents choosing this was not knowing where these routes were. A few additional comments were made around aggressive landowners, barking farm dogs, lack of way marking, the poor condition of the pathway or blocked pathways and routes not showing up on OS maps. A few people were worried about getting lost and there were some concerns about potential bad weather and the routes not going where people wanted to go. *(Views given in the original survey were very similar)*
- In terms of improving access to the network respondents were asked to rank six things in order of importance. Reducing obstructions was a top priority followed by the upkeep and clearance of vegetation and third was keeping the furniture like stiles and gates maintained so people can navigate the network easily. *(In the 2006 survey respondents choose signage, clearance of vegetation and improving the condition of surfaces as their top priorities).*
- When given a more detailed list of priorities and asked to place these in order respondents choose "*General maintenance - opening up and maintaining routes and trails including installing gates and stiles and clearing overgrown vegetation*" as their first choice closely followed by "*Way marking and signage - maintaining and erecting more way markers to help people navigate the network on the public rights of way at entrances to access land*" and then

“Resolving anomalies - working with landowners to resolve issues around things like access to cul-de-sacs paths etc.”

- In terms of the discretionary powers that the council has for open access land residents wanted the focus firstly to be on “Way marking and signage - putting way markers up and maintaining them on public rights of way and at entrances to access land”
- Information posted on the council’s website which highlights the routes and the definitive map followed by information boards positioned at the start of or at a half way point of a route were deemed to be the most useful forms of information the team could provide for users of the network. *(There has been a change from the 2006 survey results and a clear move away for users wanting printed leaflets or literature about the rights of way network. The reliance and ability to access information via the internet has changed the information channels that people use and want to use).*
- Diversions that resolved anomalies and linked dead paths back to the network, farmyard diversions and those that protecting wildlife, flora and fauna were deemed the most important to consider. Diversions around woods or forests were considered to be of the least concern. *(In the 2006 survey diversions around farmyards, private gardens and then those that protected wildlife were classed as the priorities for respondents).*
- When asked about modification orders around the definitive map respondents ranked two things as taking priority over other options. There were “applications where the possible error has meant that the public cannot use the path at all e.g. the path on the map passes through a very old building” and “applications where adding or upgrading a public right of way should add significantly to the network e.g. a missing link”.
- 60% of respondents would rather funds were used to “Open up routes on the definitive map which up to now have received no maintenance work at all” than see the council focus on “Maintaining the routes that are already opened up and improve their standard.” *(This results has changed completely from the view given in the original survey where 36% of respondents said open up routes which had not been maintained to date and 43% said maintain those that were already open instead. This shows a change in view on this issue.)*

- Creating new local circular routes was considered more important than creating long distance routes as was negotiating with landowners to open up blocked rights of way rather than taking enforcement action at the earliest opportunity. Overwhelmingly respondents also felt that equal priority should be given to recreational trails and other public rights of way.
- In terms of the approach to the rights of way network there was no clear view expressed around whether the council should continue with its community priority option or instead give each individual route its own priority ranking. The views were even on this front with only slight more people stating the community approach would be their preferred option. (80 versus 74)

Additional comments from other channels

Alongside the survey responses a few residents had contacted the council to comment via email or letter. For the most part the comments reflect those already given by those responding to the survey. One resident however felt that there was a conflict between the farming community and local residents which could be resolved with a proposal.

The proposal suggested that any future development should include (small) areas of land in and around villages set aside as natural habitats connected by permissive paths that follow hedge lines rather than any existing Rights of Way. That the paths are easily negotiated – no stiles etc. That these areas and the connecting paths are made the responsibility of the local community giving a focus for community responsibility – a function that would promote localism and local democracy. That they are seen as a way of promoting a biodiversity that is close enough to people, particularly the retired, to both value and enjoy. That the funding for this provision is drawn from development profit, government investment in natural habitat, and other financial resources. This would require an understanding of all available investment funding for the wellbeing of communities and the natural environment so that it is holistically used to provide for people and nature together, in close proximity.

The respondent listed the benefits as providing easily accessible walks without stepping foot onto farming land, safe and familiar routes for people including perhaps those with dementia, local involvement and responsibility for maintenance and added value to life in the community.

Key Findings:

The key findings for the **landowner survey** are as follows:

- 62 out of the 71 respondents have a public right of way that crosses their land
- 15 felt that their right of way made a positive contribution to both tourism in the area and provided social interaction for them. 11 felt it was educational, 7 felt it was beneficial as users reported problems they may have seen to them that they were not necessarily aware of and 2 said it allowed people to get some fresh air.
- The top five problems that caused landowners difficulties were people not closing gates after them, trespassing, dogs being off leads, people getting lost and people littering.
- 11 had local circular routes that crossed their land and 10 had long distance ones.
- 33 out of the 57 who answered the question said they were aware of their legal duties in relation to the rights of way on their land. However five weren't and 19 were not sure.
- 11 were aware of the service offered by the council, 32 weren't and 14 were not sure.
- Only six respondents said they had received a copy of the Landholder Guide to public rights of way. 54 hadn't. 18 requested a copy.
- 21 landowners had had contact with Countryside Services over the past two years, 39 hadn't and two couldn't remember.
- Landowners were more satisfied than dissatisfied with the provision and quality of the furniture provided, the helpfulness of staff from the service but were not content with way marking and signage, work carried out to the network surface and the definitive map.
- Landowners felt similarly to the general public on a number of issues. Firstly that the council should create new local circular routes rather than long distance ones, that negotiation rather than enforcement notices should be the approach to reduce obstructions on the network and that equal priority should be given to both recreational trails and all other routes.
- Landowners were similarly slightly more in favour of continuing with the community type approach rather than giving each and every right of way an

individual ranking. This was as close as the general public view with 12 landowners being in favour of the community approach versus 10 for individual rating.

- However landowners felt that it would be more useful to maintain routes that were currently open than open up routes on the definitive map where no work had yet taken place. 60% of respondents to the general survey felt the latter should take priority though although in the original survey this figure was reversed with more residents/users in support of the current landowners view.
- Landowners rated their top five priorities as way marking, general maintenance of the network, educating the public about the countryside and the access, resolving anomalies and sustaining the provision of promoted local and long distance trails/routes. There did appear to be a specific problem with some users leaving gates open.
- In terms of diversions landowners felt priority should be given to farmyard diversions first and foremost followed by those to avoid private gardens, those which would avoid high maintenance costs and then those that would preserve conservation, wildlife, flora and fauna.

Key Findings:

13 town and community councils responded to the survey. However on closer analysis one response was on behalf of two councils so 14 survey responses were received in total plus an email from another town and community council. Out of the 14 survey responses one town and community council choose not to disclose who they were but the remaining 13 did.

The key findings from the survey sent to all **town and community councils** are as follows:

- Three town and community councils said they were always involved in the maintenance of existing routes and also with the production of leaflets and guides to promote their rights of way locally. Six said they were sometimes involved at this level.
- Permissive access agreements were not common with only two councils saying they sometimes used them.
- One council had always worked to establish a walking group whilst six others said they were sometimes involved in doing so.
- In terms of suitability of the network, it was clear that in the main walkers, dog walkers and horse riders would in the view of the town and community council's rate the network as good. People with mobility difficulties, families with pushchairs and those using horse drawn carriages would class it as poor.
- When asked to consider how adequate certain aspects of the network were versus their importance to the community, routes from towns, local circular routes, routes that by-passed busy roads and routes which provided access to particular features were deemed to be very important. In terms of the current adequacy of these aspects they were all classed overall as adequate. The main exception was around routes from towns where three councils had rated them as good and six average.
- When asked what related activities town and community councils were already or would like to be involved in, the key things that four were already doing things included either monitoring and reporting obstructions, helping to maintain some of the network and working to secure and support circular routes. One was happy to help with signage and offered to walk routes to

provide feedback around access issues. Another had set up a walking group (Walkers Are Welcome Montgomery) and were planning a walking festival and wanted to be more involved in promoting routes and carrying out low level maintenance. A few were keen for updates on specific routes including a cycle route through Maes Y Dre, progress on a modification order for Graig Lane in Berriew and the Montytrax.

- When asked to consider some dilemma questions around best use of resources all the councils that answered the question (11) were in favour of the council creating new local circular routes as opposed to long distance routes.
- Nine out of the 11 felt we should give equal priority to both recreational trails and the typical network routes rather than focusing on recreational trails as a priority. Seven out of the 11 ranked maintaining routes on the definitive map that were already open and sustaining these as more important than opening up new routes.
- Six voted to keep the priority community approach as opposed to three town councils who thought we should rank each individual right of way. (Note: 9
- Finally ten out of the 11 were clear that negotiating with landowners whenever there were obstructions was their preferred stance rather than us serving an enforcement notice. One council felt we should do this though.
- General maintenance of the network and way marking were clearly the two key things that councils felt needed to be a top priority. Following this was resolving anomalies, working to create school routes, working on the definitive map, looking at routes that promoted health and access management.
- Promoting the network via a mix of channels also came out as a priority when the councils were asked to consider what three things they would choose the council to focus on if they could only achieve three things. Way marking and general maintenance were the other two.
- One council felt that dealing with the issue of damage caused by 4x4 vehicles was a priority whilst another stated that landowner compliance and ensuring there were circular routes in place was something they felt should be tackled. Health and school routes were also mentioned.

General Survey

Question by question analysis.

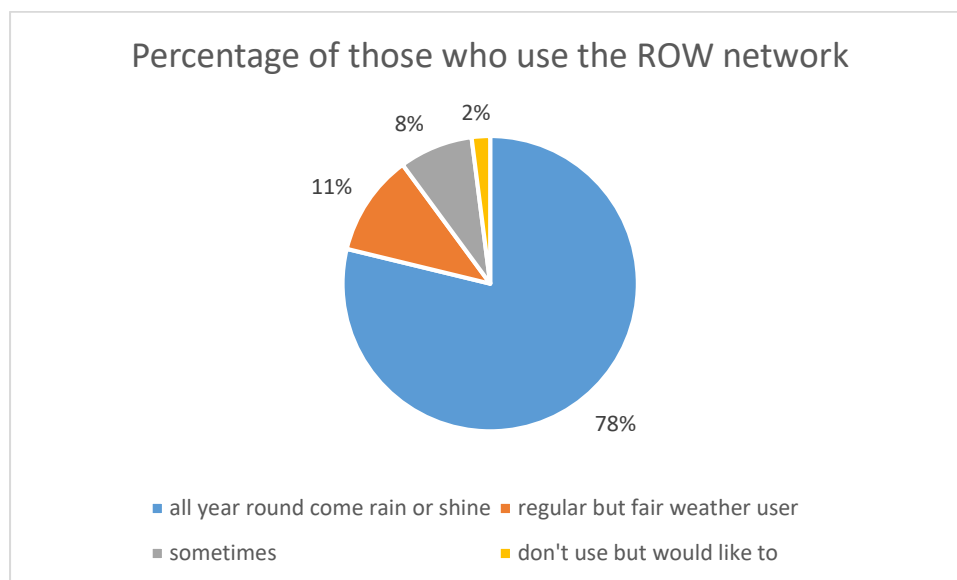
Q1. Do you visit any of the following?

Respondents could select as many answers as applied to them. The two most frequently chosen answers were woodlands and forests with 79% of respondents selecting this and slightly less (78%) stating they visited common land and open countryside. Only 19% of respondents chose playgrounds but this is most likely to be because parents of young children were unlikely to have responded to the survey.

Answer	Number	Percentage
Parks (1)	150	52%
Playgrounds (2)	54	19%
Lakes (3)	172	60%
Common land and open countryside (4)	226	78%
Nature reserves (5)	178	62%
Farmland (6)	189	65%
Woodlands and forests (7)	228	79%
Riversides (8)	199	69%

Q2. Which of the following best describes your use of the public rights of way in Powys?

51 respondents choose not to answer this question giving a base of 238 who did.

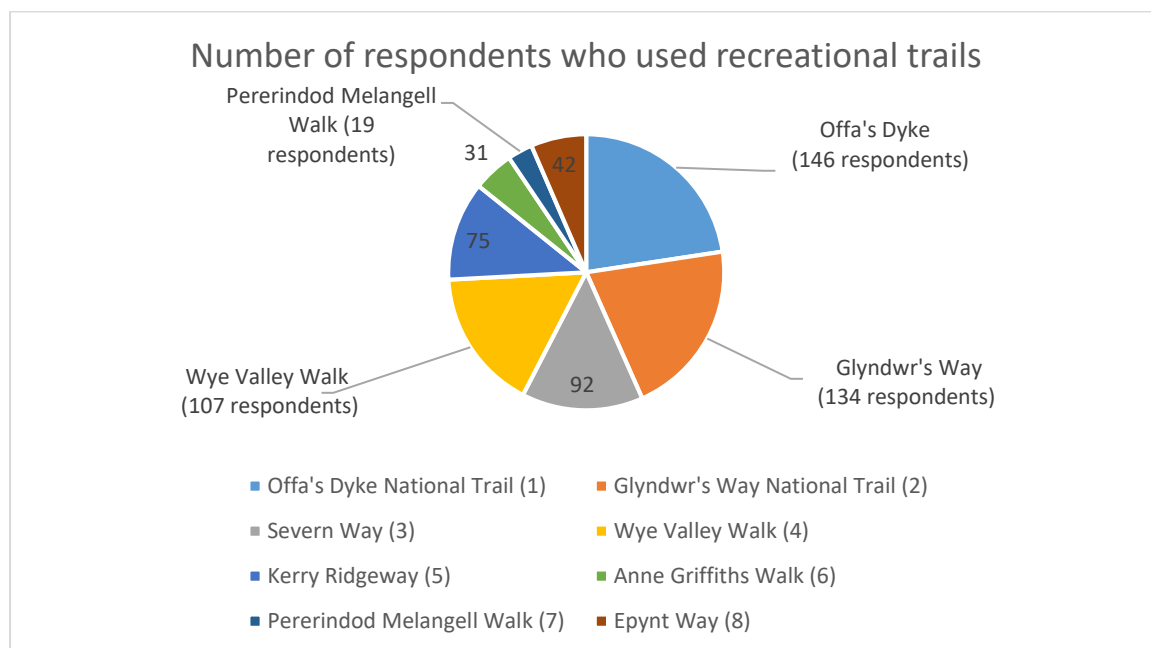


Just over three quarters of respondents (78%) were people who use the network all year round regardless of the weather whilst around 11% stated they did use the network on a regular basis but this was more on a seasonal basis. 2% of respondents stated they didn't currently use the Rights of Way network but would like to.

The 2% who answered that they didn't use the network but would like to were asked a follow up question around what barriers may exist and what would help them to access the

network. None of the respondents choose to give any further details although two other respondents who hadn't answered the original question suggested that we should have provided an answer for those who didn't use the network and didn't wish to do so.

Q3. Do you use any of the following recreational trails within Powys?



Offa's Dyke, Glyndwr's Way and Wye Valley Walk were the most used trails in the county with 146, 134 and 107 respondents stating they used these trails respectively. The least used was the Pererindod Melangell Walk with only 19 people stating they used this trail. This may be due to lack of knowledge of this particular route and perhaps also for the Anne Griffiths (31) and Epynt Way (42) or it may be that those responding lived nearer to the more well-known trails or they prefer to avoid lesser known routes.

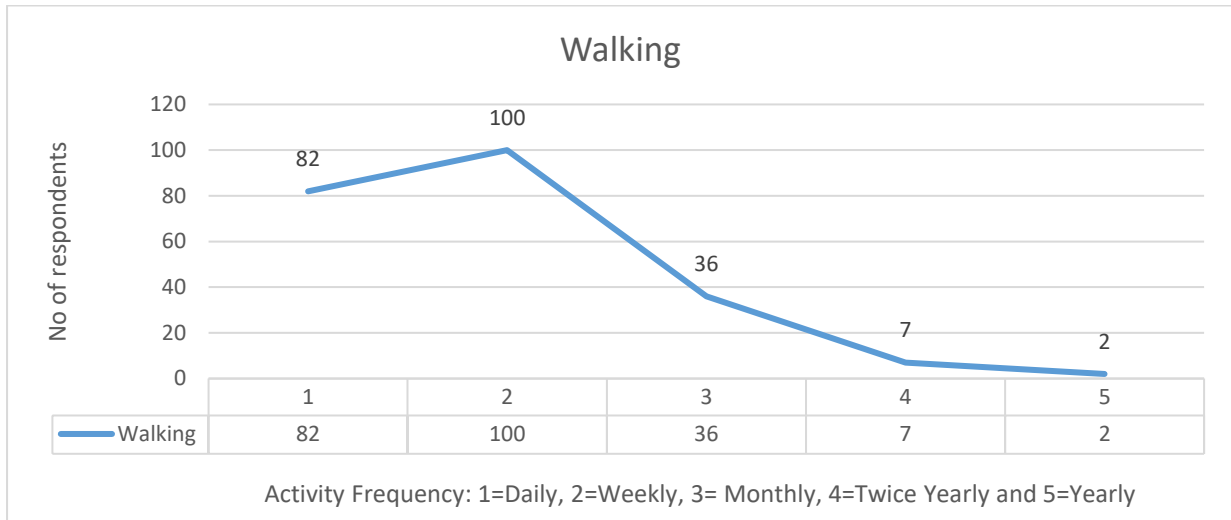
Q4. The following activities are popular on our rights of way network. Please state which ones apply to you and how often you do them.

Respondents were asked to consider each type of activity and rate them based on their usage. The table below shows the results.

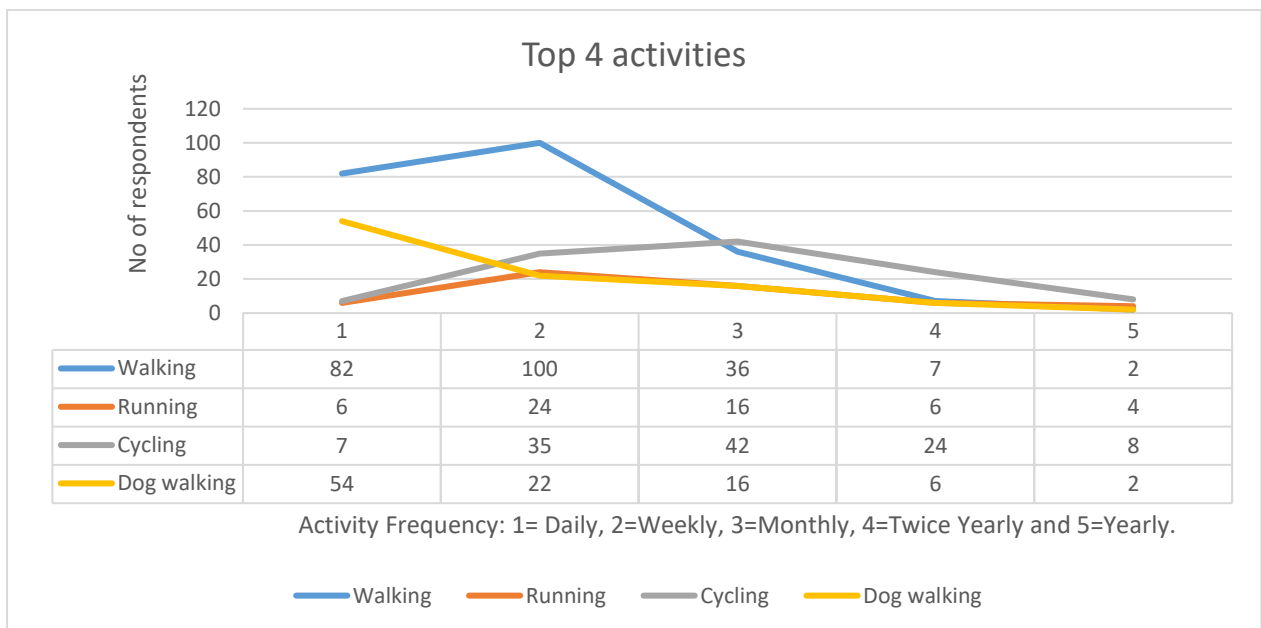
Activity	Daily Use	Weekly	Monthly	Twice Yearly	Yearly	Activity Base	Never use
Walking	82	100	36	7	2	227	2
Running	6	24	16	6	4	56	69
Cycling	7	35	42	24	8	116	39
Horse riding	2	9	4	3	9	27	93
Horse drawn carriage	1	0	0	0	2	3	100
4 x 4 driving	1	1	5	5	8	20	94
Motorcycling	0	5	11	2	0	18	96
Dog walking	54	22	16	6	2	100	48

A number of respondents choose to either skip an activity that didn't relate to them or to select "never use" in the answer options.

The results show that both walking and dog walking are the most popular activities undertaken on the network. Just over a third (82) of those who choose walking as an activity said they used the network to walk on a daily basis with a further 44% (100) using routes weekly. Over half of those who were walking their dogs via a right of way path did so on a daily basis with a fifth saying it was more a weekly occurrence.



Interestingly when comparing the figures cycling comes out as a more popular pursuit on both a weekly and monthly basis when compared to dog walking. Running appears to be more popular on a weekly and a monthly basis rather than daily too and has similar figures to people dog walking at these times.



Respondents were also given the chance to state they used the network for something else. 27 respondents said they used the network for other activities like watching wildlife, scouting, fishing, mountain biking, climbing, shooting and taking part in events. Of these 27 six people stated they used the network on a daily One person said they used the network to walk to work every day whilst a few others were volunteers working to fix and improve the network for others.

Q5. What makes you use the public rights of way?

Respondents could select any or all of the answers given. The most popular answer with 72% of respondents choosing it was that it was how people liked to spend their free/leisure time. Similarly just under 70% had selected that they felt it helped them to stay healthy and get some exercise and this was a reason to use the network. The table below gives all the responses.

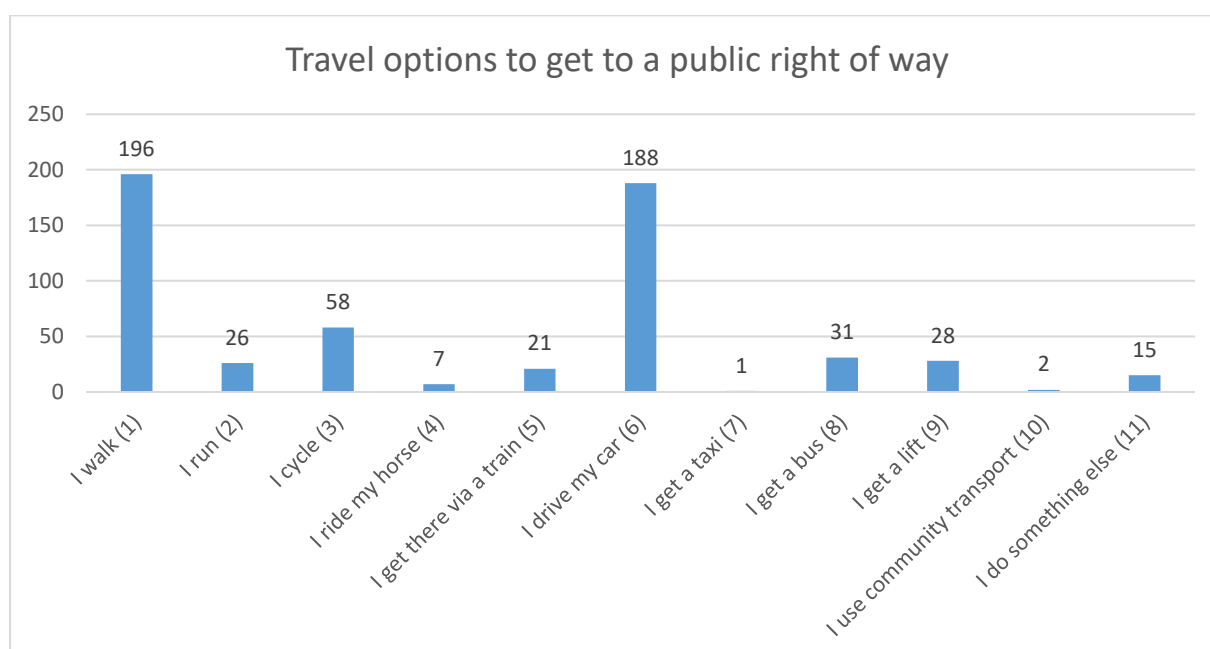
Reason	Number of responses	Percentage
It's how I like to spend some of my leisure/recreation time (1)	209	72%
It's about getting some exercise / staying healthy (2)	200	69%
It's about my personal well-being/it helps me to relax and unwind (3)	192	66%
I use them to get to work or go to the shops locally (4)	38	13%
I use them for another reason not listed above (5)	27	9%

In relation to the final answer where 27 respondents stated they had another reason not listed to use the network, the key things were very similar to those given in the previous question. Volunteering, dog walking and using the network to run scouting activities or to get to visit neighbours or get to their own home were listed. Three respondents appeared to have some concerns about the long term future of the network and had written the following:

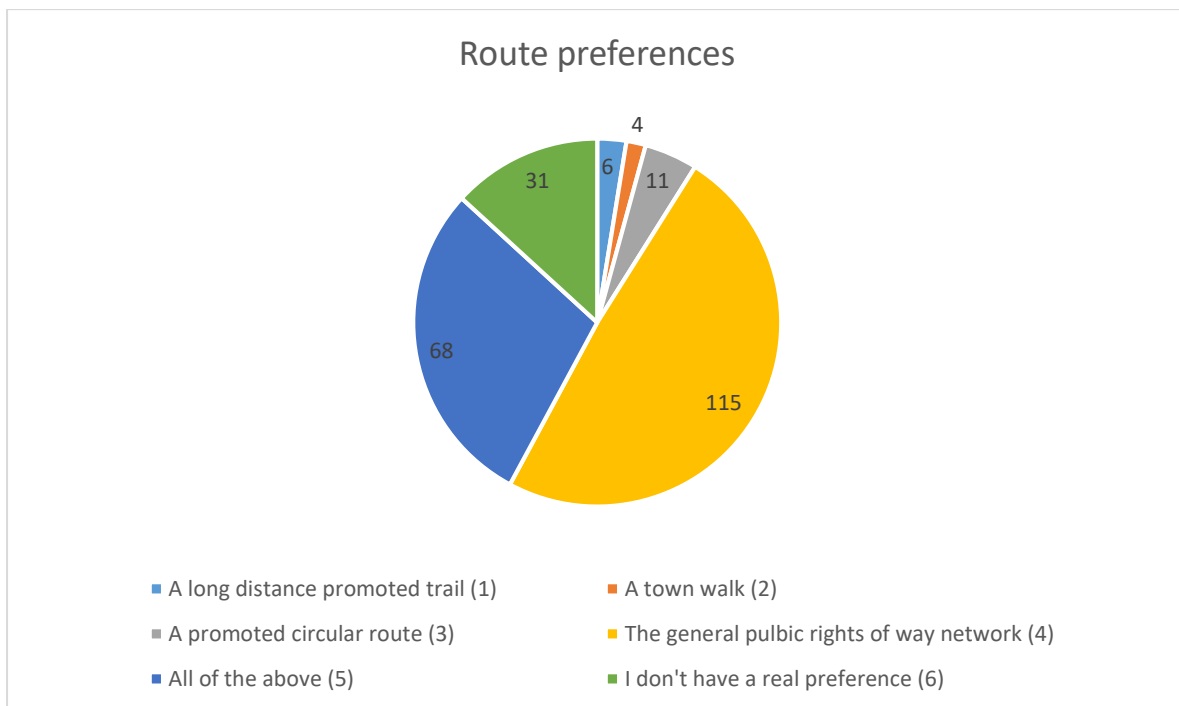
148	ROW will be lost without proof of use and ancient tracks get lost
227	to keep the network open and accessible
230	To keep them alive!

Q6. How do you usually travel to the start of a public right of way?

The following chart shows that on the whole people tend to either walk or drive to their chosen starting point. Seven used their motorbike and one person a train.

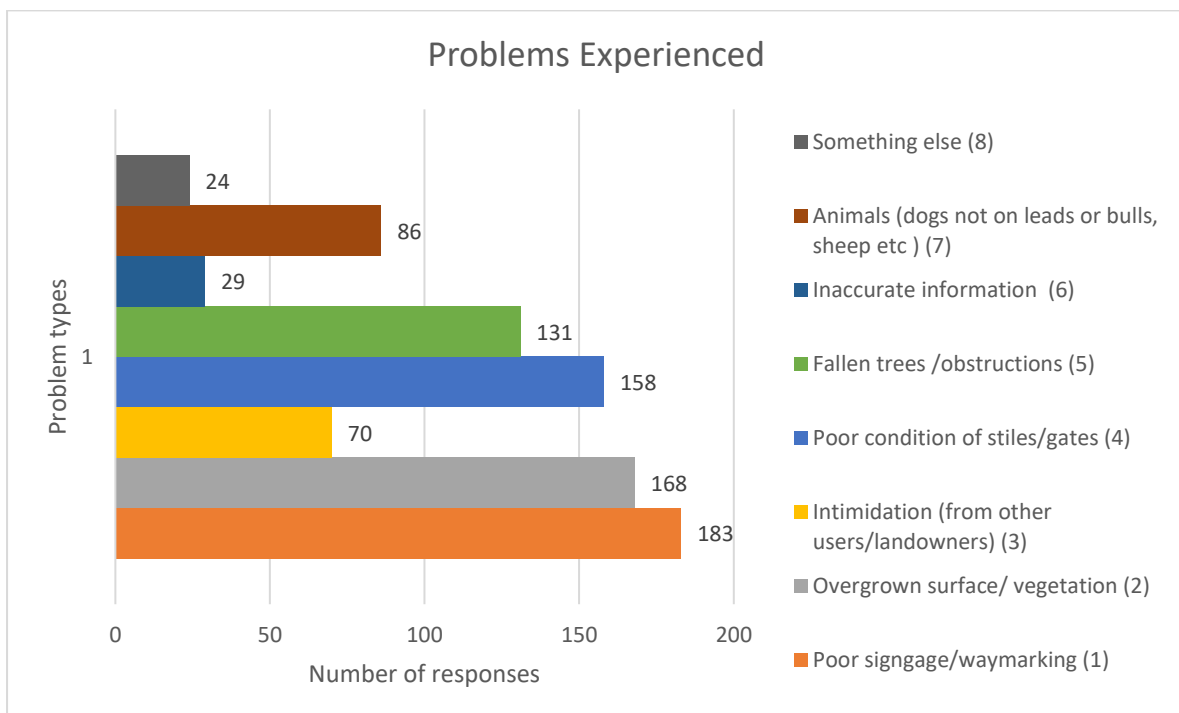


Q7. Which type of route do you prefer to use?



On the whole it appears that just under half of all the respondents (49%) stated that they enjoyed the general rights of way network per se with a further 13% not having any real preferences and 29% saying they liked all of the routes. Only 11 respondents said they preferred a circular route, six a long distance promoted trail and four a town walk.

Q8. What problems, if any, have you encountered whilst using the public rights of way in Powys?



The main problems facing users was poor signage, overgrown pathways and the poor condition of some stiles and gates or these being unsuitable for the user.

There appeared to be some incidences of intimidation from either other users or landowners and on further scrutiny the majority of additional comments were more about landowners being aggressive when respondents walked over their land.

Alongside landowners being intimidating the fear of farm animals and in particular issues with dogs being off leads and farmyard dogs barking and being aggressive when having to navigate through a farmyard were of concern to just under 90 respondents.

23 respondents choose to say that “something else” was a problem. The key things listed were around bridges being rotten or missing on parts of the network, hedges or fences (electric and otherwise) being erected over paths and barbed wire too being placed to deter walkers. A few other comments were given including the following:

11	A lack of information as to where ROWs actually are.
19	Access through farm yards is obstructed or unclear. Routes blocked by ploughed fields or crops. Routes blocked by fences over farm land.
68	Public footpaths indicated on map inaccessible due to absence of gates/stiles
82	Ploughed pathways
190	people on bikes with no bells, screaming at you to get out of their way
192	Stiles are not always dog friendly, very problematic when you are half way around a walk. (Try lifting a fully grown Alsatian!)
221	fences across paths around Llansantffraid ym Mechain
229	Powys County Council’s anti-vehicular use policy
233	Deep mud!

Q9. What are your views on the suitability of the public rights of way network in Powys for each type of the following users?

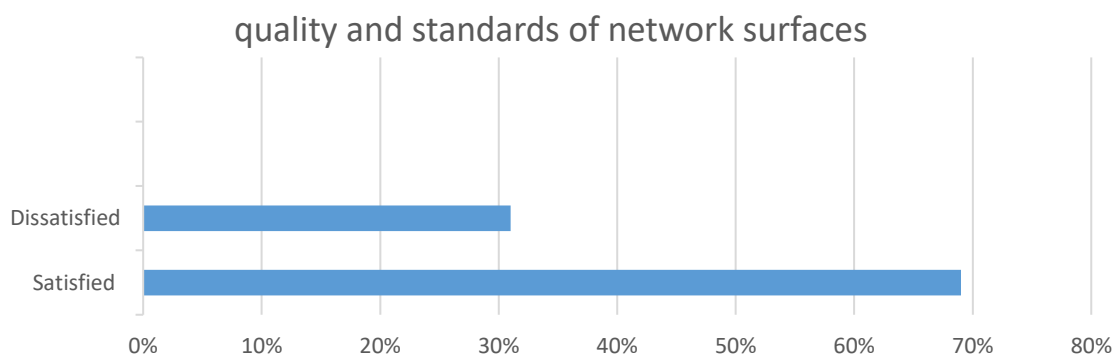
Walkers/dog walkers were deemed to be the users for whom the network was most suitable followed by cyclists, horse riders and then motorcyclists/4x4 users. 45% of respondents rated the network as either excellent or good for dog walkers with 44% stating this for walkers. 83% of respondents felt that people with mobility difficulties would find the network unsuitable and 67% of those who answered the question felt that families with pushchairs would do so.

Type of user	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor
Walker	17	83	72	40	13
Horse rider	3	21	26	23	12
Person with a mobility difficulty	1	2	16	55	41
Family with a pushchair	1	5	37	54	33
Horse-drawn carriage	1	0	12	13	19
Motorcyclist/4x4 driver	6	13	21	10	9
Cyclist	3	23	27	18	13
Dog walker	13	46	39	24	8

Q10. The Countryside Services section deals with a number of things to promote and improve the rights of way network. This includes: the repair and maintenance of paths and furniture taking appropriate enforcement action when a user of the network has found an obstruction to a path promoting long distance routes/trails. We'd like to know your level of satisfaction with any that you have experience or knowledge of.

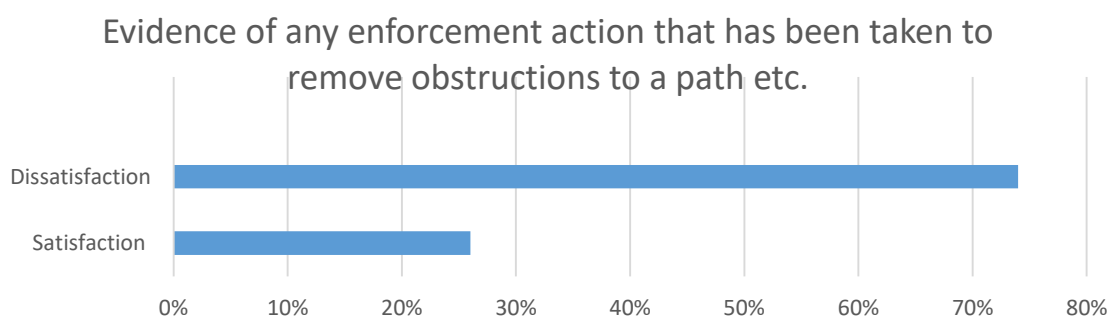
Aspects of work	Very satisfied / Fairly Satisfied	Dissatisfied / Very dissatisfied
The quality and standards of network surfaces.	69%	31%
The quality and standard of the furniture e.g. stiles and gates.	56%	44%
Signage e.g. Waymarks and signposts	44%	56%
The quality of practical improvement work that you see whilst out using the network.	61%	39%
Evidence of any enforcement action that has been taken to remove obstructions to a path etc.	26%	74%
Promotional information (leaflets, noticeboards) that give details re the network and what we do to look after it.	47%	53%
Information about long distance trails.	67%	33%
Our staff response to you if you contact the service i.e. professionalism, politeness etc.	66%	34%
Use and maintenance of the definitive map including diversions or dealing with modification orders.	42%	58%
Open Access advice and assistance	55%	45%
Overall rating of the whole service	52%	48%

Those who responded to this question feel that the quality and standards of the network surfaces overall are to their satisfaction (69% are very or fairly satisfied).



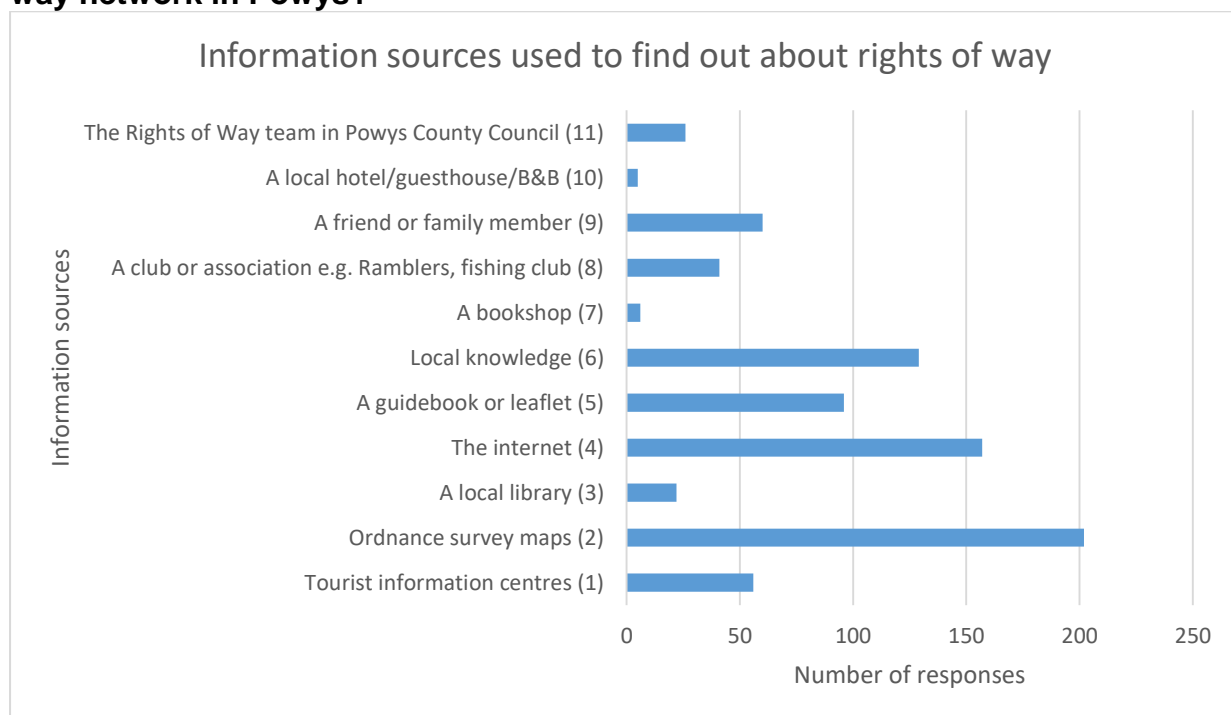
67% of respondents said that they were satisfied with information about long distance trails and 66% were happy overall with customer care and their dealings with staff in the service. The quality of the practical improvement work that users see is also high with 61% stating they are satisfied.

However there appears to be dissatisfaction with the lack of evidence of any enforcement action taken to remove obstructions. Just over a quarter of respondents (26%) were satisfied with this aspect of the service meaning 74% are not. The reasons for this dissatisfaction could be mixed in that users may not be aware of negotiations that are underway with land owners to remove obstructions and that if an obstruction has been removed it may not be that a user would actually be any the wiser and know there was an obstruction in the first instance that needed removing. However there are indications from the previous questions that obstructions are a concern and that perhaps there is dissatisfaction per se with barriers being put in place which users see with regard to not just fallen trees blocking a path but fences, barbed wire and hedges being erected by landowners to put users off using a particular route.



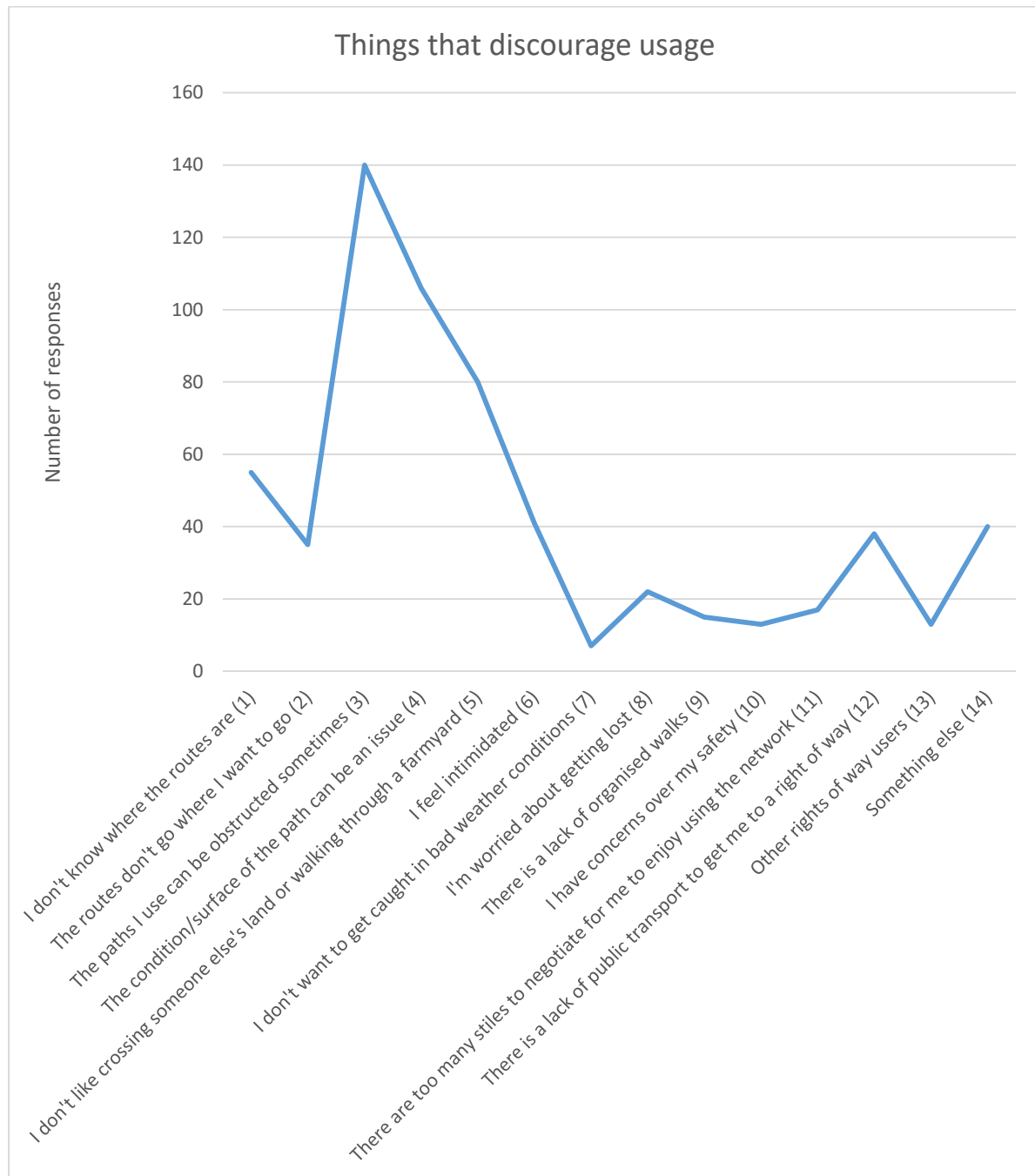
The other aspects where dissatisfaction was higher than satisfaction were around the use and maintenance of the definitive map, signage and way marking and promotional leaflets/noticeboards which set out information about routes and what we do to look after the network.

Q11. Where would you normally get information from about the public rights of way network in Powys?



Ordnance survey maps, the internet and local knowledge were key sources of information for the majority of respondents with a bookshop, local B&B and the local library being the least favoured places to find out more about the network. Naturally with this survey being promoted to local residents it's unlikely that many would class themselves as tourists and thus would be unlikely to be staying in a hotel or B&B. This number would be more likely to increase if we'd targeted tourists groups or asked some local B&Bs to hand out questionnaires at the time of the consultation.

Q12. What discourages you from using the public rights of way?

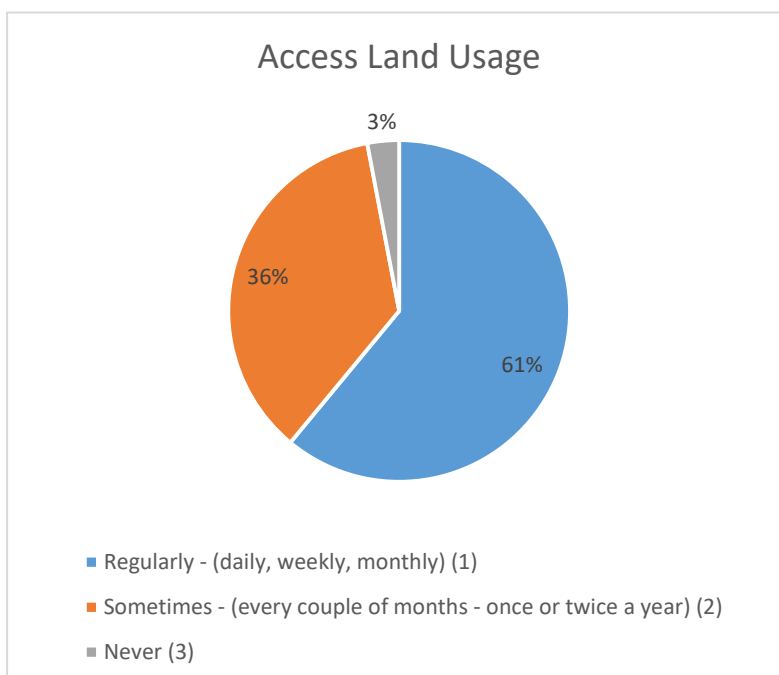


The top answer was obstructions to the paths that people want to use followed by the condition of the path and a reluctance to cross someone else's land. There was also an indication that some users do feel intimidated.

In terms of those who said 'something else' made them reluctant to use the network the key comments were around paths being obstructed or blocked or non-existent on the ground even if showing up on an OS map; issues with crossing farmyards and dogs and animals in fields causing concern. A sample of some of the comments given is below.

12	Passing intimidating dogs left loose by homes I pass
32	In my locality few/no public footpaths are identified or open
39	I know where the routes should be but a lot of them are completely impassable and often mean having to walk on busy roads or trespass
59	Dogs in farmyards. Bulls in fields.
68	Paths permanently obstructed
74	OS Mapping errors are much worse and more common in Wales than in England
78	Bulls in fields and frisky cows have occasionally scared us.
93	Dogs in farm yards that are not under control. I have been bitten by one.
106	I don't believe people should be trampling over others property unless it is an agreed "named" path
108	I don't agree with walking all over some one's business premises
110	Paths that are marked on OS but no longer active, misleading signage and walks information
111	Signs destroyed, styles broken, access blocked e.g., fencing
280	The Poor 'Policing@ of the RoW which doesn't deter illegal motorised activity

Q13. How often do you use open access land?



The 229 respondents who answered this question were regular users of open access land. 36% stated that they tended to do so on a less frequent basis from once or twice a year to every couple of months. 3% said they never used open access land.

Q14. What would, or does deter you from using open access land?

The key thing that deterred people from using open access land was in essence their lack of knowledge about how or where open access land was in the county. 85 respondents said they didn't know where the land was. The following key points raised was around the condition of the network, the routes not going where it goes and bad weather putting people off.

Answers	Number of responses
I don't know where the routes are (1)	85
The routes don't tend to go where I want to go (2)	33
Bad weather (3)	32
There is a lack of organised walks (4)	12
I have concerns over my own safety (5)	14
I feel intimidated (6)	23
I am worried about getting lost (7)	28
The condition of the network surface is an issue (8)	37
There are too many stiles on the network (9)	13
There is a lack of public transport to get me to the start of a right of way (10)	23
Something else (11)	24

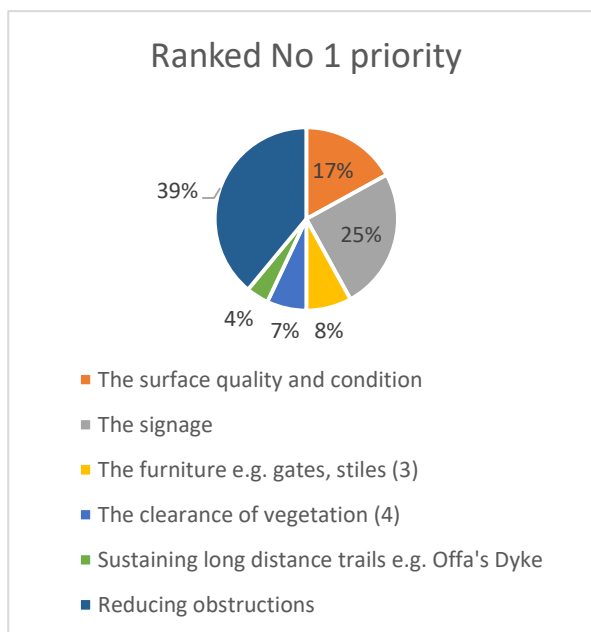
24 respondents choose "something else" as a deterrent. A mix of comments were given by these individuals including a lack of way marking, aggressive landowners and problems with bridges being out of action. A selection of a few comments is listed below.

7	I don't like walking on open land belonging to others
32	Footpaths on OS maps are not available on the ground. No stiles and blocked
48	Badly publicised and incorrect information given by rights of way
81	Not knowing where gates occur in lengthy barbed-wire fences
87	Bridges out of action
106	I actually dislike aimless plodding about!
152	Access land is not clearly marked on maps or on the ground.
156	Too many loose dogs so I don't feel safe using routes alone with my dog as he is small.
196	Aggressive landowners
247	illegal motorbikes in Dovey and Dyfnant forests riding on the bridleways
279	intimidating/contradictory firing information e.g., Mynydd Eppynt, Radnor Forest
303	I am disabled and use a hand driven wheelchair.

Q15. In simple terms there are six key aspects of the work that is conducted by the team to improve the rights of way network. Please place in order of importance.

The aspect which came out as a top priority was to reduce obstructions on the network with 39% of respondents selecting this first. 25% chose signage and 17% had ranked the network surface as their number one priority.

The upkeep and clearance of vegetation was a popular second choice with 48 respondents choosing this ahead of signage, the surface and tackling obstructions. Naturally it's very likely that respondents had chosen one of these as their first choice and thus had chosen the upkeep as their second.



Q16. In more detail what do you think our priorities should be for the future of the rights of way network? Please rank in order of importance.

Way marking and signage - maintaining and erecting more way markers to help people navigate the network on the public rights of way at entrances to access land	55
Information & promotional work - doing more to publicise and promote the network to both landowners and the general public. e.g. information boards, website	2
Practical improvement work - this would focus on making the network more easily accessible for people with mobility difficulties	7
General maintenance - opening up and maintaining routes and trails including installing gates and stiles and clearing overgrown vegetation	57
Resolving anomalies - working with landowners to resolve issues around things like access to cul de sacs paths etc.	17
Unrecorded routes -discovering and recording unrecorded routes	5
Definitive map work - updating and improving the definitive map where there is evidence to suggest this is needed	6
Active travel work - provide paths which link to public transport, places of work, shops and other amenities	2
Access management - work to improve user access to common land and open country	5
Health routes - target work on routes which can be used and promoted for exercise and recreation	2
School routes - increase links for access to the network by and for schools and their pupils	0
Education - to increase their knowledge and awareness of the countryside	4
Promoted routes - sustain the provision of promoted local and long distance trails	27

As can be seen in the table above the first ranked priorities were close with 57 respondents selecting general maintenance as the key priority and 55 choosing instead to select way marking and signage as theirs.

When looking at the rankings for the 13 priorities listed and adding up the scores for the things that residents selected in their top five they were as follows:

- General maintenance
- Way marking and signage
- Resolving anomalies

There were three priorities that scored the same in terms of the fourth priority. These were:

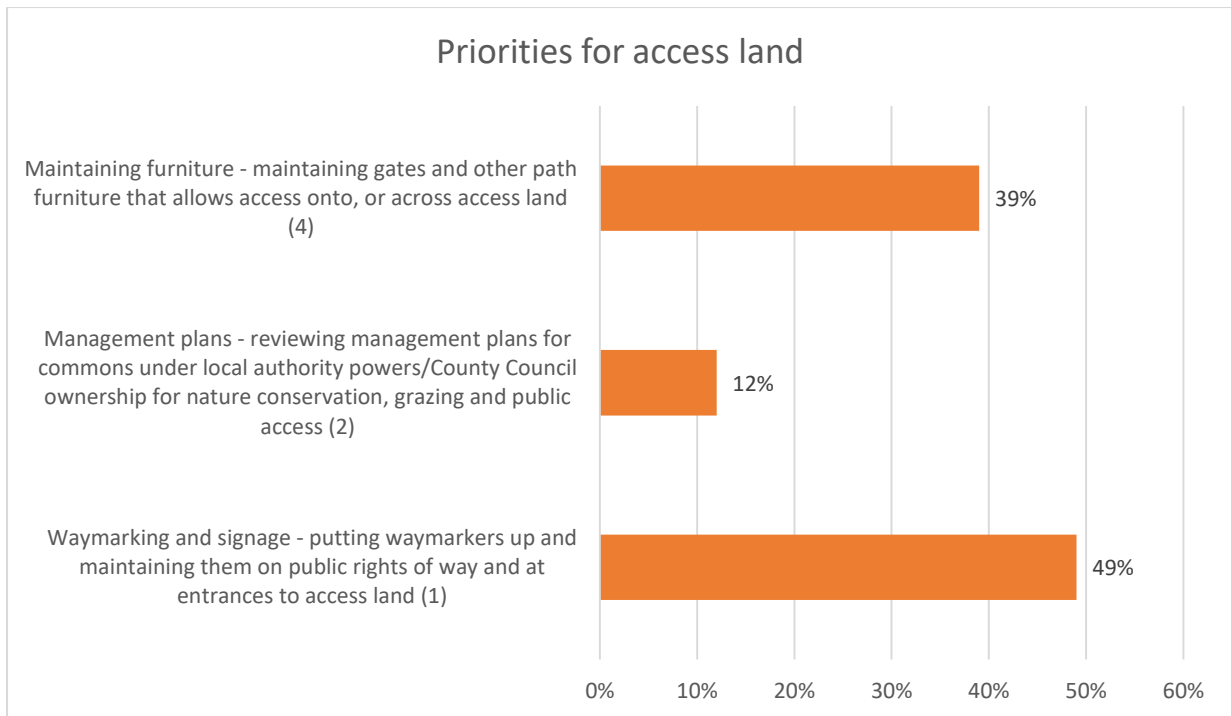
- Practical improvement work
- Unrecorded routes
- Access management

Finally work to the definitive map was considered to be a priority and ranked fifth with 69 respondents in total selecting this as one of their top five.

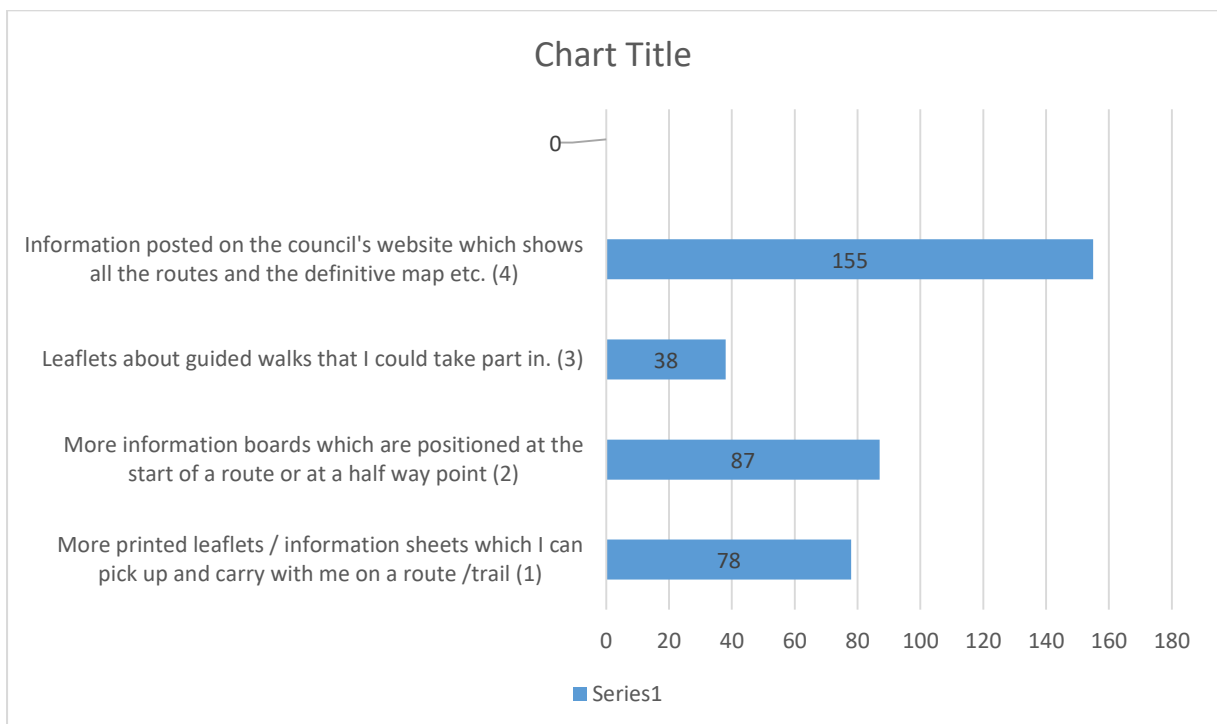
Priorities	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Way marking and signage	55	32	32	19	11	149
Information & promotional work	2	6	5	13	26	52
Practical improvement work	7	10	24	18	11	70
General maintenance	57	49	27	14	6	153
Resolving anomalies	17	24	28	20	18	107
Unrecorded routes	5	17	13	15	20	70
Definitive map work	6	13	15	16	19	69
Active travel work	2	6	7	8	4	27
Access management	5	10	15	21	19	70
Health routes	2	4	5	6	11	28
School routes	0	0	2	7	5	14
Education	4	7	1	2	10	24
Promoted routes	27	4	5	12	7	55

Q17. The council has some discretionary powers to carry out work in relation to access land. If funding becomes available in the future, what do you think our priorities for this work should be?

Again respondents were asked to rank the options in order of priority. Out of the three options listed way marking and signage came out as the top priority followed by maintaining gates and other furniture and then finally reviewing management plans.



Q18. What type of information would you find useful with regard to the rights of way network?



Respondents would on the whole find it useful for information to be posted on the council’s website followed by more information boards being positioned at the start or at a half-way point during a route. Only 38 respondents were keen to see more leaflets produced that they could take with them.

Q19. The council currently processes applications for diverting a right of way around a person's property or new housing developments or for conservation purposes. Looking at the list below please rank in order of importance.

Priorities	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Farmyard diversions	40	31	30	25	5	131
Diversions due to a new housing or road development	10	22	21	22	19	94
Diverting rights of way from a person's private garden	16	37	34	17	26	130
Diversions around woodlands or forests	3	5	4	5	12	29
Diversions which protect wildlife/flora or fauna i.e. conservation	28	25	16	20	24	113
Diverting rights of way to link with open access land	9	16	27	27	22	101
Diversion to avoid high maintenance costs	2	7	12	20	24	65
Packages that would resolve anomalies e.g. linking dead end paths to the network or roads	50	28	20	16	18	132
Diversions to make paths more convenient to use e.g. by moving them off steep ground	23	7	8	16	11	65

Viewing the table above it is clear to see that the top five priorities that people felt should be considered around diversions scored are:

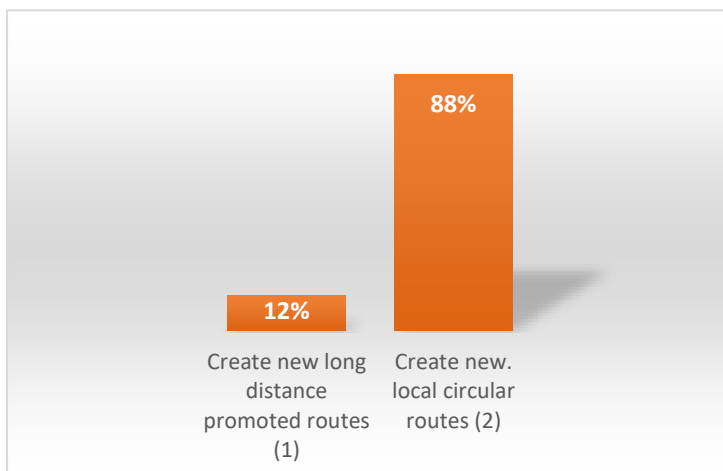
- Packages that would resolve anomalies
- Farmyard diversions
- Diverting rights of way from a person's private garden
- Diverting rights of way that protect wildlife/flora and fauna
- Diverting rights of way to link with open access land

Q20. The council also processes applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders, where someone believes that the DM is incomplete or incorrect and has evidence to support that. We must deal with all of these applications by law, but we do give some high priority to others. How do you think we should do that?

From the six options given respondents were generally keen to see applications where adding or upgrading a right of way would add significantly to the route or applications where a possible error has meant that the public cannot use a path tackled as priorities first and foremost.

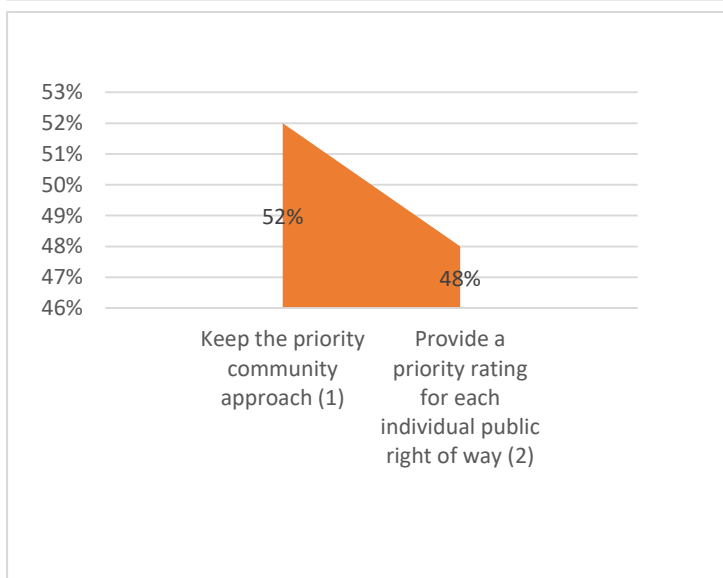
Priorities	1	2	3	Total
By date or receipt (1)	28	8	13	49
Applications that have strong supporting evidence (2)	15	30	42	87
Applications affecting sites where development is proposed (3)	5	10	26	41
Applications where someone's privacy or business are affected (4)	13	16	34	63
Applications where adding or upgrading a public right of way should add significantly to the network e.g. a missing link (5)	52	44	22	118
Applications where the possible error has meant that the public cannot use the path at all e.g. the path on the map passes through a very old building (6)	52	50	19	121

Q21. Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority.



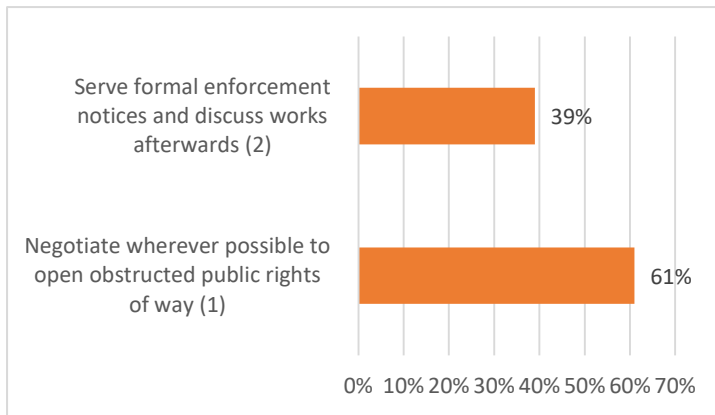
Respondents were given a series of dilemma questions and asked to decide which of the two options they would prefer to see the council prioritise.

Overwhelmingly respondents were in favour firstly of the council creating new local circular routes as opposed to creating long distance ones.

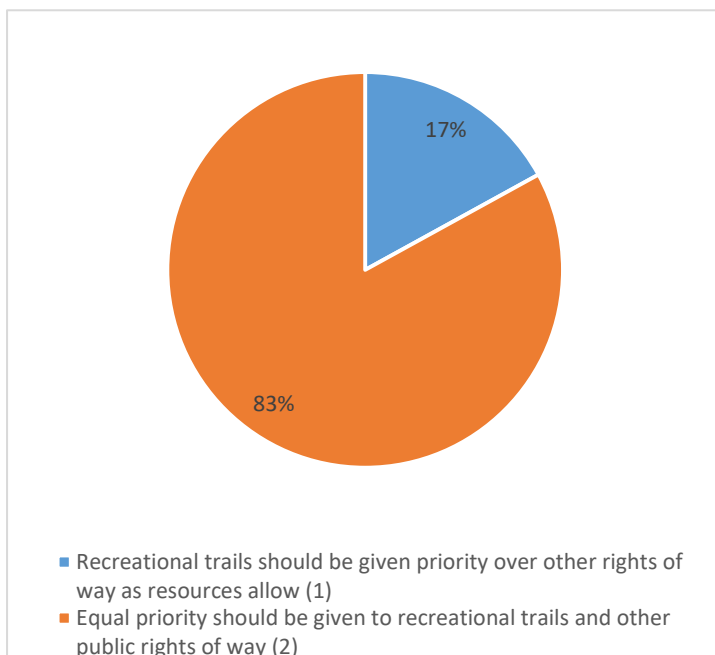


The second dilemma question resulted in a closer view with 52% wanting the council to stay with their priority community approach rather than create a rating for each and every individual public right of way.

However 48% had chosen the latter as their priority. The criteria used to maintain the network is thus something that splits those interested in the network.



The penultimate dilemma question resulted in 61% of respondents stating that they wanted the council to negotiate with land owners around obstructions to the network wherever possible. Just under a third felt we should move towards serving enforcement notices to progress things.



Finally, there was a clear view expressed around the issue of priority for recreational trails and all other rights of way.

83% of respondents felt that recreational trails should not take priority over other rights of way on the network and that they should all be given equal priority.

Conclusion:

The results from these surveys will help the service consider fully what actions should be included in the next iteration of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the next ten years.

Focus groups with access groups in the county will also aid understanding of issues which impact on residents with mobility issues so that consideration and due regard can be given to improvements to the network so that access is available for all that wish to use the rights of way in Powys.

Profile questions:

Every survey that is conducted by the council includes some specific questions about the respondent. These are called profile questions. The analysis of this data allows the council to consider whether the responses received are robust in terms of the population by considering who is responding from where and if there is anything significant in relation to the findings when comparing things like gender, age, marital status or ethnicity that needs further consideration.

The following provides details around this profile data of the respondents who completed the general survey. A number of respondents tend to choose not to answer these questions so the total number is a lot lower than the total number of respondents.

Gender	Number
Male	110
Female	68
Total	178

111 respondents chose not to give details of their gender.

Age	Number
Under 45	34
45 – 64 years	93
65+ years	57
Total	184

105 respondents chose not to give any details of their age.

From the above two charts it is clear that more men than women have responded to the survey. This does not mean necessarily that more men use the network but this could be the case. Reasons why women may not access the network as frequently as men could be down to a number of reasons including safety and confidence.

The age profile shows that more people aged between 45 – 64 years responded to the survey but overall there is a decent spread of age groups although it's likely that younger people may not have seen the survey via the channels by which it was publicised – hence the number being just over 30.

In terms of working status 40% were working full-time, 11% part-time and 10% self-employed. 33% were retired, 2% were looking after children, a further 2% were otherwise unemployed, 1% were unemployed and looking for work and one person(0.5%) was in full-time education.

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions, illnesses or impairments, lasting, or expected to last, 12 months or more?

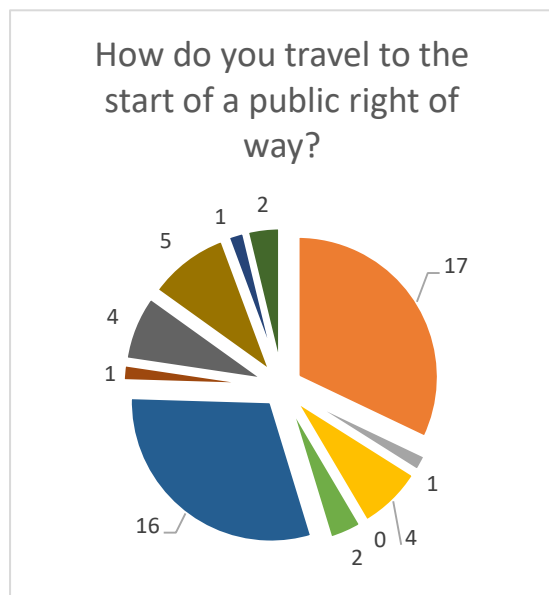
Condition	Number
Yes	25
No	144
Don't know	2
Total	171

15% of respondents who answered this question had a specific condition. Of these two said it affected their ability to carry out day to day activities a lot, 14 said it impacted on this a little and nine residents said it didn't do so at all.

The top two conditions that people had listed were hearing loss (13 respondents) and stamina, breathing loss and fatigue (12 respondents). A few other respondents had ticked mobility, mental health and visual impairments.

One of these residents stated that they didn't use the network and didn't want to whilst three people stated that they only used the network sometimes. However the remaining 21 classed themselves as regular users of the network. In terms of their use the majority of those with a condition were walkers (with or without dogs) and a couple said they ran or rode a motorbike occasionally.

There were no real differences in the views given by this group in comparison to the rest of the sample with regard to any problems encountered. The top four listed by these respondents were the same as the wider sample and were around poor way marking, the condition of the paths, obstructions and stiles and gates being in a poor state or inappropriate for use.



For the majority of the 25 respondents who stated they had a condition that impacted on their health they tended to walk and drive to the start of a public right of way which was similar to those without any condition.

However there was clearly more reliance on getting a bus or a lift for these respondents than other users without a health condition. 16% of residents with a health condition said they got a bus compared to 12% of respondents minus a health complaint, 20% got a lift compared to 11%, and 68% walked compared to 85% of those without a health condition. See charts below. Left: Respondents with a condition Right: Those without.

I walk (1)	17
I run (2)	1
I cycle (3)	4
I ride my horse (4)	0
I get there via a train (5)	2
I drive my car (6)	16
I get a taxi (7)	1
I get a bus (8)	4
I get a lift (9)	5
I use community transport (10)	1
I do something else (11)	2

I walk (1)	122
I run (2)	17
I cycle (3)	39
I ride my horse (4)	5
I get there via a train (5)	11
I drive my car (6)	113
I get a taxi (7)	0
I get a bus (8)	17
I get a lift (9)	16
I use community transport (10)	1
I do something else (11)	5

A note about market research and consultations conducted by Powys County Council.

When conducting market research companies use a margin of error and confidence level to ensure that their results are robust and representative of the population they are seeking views from. (I.e. the population of interest).

A public consultation however isn't market research as people choose to respond having normally seen publicity around the topic/survey. They are not contacted directly using a sampling methodology. People self-select so sometimes when conducting a consultation the organisation seeking views will most likely hear from people who are either strongly in favour/strongly object to a proposal/service change or from those who may have a specific interest in the topic being consulted upon. The silent majority may not give a view either way because the topic doesn't interest or concern them. When we analyse any consultation results we do consider how robust they are in terms of the population of interest.

For this exercise we have promoted and publicised the generic survey to all residents but then also considered and engaged some key stakeholder groups to capture their specific experiences of using the network. Having analysed the survey we feel that overall the findings do represent the views of a good mix of network users who are also residents.

We are also currently seeking views from residents who may have more problems accessing the network than the general population. These stakeholders include those who are blind, partially sighted, have mobility difficulties and who are mothers using pushchairs.

When conducting consultation exercise Powys County Council works to the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales.

<http://www.participationcymru.org.uk/national-principles>

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Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



This **Impact Assessment (IA)** toolkit incorporating Welsh Language, Equalities, Well-being of Future Generations Act, Sustainable Development Principles, Communication and Engagement, Safeguarding, Corporate Parenting, Community Cohesion and Risk Management supporting effective decision making and ensuring compliance with respective legislation.

Please read the accompanying guidance before completing the form.

Draft versions of the assessment should be watermarked as "Draft" and retained for completeness, however only the final version will be publically available. Draft versions may be provided to regulators if appropriate. In line with Council policy IAs should be retained for 6 years.

Service Area	Countryside Services	Head of Service	Stuart Mackintosh	Strategic Director	Ian Budd	Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Aled Davies
Proposal	To identify and assess the impact of reviewing the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.						
Outline Summary	The Rights of Way Improvement Plan is a statutory decennial document that identifies, prioritises, and plans for improvements to local public rights of way but will also include open access land and green spaces. It was first published in 2007, meaning that it is now due to be reviewed. The review is to incorporate how the Service is to improve service provision, and to take more of an account of community demand where it has been identified and to facilitate this by providing professional advice and a more flexible volunteer workforce.						

Page 369
Version Control (services should consider the impact assessment early in the development process and continually evaluate)

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
Version 1	Mark Stafford-Tolley	Countryside Access Officer	14.07.2017
Version 2	Mark Stafford-Tolley	Countryside Access Officer	18.08.2017
Version 3	Mark Stafford-Tolley	Senior Countryside Access Officer	19.02.2018
Version 4	Mark Stafford-Tolley	Senior Countryside Access Officer	15.05.2018

2. Impact on Other Service Areas

Does Proposal have potential to impact on another service area? (Including implication for Health and Safety and corporate parenting)

PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM / ENGAGE ANY AFFECTED SERVICE AREAS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY

Highways, Transport and Recycling
Regeneration
Active Travel Planners
Planning and Development Control
Health and Safety
Legal Services

† Page 370 How does your proposal impact on the council's strategic vision?

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Residents and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working more with interested community groups (community councils, walking groups), especially those with their own volunteers and funding could potentially either increase service delivery with existing resources or maintain delivery with a decrease in resources. It is currently not known how much interest there is, but there is a lot of untapped potential. Working with the Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster group, for which there is already evidenced benefit and positive outcomes. Utilising volunteers more effectively using Volunteer Team Leaders, and appropriate training so a wider range of work can be undertaken without the need for direct supervision. Working more with externally funded projects to open and maintain public rights of way. 	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively work with community groups to attain and sustain interest. Do not provide grants for the installation of gates or stiles. Minimum statutory contribution of 25% of the maintenance and repair of structures will be met by the provision of structures that can be collected from a Council yard by the landholder responsible for the structure. Ensure that Full Cost Recovery principles are adhered to for non-statutory services. Develop the Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster Group project and evaluate its potential for future work, allowing community volunteers to manage the public rights of way network to their own needs reducing the need for Council resources to negotiate and enforce the opening and maintenance of the public rights of way network. 	Choose an item.

Page 371

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Page 372

Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Health and Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large number and proportion of Countryside Services' volunteers are retired. Creating a diverse volunteer workforce and increasing the number of volunteers and keeping them active leads to prolonged well-being. • Public rights of way and Access land is an asset for the use of walking, cycling and horse riding amongst others and will facilitate tourism, healthy lifestyles and mental well-being. • Outdoor recreation makes a significant contribution to the physical and mental health of the population. It has been estimated that the cost of physical inactivity to Wales is around £650 million per year (<i>Climbing Higher: Creating an Active Wales, Welsh Government 2009</i>). • As well as the physical and mental benefits, the social benefits of participating on outdoor recreation, especially in rural isolated communities is clearly evidenced. • Within the Getting Wales Moving document March 2017 (Public Health Wales), it is an aspiration for all communities to have access to quality facilities and spaces for people to come together and to be active. 	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Service will work closely with the Powys Teaching Health Board and attend and contribute to the Healthy Weights Steering Group. • The Community Council and or various user group communities will be engaged prior to developing a "Priority Project Approach" for a three year work programme. • Liaise with Active Travel planners to develop and utilise public rights of way to provide for safe and appropriate active travel networks. • The existence of active community volunteers and a proactive community council will be a variable to the prioritisation of resources to provide and or improve public access. 	Very Good

<p>The Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public rights of way and access land is a valuable asset for walking, cycling and horse riding, and what it brings to the rural economy. • An important variable in prioritising resources of the Service is where communities show an interest to develop public access whether it is for economic or well-being benefits. • Walking alone as an activity generated £562 million of additional demand to the Welsh economy and around 11,980 person-years of employment (<i>Economic Impact of Walking and hill walking in Wales – Cardiff Business School 2011</i>). • Proximity to high quality green space, like parks, increase property values by 2.6%-11.2%. Additionally every £1 of public spend on green space projects levers in £4.20 of private investment boosting regeneration. (<i>Forest Research (2012) Economic Benefits of greenspace A critical assessment of evidence of net economic benefits</i>). • In total, £5.6bn was spent during visits to the outdoors for recreation by people living in Wales. (<i>NRW Welsh Outdoor recreation Survey 2014/15 Keys Facts</i>). • Peter Midmore’s 2000 report into the ‘Economic Value of Walking in Wales’ estimates the income from walking in rural Wales at £55 million and concludes that this supports 3,000 jobs. 	<p>Choose an item.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain statutory minimum provision as Cabinet have stated for public rights of way and work with volunteers to enable this. • Develop a 3 year rolling programme for the Priority Project Approach to develop a network that is fit for the needs of the community, but also to support tourism and diversity in the local economy. • Provide an electronic version of the Definitive Map on the Council’s website to better promote and provide freely available information on public access, specifically public rights of way. • 	<p>Choose an item.</p>
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Learning and Skills

- Public rights of way are an important asset to enable learners to travel to school safely, which could also be active travel routes but not exclusively so. This might improve the learner’s health and mental well-being as well as possibly increase educational attainment.
- Access to the countryside could be utilised as part of the educational curriculum as the Donaldson review suggested (by increasing physical activity during the school day) and reinforced by the “Getting Wales Moving” document (Public Health Wales) in Chapter 6.5.
- The benefits to the environment of encouraging responsible access to the outdoors are that people, especially those with no day to day contact with nature, learn to appreciate the natural environment and the need to protect it. The majority of Wales’ population live in urban areas, and it is important that through outdoor recreation they have opportunities to learn about and experience our cultural and natural heritage; and appreciate and understand the nature of farming, forestry, fishing and other rural land and water uses. *Improving opportunities to access the outdoors for responsible recreation, Welsh Government Green paper, July 2015.*
- Provide learning and new skills for volunteers and Volunteer Team Leaders.

Good

- Liaise with Active Travel planners to develop and utilise public rights of way to provide for safe and appropriate active travel networks.

Good

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council
Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements				
Already referenced.				

4. How does your proposal impact on the Welsh Assembly's well-being goals?

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council
Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
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<p>A prosperous Wales: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public rights of way are public highways, and can be utilised as part of the transportational network as well as the recreational network. An example of this is to include public rights of way as part of the Active Travel network. Active travel can assist with increasing physical activity and reducing car journeys, and therefore cost of fuel and Co2 emissions and possibly therefore increase opportunities to attain employment without the need for a vehicle. Walking alone as an activity generated £562 million of additional demand in the Welsh economy and around 11,980 person-years of employment (<i>Economic Impact of Walking and hill walking in Wales – Cardiff Business School 2011</i>). Powys is approximately one-quarter of the landmass of Wales, and being a largely rural authority the economic leverage from walking, as well as cycling and horse riding is very important. Giving the community the facility and provide professional advice to develop public access for their own advantage to maximise the socio-economic benefits of walking, cycling and horse riding as well as any other lawful public access. 	<p>Choose an item.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain statutory minimum provision as Cabinet have stated for public rights of way and work with volunteers to enable this. Develop a 3 year rolling programme for the Priority Project Approach to develop a network that is fit for the needs of the community, but also to support tourism and diversity in the local economy. Provide an electronic version of the Definitive Map on the Council's website to better promote and provide freely available information on public access, specifically public rights of way. It is part of the Council's statutory duty to keep open and maintained public rights of way and to keep the Definitive Map under continuous review. The Council has taken account of the findings from the ROWIP survey to determine how resources are to be prioritised and to maximise the potential for using public access as an enabler for economic prosperity. Community groups and external projects looking to develop public access will be one of the criteria for determining the next priority project for Area Officers. Working closely with Active Travel planners and utilising public rights of way in the active travel network. Procurement of path furniture as part of the work of the Service will be using local producers and fabricators as much as possible. 	<p>Choose an item.</p>
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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving the community the facility and provide professional advice to develop public access for their own advantage to maximise the socio-economic benefits of walking, cycling and horse riding as well as any other lawful public access. • Work with externally funded projects, such as projects that relate to developing an integrated landscape and contributing to Area Statements with the Environment (Wales) Act 2015. 	<p>Choose an item.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse the effectiveness of the Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster Group (VMRC) – Public Access project that will facilitate community volunteers to directly manage and maintain their public rights of way to meet their needs. Identify any other cluster groups, or community councils looking to do the same and provide the project’s framework. • Priority Project Areas will be developed on a three year rolling programme to prioritise paths to be reinstated to develop a public rights of way network in a geographic area. 	<p>Choose an item.</p>

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A healthier Wales: A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is well understood that physical exercise is good for your physical and mental well-being. Based on figures for 2007-08, the annual cost of mental ill health in Wales is estimated to be £7.2billion. <i>Together for Mental Health A Strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing in Wales by the Welsh Government (October 2012).</i> Passive or less strenuously active contact with green spaces can be psychologically and physiologically restorative, reducing blood pressure and stress levels. <i>Preference for Nature in Urbanized Societies by Van den Berg et al, cited in Benefits of Green Infrastructure by Forest Research, October 2010.</i> It has been estimated that the cost of physical inactivity to Wales is around £650 million per year. <i>Climbing higher: creating an active Wales by the Welsh Government 2009.</i> 	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of public access, specifically public rights of way is a statutory duty, and it is therefore determining the best way to apply the resources that are available to maximise potential. Providing the definitive map on the Council's website will better promote where public rights of way are so the public can understand where they can walk, cycle etc. Facilitate communities to identify and develop public access as to their own demands for their residents or to develop the local economy such as promoting walking festivals, or for a horse riding centre for example. The community could either be a community council, or a community of walkers, cyclists etc. 	<p>Very Good</p>

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community groups will be able to be more involved in developing public access in their area, and this will mean that the community will have public access fit for their needs. Public rights of way and Access land is an asset for the use of walking, cycling and horse riding amongst others and will facilitate tourism, healthy lifestyles and mental well-being. Liaise with Active Travel planners to develop and utilise public rights of way to provide for safe and appropriate active travel networks. 	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with and contribute to externally funded projects, such as Monty-Trax, Ride mid Wales and the Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster Group. The Service recognises that it is important to work with communities and partners to provide better public access, which can be used for recreational as well as transportational purposes. 	<p>Good</p>

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A globally responsible Wales: A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public rights of way will contribute to active travel goals that will in turn reduce Co2 levels by reducing the need or demand for the use of the car. Procuring local produce where it is appropriate to do so will reduce carbon footprint and keep economic prosperity within Powys. 	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide at least three yards across Powys so that landholders can pick up structures such as stiles and gates so they can install them. The provision of structures ensures structures meet BSI: 5709, or at least to the specification that the Council requires. It also ensures that the Council at least meets the 25 per cent contribution to the maintenance and repair of structures as provided for under the Highways Act 1980. The above will only be on the basis that any public subsidy paid to farmers includes the keeping of public rights of way free from obstruction. If this is the case, then it is expected that farmers will be requesting assistance and advice on providing suitable and adequate structures necessary to control stock on a public right of way. 	<p>Very Good</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>				
<p><i>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ROWIP will be produced bi-lingually. Any destination way-marking will be produced bi-lingually. Any promotional material produced will be bi-lingual. 	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any promotional material produced will be bi-lingual. 	<p>Good</p>

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
<i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ROWIP will be produced bi-lingually. Any destination way-marking will be produced bi-lingually. 	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any promotional material produced will be bi-lingual. 	Good
<i>Welsh Language impact on staff</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no impact. 	Neutral	N/A	Neutral
<i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The availability of public access, and for public access to be used as a “green gym” has been legally available for many years. By prioritising resources and utilising volunteers to their maximum effectiveness, then if public rights of way are promoted and more available then this could lead to an increase in recognition for their benefit as a recreational resource. 	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working closer with Sports development and Public Health Wales colleagues to develop more health walks and to use the outdoor recreational assets within the responsibility of Countryside Services. 	Good

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below										
A more equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).														
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anecdotally, public rights of way are traditionally used more by people who are middle-aged or have retired as they have surplus time and finance. This is backed up by the survey age profile (see table below) showing that more people aged between 45 – 64 years responded to the survey but overall there is a decent spread of age groups although it's likely that younger people may not have seen the survey via the channels by which it was publicised – hence the number being just over 30. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under 45</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45 – 64 years</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+ years</td> <td>57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>184</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>105 respondents chose not to give any details of their age.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otherwise public rights of way and public access is an asset available for all ages, it is more a question of re-balancing and promoting its use to the younger generation. 	Age	Number	Under 45	34	45 – 64 years	93	65+ years	57	Total	184	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is certainly scope to target a younger audience to use public access as a recreational resource. The provision and improvement of public access does not inherently it any less equal, other than perhaps that people who are time poor, or cannot travel by car are less likely to use the “green gym” as a recreational resource. 	Neutral
Age	Number													
Under 45	34													
45 – 64 years	93													
65+ years	57													
Total	184													

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<i>Disability</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the adopted Least Restrictive Approach, stiles are not authorised as a structure where a new fence is required for the purposes of stock control. Stiles are inherently more difficult to use than a gate, so a stile being authorised would need to be justified. • Ramps of no more than 1:12 are used for promoted routes for bridges and water crossings. • 15% of respondents who answered this question in the survey had a specific condition. Of these, 2 said it affected their ability to carry out day to day activities a lot, 14 said it impacted on this a little and nine residents said it didn't do so at all. • The top two conditions that people had listed were hearing loss (13 respondents) and stamina, breathing loss and fatigue (12 respondents). A few other respondents had ticked mobility, mental health and visual impairments. 	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All recreational trails will be surveyed and the structures will be photographed and provided for on-line so anybody to visualise the accessibility of a route. • Seek representation for somebody with mobility difficulties on the Local Access Forum. It has been difficult to do this, even after engagement with Disability Powys. 	Good
<i>Gender reassignment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No positive or negative impact. 	Neutral		Neutral
<i>Marriage or civil partnership</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No positive or negative impact. 	Neutral		Neutral
<i>Race</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No positive or negative impact. 	Neutral		Neutral
<i>Religion or belief</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No positive or negative impact. 	Neutral		Neutral

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below								
<p><i>Sex</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Gender</th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>178</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>111 respondents chose not to give details of their gender.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the above chart it is clear that more men than women have responded to the survey. This does not mean necessarily that more men use the network but this could be the case. Reasons why women may not access the network as frequently as men could be down to a number of reasons including safety and confidence. 	Gender	Number	Male	110	Female	68	Total	178	Neutral		Neutral
Gender	Number											
Male	110											
Female	68											
Total	178											
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No positive or negative impact. 	Neutral		Neutral								
<i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation was carried out with Mother's and Toddler's Group in Builth Wells. Most of the Mother's would use the rights of way network if they felt it was accessible and they knew the condition of the network was good and that there were potentially some shorter circular walks that they could do. The group also provided specific issues they would like to see addressed. 	Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a blog called Wild Child Wanderings which lists around 5/6 local walks which are child friendly. Liaise with PtHB about doing a joint buggy friendly walk digital story in liaison with Healthy Weights Steering Group or other appropriate forum. 	Neutral								

Page 386

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council
Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements				
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px;"></div>				

5. How does your proposal impact on the council's other key guiding principles?

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)				

Long Term: *Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

- It has been estimated that the cost of physical inactivity to Wales is around £650 million per year. Climbing higher: creating an active Wales by the Welsh Government 2009. Public access provision is instrumental in providing this. Preventative medicine is in the long term the most viable option, and with the increasing elderly population ever increasingly important to ensure a physical and mentally active population.
- Active travel is a long term aspiration of Welsh Government to increase opportunities for walking and cycling, and public rights of way will be really important especially within or on the fringes of urban areas.
- Public rights of way and access land is a valuable asset for walking, cycling and horse riding, and what it brings to the rural economy. These forms of recreation are essentially the bread and butter of our tourism industry, and any provision to meet demand would have a positive impact.
- For example, walking alone as an activity generated £562 of additional demand in the Welsh economy and around 11,980 person-years of employment (Economic Impact of Walking and hill walking in Wales – Cardiff Business School 2011). The ability to employ and retain the young population of Powys for walking, cycling and horse riding related tourism should not be underestimated.

Good

- Prioritise resources to reinstate and maintain public rights of way and public access provision to provide an asset to prevent mental ill-health and reducing the cost of physical inactivity.
- Utilising volunteers to undertake the above, which also provides a volunteer workforce being kept mentally and physically active in the maintenance and upkeep of public access provision.

Good

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>Collaboration: Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internally, working with key partners such as active travel planners, Legal Services, Regeneration Services (Tourism Officers), Planning Department and Public Health Wales. Externally, Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and neighbouring authorities. Additionally, working with Community Councils and groups and actively listen to their priorities to assist with the allocation of resources. 	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Community Councils and groups is a proposed positive impact, and there is an element of this already happening within the 2007-2017 ROWIP. However, engagement with Community groups was only after the area was being assigned as a priority under the "Priority Community Approach". Under the new approach, engagement with the communities will be a factor when prioritising resources and so this is regarded as an increase in collaboration. 	<p>Very Good</p>

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><i>Involvement (including Communication and Engagement):</i> <i>Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Community Councils and groups and actively listen to their priorities to assist with the allocation of resources. 	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Community Councils and groups is a proposed positive impact, and there is an element of this already happening within the 2007-2017 ROWIP. However, engagement with Community groups was only after the area was being assigned as a priority under the “Priority Community Approach”. Under the new approach, engagement with the communities will be a factor when prioritising resources and thereby provide an increase in collaboration and communication. Local Access Forums are statutory advisors to the Council on open air and recreation as well as local rights of way. The LAF, although have been in existence for a number of years have not been utilised in this way. The engagement with the LAF to assist the Council in prioritising resources is going to be a positive impact. 	<p>Good</p>

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>Prevention: <i>Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on figures for 2007-08, the annual cost of mental ill health in Wales is estimated to be £7.2billion. Together for Mental Health A Strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing in Wales by the Welsh Government (October 2012). Passive or less strenuously active contact with green spaces can be psychologically and physiologically restorative, reducing blood pressure and stress levels. Preference for Nature in Urbanized Societies by Van den Berg et al, cited in Benefits of Green Infrastructure by Forest Research, October 2010. It has been estimated that the cost of physical inactivity to Wales is around £650 million per year. Climbing higher: creating an active Wales by the Welsh Government 2009. Recreational use of motor vehicles on byways open to all traffic is an emotive subject, and has its own management issues. As such an informal advisory group called the Powys Byways User Group exists that involves user groups 	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise resources to reinstate and maintain public rights of way and public access provision to provide an asset to prevent mental ill-health and reducing the cost of physical inactivity. Utilising volunteers to undertake the above, which also provides a volunteer workforce being kept mentally and physically active in the maintenance and upkeep of public access provision. 	<p>Good</p>

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>Integration: <i>Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Service Board 2040 short-term vision for well-being includes public rights of way, and that they are not that accessible. This is the statutory body looking to integrate services and organisations. The 2040 vision also aspires to utilise and harness adventure tourism, which includes walking, cycling, etc. which Powys has a huge potential for growth. 	<p>Choose an item.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration with PtHB and Public Health Wales. Continue to meet and liaise with the above two organisations through the Health Weights Steering Group, and any other forum. Continue and strive to undertake the statutory duties and work more with volunteers. 	<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>Preventing Poverty: Prevention, including helping people into work and mitigating the impact of poverty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking alone as an activity generated £562 of additional demand in the Welsh economy and around 11,980 person-years of employment (Economic Impact of Walking and hill walking in Wales – Cardiff Business School 2011). Should public rights of way be invested, that it will have a positive impact for tourism and develop job opportunities. 	<p>Good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be as efficient as possible with the resources available to increase the potential for job growth in adventure tourism across Powys. 	<p>Good</p>
<p>Unpaid Carers: Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is not deemed to be an impact, other than perhaps for carers to be aware of what walks are available, especially ones that the person being cared for is physically able to use. 	<p>Unknown</p>		<p>Unknown</p>

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
Safeguarding: Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding is not the primary responsibility of Countryside Services' staff, but it is of course a responsibility of any member of staff to respond to suspected or actual neglect for those who cannot look after themselves. 	Choose an item.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and risk assess whether staff should attend safeguarding awareness course. 	Choose an item.
Impact on Powys County C Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Page 394

Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements

- Survey results taken from ROWIP 2017 survey.
- Consultation with Local Access Forum
- Internal partners.
- Stakeholder Working Group (a mix of various user groups).
- Other evidence is sourced within the ROWIP itself using Harvard referencing.

6. Achievability of proposal?

Impact on Service / Council	Risk to delivery of the proposal	Inherent Risk
Medium	Low	Medium

7. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this proposal?

Description of risks			
Risk Identified	Inherent Risk Rating	Mitigation	Residual Risk Rating

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal notice served upon the Council for not meeting statutory duties. 	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ROWIP although is a bidding document, and a strategic document to prioritise resources; it is also a defence to legal notice and or proceedings in how and why it has not met its statutory duties. 	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accident happening with volunteers and contractors 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe systems of work in place with appropriate risk assessments and training. 	Choose an item.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuing motorsport events are lawfully run on public highways (s.33 Road Traffic Act 1988) 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current policy is being reviewed to take into account Queen's Counsel opinion and concerns from Officers and motorsport organisers. 	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of byways and general "off-roading" issues with a continual threat of judicial reviews on any traffic regulation order or matter that motorised user groups disagree with. 	Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powys Byways User Group and expert professional knowledge already developed within the Service. 	High
	High		High
Overall judgement (to be included in project risk register)			
Very High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk

Page 395

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



8. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)	Cabinet Report Reference:	
The ROWIP is a statutory decennial management plan, for which this is the first review since the first ROWIP was published in 2007. The Council has a number of duties and powers with regard to public access, and the ROWIP sets out how the Council is to maintain and improve public access. The proposal is keeping up with reinstating		

9. Is there additional evidence to support the Impact Assessment (IA)?

What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?
Nil.

10. On-going monitoring arrangements?

What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly team meetings. • Quarterly performance indicators on the kilometres opened, repaired and improved.
Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.
At any time when the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (not the Delivery Plan) is reviewed.

11. Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Service Manager:			
Head of Service:			
Strategic Director:			
Portfolio Holder:			

Page 396

FORM ENDS

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**A2 Scrutiny Working Group
Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet – Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

The Group met on 23 May 2018 to consider the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

The Group acknowledge the extensive work undertaken so far and offer the following comments and suggestions:

- The Group support the approach taken regarding priorities
- Welcome discussions with communities regarding their own areas
- Consider a standard specification for signage
- Continue to liaise closely with regeneration and tourism services
- Develop a relationship with Building Control to prevent issues arising during development
- A more succinct executive summary would be beneficial

Membership of the A2 Scrutiny Group
County Councillors G Williams (Lead Member), K Curry, S Davies, E Durrant, G Jones and J Pugh

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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

6th July 2018

CABINET

10th July 2018

REPORT BY: Cllr. Aled Davies
Portfolio Holder for Finance

SUBJECT: Treasury Management Review 2017/18

REPORT FOR: Approval

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 The Council's Treasury Management Policy, as per the CIPFA Code of Practice, requires an annual report on Treasury Management activity to be approved by Cabinet by 30th September each year.
- 1.2 Treasury Management in this context is defined as:
"The management of the authority's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."

2. The Council's Overall Borrowing Need:

- 2.1 The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the current year's unfinanced capital expenditure and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
- 2.2 Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council's cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through external borrowing or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.

3. Strategy for 2017/18:

- 3.1 At the start of 2017/18 the Authority had an estimated Capital Financing Requirement of £326.5m, projected to rise by £72.5m during the course of the following four years to £399.0m. The Authority's external borrowing at 1st April 2017 stood at £251.4m. In relation to the CFR figure of £307.5m, this equated to the Authority being under borrowed by £56.1m.

- 3.2 The expectation for interest rates within the strategy for 2017/18 anticipated that Bank Rate would not start rising from 0.25% until Qtr 2 of 2019 and then only increase once more before 31st March 2020. There would also be gradual rises in medium and longer-term fixed borrowing rates during 2017/18 and the two subsequent financial years. Variable, or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period. Continued uncertainty promoted a cautious approach whereby investments would continue to be dominated by low counterparty risk considerations, resulting in relatively low returns compared to borrowing rates. In this scenario, the strategy was to postpone borrowing to avoid the cost of holding higher levels of investments.

The actual movement in gilt yields meant that longer term PWLB rates were volatile but with little overall direction whereas shorter term PWLB rates were on a rising trend during the second half of the year.

- 3.3 The Capital Programme for 2017/18 incorporated £28.2m of prudential borrowing at start of year so there was the possibility the Authority would need to externally borrow during the year. The agreed strategy for this at the start of the year, based on interest rate forecasts and discussions with Link (the Authority's advisors), was to set a benchmark of 1.40% for 5 year borrowing, 2.10% for 10 year borrowing, 2.70% for 25 year borrowing and 2.50% for 50 year borrowing. This was revised several times during the year before ending at 1.90% for 5 year borrowing, 2.50% for 10 year borrowing, 2.80% for 25 year borrowing and 2.60% for 50 year borrowing.
- 3.4 In light of the continuing stress on the world banking system, enhanced priority was given to the security and liquidity of investments.

The strategy for investments therefore was:

- a) to ensure the security of the Authority's funds
- b) to ensure the Authority had sufficient liquidity to meet its cashflow requirements
- c) to achieve the optimum yield after ensuring a) and b) above.

4. Treasury Position:

- 4.1 The major issue for Treasury Management in 2017/18, alongside reducing cash balances, was the continuing challenging environment of previous years i.e. low investment returns and continuing counterparty risk which meant giving heightened preference to security and liquidity of investments. This resulted in the investment portfolio being in short-term investment instruments with lower rates of return but higher security and liquidity.
- 4.2 In order to balance the impact of the loss in investment income the Authority was mindful of the possibility of making premature repayments of debt if circumstances were conducive to this.

Net borrowing increased by £28.451M in the year. This increase arose as follows:

	£000s
Decrease in PWLB debt	(19)
Increase/Decrease in LOBO debt	Nil
Increase/Decrease in Market debt	20,000
Decrease in Temporary Borrowing	(20,000)
Decrease in Investments	28,470
	28,451

4.3 The table below summarises the borrowing and investment transactions during the year:

	Balance 01-04-17	Borrowing	Investments	Repayments	Balance 31-03-18
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
PWLB *	181,378	Nil	N/A	(19)	181,359
LOBOs *	40,000	Nil	N/A	Nil	40,000
Market Loans	5,000	20,000	N/A	Nil	25,000
Temporary Borrowing	25,000	42,330	N/A	(62,330)	5,000
Total	251,378	62,330	N/A	(62,349)	251,359
Temporary Investments	(31,425)	N/A	(237,748)	266,218	(2,955)
Long Term Investments	Nil	N/A	Nil	Nil	Nil
Net Borrowing	219,953	62,330	(237,748)	203,869	248,404

Note: * Public Works Loan Board / Lender's Option Borrower's Option

4.4 A summary of the economy for 2017/18 is at Appendix A.

5. Debt Rescheduling/Repayment:

5.1 No rescheduling was done during the year as the average 1% differential between PWLB new borrowing rates and premature repayment rates made rescheduling unviable.

6. Performance Measurement:

6.1 Whilst investment performance criteria have been well developed and universally accepted, debt performance indicators continue to be a more problematic area with the traditional average portfolio rate of interest acting as the main guide. In this context, the overall average rate of interest paid on all debt in 2017/18 was 4.38%.

	31.03.18 £000's	Average rate for year	31.03.17 £000's	Average rate for year
Total debt	251,359	4.38%	251,378	4.51%
CFR	313,873		307,524	
Over/(under borrowing)	(62,514)		(56,146)	

6.2 The Treasury Management Policy stipulates that the Average Rate on External Investments should be compared with the 3-month un compounded LIBID rate. This is in preference to the 7-day un compounded LIBID rate and is in line with Link's advice. It reflects a more realistic neutral investment position for core investments with a medium-term horizon and a rate which is more stable with less fluctuations caused by market liquidity. Historically, the 3-month rate has been slightly higher than the 7-day rate and is, therefore, more challenging for the cash manager.

6.3

Average investments held during 2017/18 £000's	Average rate achieved	3 month LIBID	Average investments held during 2016/17 £000's	Average rate achieved	3 month LIBID
11,550	0.36%	0.587%	23,445	0.56%	0.32%

In 2017/18 the average rate on external investments achieved was 0.36% compared with the 3 month un compounded LIBID rate of 0.587%. This was as expected due to the reduced and short-term nature of the Council's cash balances available for investment.

7. Summary Statement of Accounts

7.1 The Treasury Management Policy Statement stipulates that a summary Statement of Accounts for Treasury Management be produced at the year end and reported as part of the annual review (see Appendix B).

8. Prudential/Treasury Indicators

9.1 During the year the Authority operated the treasury limits as approved by Council.

9. Member Training

9.1 The CIPFA Code of Practice states that members charged with governance (all members as the annual strategy requires approval by Full Council) have a personal responsibility to ensure that they have the appropriate skills and training for their role. As such, the Authority provided two members' briefing sessions for treasury management in 2017/18.

10. Treasury Management Policy Statement

- 10.1 Any major changes to the Treasury Management Policy Statement are reported to Cabinet whilst any minor changes are circulated to members via the members' portal.

The Statement is available on the Intranet at:

<http://intranet.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=4585>

Proposal

It is proposed that the Treasury Management Review Report is approved.

Statutory Officers

Chief Finance Officer's comment:

The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the report's contents and that by receiving the report before 30th September the Cabinet has met the Council's responsibility under the code of practice.

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has made the following comment: "I have nothing to add to the report".

Future Status of the Report

Not applicable

Recommendation:		Reason for Recommendation:	
The contents of this report are approved.		Statutory requirement	
Person(s) To Action Decision			
Date By When Decision To Be Actioned:			
Relevant Policy (ies):	Financial Regulations, Treasury Management Policy		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	N/A
Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Ann Owen	826327	826290	ann.owen@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Treasury Management Policy Statement
CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes
Advisor's Papers

Appendix A:

UK. The outcome of the EU referendum in June 2016 resulted in a gloomy outlook and economic forecasts from the Bank of England based around an expectation of a major slowdown in UK GDP growth, particularly during the second half of 2016, which was expected to push back the first increase in Bank Rate for at least three years. Consequently, the Bank responded in August 2016 by cutting Bank Rate by 0.25% to 0.25% and making available over £100bn of cheap financing to the banking sector up to February 2018. Both measures were intended to stimulate growth in the economy. This gloom was overdone as the UK economy turned in a G7 leading growth rate of **1.8% in 2016**, (actually joint equal with Germany), and followed it up with another **1.8% in 2017**, (although this was a comparatively weak result compared to the US and EZ).

During the calendar year of 2017, there was a major shift in expectations in financial markets in terms of how soon Bank Rate would start on a rising trend. After the UK economy surprised on the upside with strong growth in the second half of 2016, growth in 2017 was disappointingly weak in the first half of the year, growth in the first half of 2017 was the slowest for the first half of any year since 2012. The main reason for this was the sharp increase in inflation, caused by the devaluation of sterling after the EU referendum, feeding increases into the cost of imports into the economy. This caused a reduction in consumer disposable income and spending power as inflation exceeded average wage increases. Consequently, the services sector of the economy, accounting for around 75% of GDP, saw weak growth as consumers responded by cutting back on their expenditure. However, growth did pick up in quarter 3 to 0.5% before dipping slightly to 0.4% in quarter 4.

Consequently, market expectations during the autumn rose significantly that the MPC would be heading in the direction of imminently raising Bank Rate. The **MPC meeting of 14 September** provided a shock to the markets with a sharp increase in tone in the minutes where the MPC considerably hardened their wording in terms of needing to raise Bank Rate very soon. The **2 November MPC quarterly Inflation Report meeting** duly delivered on this warning by withdrawing the 0.25% emergency rate cut which had been implemented in August 2016. Market debate then moved on as to whether this would be a one and done move for maybe a year or more by the MPC, or the first of a series of increases in Bank Rate over the next 2-3 years. The MPC minutes from that meeting were viewed as being dovish, i.e. there was now little pressure to raise rates by much over that time period. In particular, the GDP growth forecasts were pessimistically weak while there was little evidence of building pressure on wage increases despite remarkably low unemployment. The MPC forecast that CPI would peak at about 3.1% and chose to look through that breaching of its 2% target as this was a one off result of the devaluation of sterling caused by the result of the EU referendum. The inflation forecast showed that the MPC expected inflation to come down to near the 2% target over the two to three year time horizon. This all seemed to add up to cooling expectations of much further action to raise Bank Rate over the next two years.

However, GDP growth in the second half of 2017 came in stronger than expected while, in the new year, there was evidence that wage increases had started to rise. The **8 February MPC meeting** minutes therefore revealed another sharp hardening in MPC warnings focusing on a reduction in spare capacity in the economy, weak increases in productivity, higher GDP growth forecasts and a shift of their time horizon to focus on the 18 – 24 month period for seeing inflation come down to 2%. (CPI inflation ended the year at 2.7%

but was forecast to still be just over 2% within two years.) This resulted in a marked increase in expectations that there would be another Bank Rate increase in May 2018 and a bringing forward of the timing of subsequent increases in Bank Rate. This shift in market expectations resulted in **investment rates** from 3-12 months increasing sharply during the spring quarter. The May increase did not happen due to a sharp downturn in economic data in Qtr 1 but sentiment is that there will now be a rise in November 2018.

PWLB borrowing rates increased correspondingly to the above developments with the shorter term rates increasing more sharply than longer term rates. In addition, UK gilts have moved in a relatively narrow band this year, (within 25 bps for much of the year), compared to **US treasuries**. During the second half of the year, there was a noticeable trend in treasury yields being on a rising trend with the Fed raising rates by 0.25% in June, December and March, making six increases in all from the floor. The effect of these three increases was greater in shorter terms around 5 year, rather than longer term yields.

As for **equity markets**, the FTSE 100 hit a new peak near to 7,800 in early January before there was a sharp selloff in a number of stages during the spring, replicating similar developments in US equity markets.

The major UK landmark event of the year was the inconclusive result of the **general election** on 8 June. However, this had relatively little impact on financial markets. However, **sterling** did suffer a sharp devaluation against most other currencies, although it has recovered about half of that fall since then. Brexit negotiations have been a focus of much attention and concern during the year but so far, there has been little significant hold up to making progress.

The **manufacturing sector** has been the bright spot in the economy, seeing stronger growth, particularly as a result of increased demand for exports. It has helped that growth in the EU, our main trading partner, has improved significantly over the last year. However, the manufacturing sector only accounts for around 11% of GDP so expansion in this sector has a much more muted effect on the average total GDP growth figure for the UK economy as a whole.

EU. Economic growth in the EU, (the UK's biggest trading partner), was lack lustre for several years after the financial crisis despite the ECB eventually cutting its main rate to -0.4% and embarking on a massive programme of quantitative easing to stimulate growth. However, growth eventually picked up in 2016 and subsequently gathered further momentum to produce an overall GDP figure for 2017 of 2.3%. Nevertheless, despite providing this massive monetary stimulus, the ECB is still struggling to get inflation up to its 2% target and in March, inflation was still only 1.4%. It is, therefore, unlikely to start an upswing in rates until possibly towards the end of 2019.

USA. Growth in the American economy was volatile in 2015 and 2016. 2017 followed that path again with quarter 1 at 1.2%, quarter 2 3.1%, quarter 3 3.2% and quarter 4 2.9%. The annual rate of GDP growth for 2017 was 2.3%, up from 1.6% in 2016. Unemployment in the US also fell to the lowest level for 17 years, reaching 4.1% in October to February, while wage inflation pressures, and inflationary pressures in general, have been building. The Fed has been the first major western central bank to start on an upswing in rates with six increases since the first one in December 2015 to lift the central rate to 1.50 – 1.75% in March 2018. There could be a further two or three increases in 2018 as the Fed faces a challenging situation with GDP growth trending upwards at a time when the recent Trump

fiscal stimulus is likely to increase growth further, consequently increasing inflationary pressures in an economy which is already operating at near full capacity. In October 2017, the Fed also became the first major western central bank to make a start on unwinding quantitative easing by phasing in a gradual reduction in reinvesting maturing debt.

Chinese economic growth has been weakening over successive years despite repeated rounds of central bank stimulus and, medium term risks are increasing. Major progress still needs to be made to eliminate excess industrial capacity and the stock of unsold property, and to address the level of non-performing loans in the banking and credit systems.

Japan. GDP growth has been improving to reach an annual figure of 2.1% in quarter 4 of 2017. However, it is still struggling to get inflation up to its target rate of 2% despite huge monetary and fiscal stimulus, although inflation has risen in 2018 to reach 1.5% in February. It is also making little progress on fundamental reform of the economy.

Appendix B:

Statement of Accounts Treasury Management

		2017/18	2017/18	2016/17
		Actual	Budget	Actual
		£	£	£
Employees		146,496	165,000	160,103
Transport	*1	2,002,811	1,514,310	1,537,011
Supplies & Services		199,711	205,000	199,815
Interest Paid	*2	10,398,779	10,791,945	9,924,698
Debt Management Expenses		30,947	6,000	0
Gross Expenditure		12,778,744	12,682,255	11,821,627
Interest Received	*3	67,066	0	140,032
Gross Income		67,066	0	140,032
Net Expenditure		12,711,678	12,682,255	11,681,595

Note 1: Transport relates to the cost of leasing/hire across the Authority and is included in the Treasury Management Statement of Accounts as leasing is classed as a Treasury Management activity.

Note 2: Supplies & Services: £138k dr/cr card charges, £38k bank charges

Note 3: A surplus of £67k on interest received was achieved as the Authority carried higher cash balances than expected during parts of the year.

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Delegated Decision List

19 June	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, Housing and Public Protection	Approved the purchase of the Youth Centre in Newtown and transfer to the Housing Revenue Account.
25 June	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, Housing and Public Protection	Declared properties in Foundry Terrace, Llanidloes surplus to requirements.
25 June	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, Housing and Public Protection	Approved the re-designation of properties from Older Persons to General Needs / Flexible Letting.
26 June	Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care	Approved the issue of a Prior Indicative Notice for the Council's residential care property portfolio.
27 June	Leader	Approved the Risk Management Strategy

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18/07/18	26/06/18	School Organisation Proposal Ysgol Llanerfyl and Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Marianne Evans (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
18/07/18		21st C Schools Programme – Welshpool Primary Project and Ysgol Calon Cymru	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Marianne Evans (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
31/07/18		Treasury Management Report for Quarter 1 2017/18	Aled Wyn Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Ann Owen (CSP - Finance)	Cabinet
31/07/18		Parking Charges and Concessions	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Tony Caine (CSP - Highways Technical)	Portfolio Holder
31/07/18		PPD	Stephen Hayes (CSP - County Councillor)	Alison Bulman (CSP - Policy and Care Services)	Cabinet
31/07/18		Corporate Safeguarding Board Six-Month Update Report	Aled Wyn Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	David Powell (CSP - Support Services)	Cabinet
18/09/18		Update from the Anti-Poverty Champion		Joy Jones (CSP - County Councillor)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Budget Outturn Report	Aled Wyn Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Jane Thomas (CSP - Finance)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Review of 3rd Sector Social Care Grants	Stephen Hayes (CSP - County Councillor)	Dylan Owen (CSP - Policy and Care Services)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Home to School Transport (post-consultation)	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)		Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	ALN Strategic Review - Progress Report	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Imtiaz Bhatti (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Mid Powys Welsh medium Primary Review	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Marianne Evans (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Flood Risk Management Plan	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Alastair Knox (CSP - Highways Technical)	Cabinet

18/09/18	04/09/18	Highways Asset Management Plan	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Alastair Knox (CSP - Highways Technical)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Schools Service Asset Management Plan	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)		Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Skills & Employability Strategy	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Marianne Evans (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Child burial fees	James Evans (CSP - County Councillor)	Nia Hughes (CSP - Environmental Health)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Hay Town Council	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Clive Pinney (CSP - Corporate Legal and Democratic Services)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Digital Learning in Schools	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Eurig Towns (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	New SLAs - Traded and non traded	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)		Cabinet
18/09/18		Update from the Chair of Improvement and Assurance Board		Caroline Evans (CSP - Finance)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	CIP Performance Reports	Aled Wyn Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Emma Palmer (CSP - Strategic Policy and Performance)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Integration of Mental Health Services	Stephen Hayes (CSP - County Councillor)	Louise Barry (CSP - Policy and Care Services)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Adoption of Additional Land Drainage Bye-laws	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Alastair Knox (CSP - Highways Technical)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Sustainable Drainage Approval Body	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Alastair Knox (CSP - Highways Technical)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Strategic Equality Plan Light Review	James Evans (CSP - County Councillor)	Bets Ingram (CSP - Corporate Insight Centre)	Cabinet

18/09/18	04/09/18	Farms Policy	Rosemarie Harris (CSP - County Councillor)	Natasha Morgan (CSP - Regeneration and Corporate Property)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Corporate Car Parking Savings Options	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Natasha Morgan (CSP - Regeneration and Corporate Property)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	North Office Paper Final Recommendations	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Natasha Morgan (CSP - Regeneration and Corporate Property)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Regional Partnership Board Annual Report	Stephen Hayes (CSP - County Councillor)	Dylan Owen (CSP - Policy and Care Services)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Llanfyllin All Through School	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Marianne Evans (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Virtual Learning	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Marianne Evans (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Business Case for an integrated family support service for Powys	Rachel Powell (CSP - County Councillor)	Shelley Davies (CSP - Young Peoples Partnership)	Cabinet
18/09/18	04/09/18	Business Case for an integrated youth support and emotional wellbeing service for Powys	Rachel Powell (CSP - County Councillor)	Shelley Davies (CSP - Young Peoples Partnership)	Cabinet
28/09/18		Highways Winter Plan	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Shaun James (CSP - Highways Technical)	Portfolio Holder
28/09/18		Approval of Food Safety and Health & Safety plans.	James Evans (CSP - County Councillor)	Beverley Cadwallader (CSP - Commercial and Food)	Portfolio Holder

28/09/18	Prosecution enforcement policy	James Evans (CSP - County Councillor)	Clive Jones (CSP - Trading Standards)	Portfolio Holder
09/10/18	25/09/18 WHQS Completion	James Evans (CSP - County Councillor)	Simon Inkson (CSP - Housing Solutions)	Cabinet
09/10/18	25/09/18 Adult Social Care Strategies	Stephen Hayes (CSP - County Councillor)	Dylan Owen (CSP - Policy and Care Services)	Cabinet
09/10/18	25/09/18 Schools Service Asset Management Plan	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Ian Budd (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
09/10/18	25/09/18 Schools Budgets update	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Anne Phillips (CSP - Finance)	Cabinet
09/10/18	25/09/18 Supplementary Planning Guidance	Martin Weale (CSP - County Councillor)	Peter Morris (CSP - Regeneration and Corporate Property)	Cabinet
09/10/18	25/09/18 Improvement and Assurance Board		Caroline Evans (CSP - Finance)	Cabinet
09/10/18	25/09/18 Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Aled Wyn Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Mark Stafford-Tolley (CSP - Countryside Services)	Cabinet
09/10/18	25/09/18 Corporate Landlord	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Natasha Morgan (CSP - Regeneration and Corporate Property)	Cabinet
09/10/18	25/09/18 Review of Pre School Provision	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Eurig Towns (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
09/10/18	25/09/18 Admissions	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Anne Wozencraft (CSP - Central Support Services Team)	Cabinet
06/11/18	23/10/18 Treasury Management Report for Quarter 2 2017/18	Aled Wyn Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Ann Owen (CSP - Finance)	Cabinet

06/11/18	23/10/18	Homelessness Strategy	James Evans (CSP - County Councillor)	Simon Inkson (CSP - Housing Solutions)	Cabinet
06/11/18	23/10/18	Annual Estyn Inspection Outcomes	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Ian Budd (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
06/11/18	16/10/18	Primary and Secondary School Standards, attendance and exclusions	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Imtiaz Bhatti (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
06/11/18	23/10/18	Development of National Significance	Martin Weale (CSP - County Councillor)	Gwilym Davies (CSP - Development Control)	Cabinet
28/11/18	13/11/18	Budget Outturn Report	Aled Wyn Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Jane Thomas (CSP - Finance)	Cabinet
28/11/18	13/11/18	Capital Programme Update	Aled Wyn Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Jane Thomas (CSP - Finance)	Cabinet
28/11/18	13/11/18	Newtown Bypass De-trunking	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Shaun James (CSP - Highways Technical)	Cabinet
28/11/18	13/11/18	Fair Funding Review & Scheme for Financing Schools (post-consultation)	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Anne Phillips (CSP - Finance)	Cabinet
28/11/18	13/11/18	ALN Strategic Review - Progress Report	Myfanwy Catherine Alexander (CSP - County Councillor)	Imtiaz Bhatti (CSP - Schools Service)	Cabinet
28/11/18	13/11/18	CIP Performance Data	Aled Wyn Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Emma Palmer (CSP - Strategic Policy and Performance)	Cabinet
28/11/18	13/11/18	HAMP	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Alastair Knox (CSP - Highways Technical)	Cabinet
30/11/18		Traffic Regulation Orders	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Tony Caine (CSP - Highways Technical)	Portfolio Holder
30/11/18		Food Hygiene Rating System Audit by FSA	James Evans (CSP - County Councillor)	Beverley Cadwallader (CSP - Commercial and Food)	Portfolio Holder
30/11/18		Implications of Grenfell	Martin Weale (CSP - County Councillor)	Ian Maddox (CSP - Building Control)	Portfolio Holder

18/12/18		Update from the Anti-Poverty Champion		Joy Jones (CSP - County Councillor)	Cabinet
18/12/18	04/12/18	Budget Outturn Report	Aled Wyn Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Jane Thomas (CSP - Finance)	Cabinet
18/12/18	04/12/18	Capital Programme Update	Aled Wyn Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Jane Thomas (CSP - Finance)	Cabinet
18/12/18	04/12/18	Review of Day Time Activities for Older People	Stephen Hayes (CSP - County Councillor)	Dylan Owen (CSP - Policy and Care Services)	Cabinet
18/12/18	04/12/18	Corporate Safeguarding 6 monthly update	Rachel Powell (CSP - County Councillor)	Emma Palmer (CSP - Strategic Policy and Performance)	Cabinet
18/12/18	04/12/18	South Office Review	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Natasha Morgan (CSP - Regeneration and Corporate Property)	Cabinet
18/12/18	04/12/18	Gambling Policy	James Evans (CSP - County Councillor)	Beverley Cadwallader (CSP - Commercial and Food)	Cabinet
15/01/19	08/01/19	Joint Dementia Action Plan	Stephen Hayes (CSP - County Councillor)	Dylan Owen (CSP - Policy and Care Services)	Cabinet
05/02/19	22/01/19	Toilet Strategies	Phyl Davies (CSP - County Councillor)	Alastair Knox (CSP - Highways Technical)	Cabinet

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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