

# County Council

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

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Meeting date  
**Thursday, 22 February 2018**

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Meeting time  
**10.30 am**

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For further information please contact  
**Stephen Boyd**  
01597 826374  
steve.boyd@powys.gov.uk



County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

15 February 2018

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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

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## AGENDA

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
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To receive apologies for absence.

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting as a correct record.  
(Pages 9 - 64)

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
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To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be considered on the agenda.

<b>4.</b>	<b>REPORT OF THE FINANCE SCRUTINY PANEL ON THE BUDGET</b>
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To consider the report of the Finance Scrutiny Panel on the budget.  
(Pages 65 - 70)

<b>5.</b>	<b>BUDGET FOR 2018-19, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018-2023 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2018-2023</b>
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To consider the budget for 2018-19, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-23 and Capital Programme for 2018-2023.  
(Pages 71 - 678)

<b>6.</b>	<b>WAO ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2016-17</b>
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To consider the Wales Audit Office Annual Audit Letter 2016-17.  
(Pages 679 - 810)

<b>7.</b>	<b>CAPITAL VIREMENTS</b>
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7.1. **Virement for Ladywell House Refurbishment**

(Pages 811 - 814)

7.2. **Virement for the replacement of Primary and Secondary School for Ysgol Bro Dyfi**

(Pages 815 - 818)

<b>8.</b>	<b>EXTENSION TO THE TERM OF OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT (LAY) MEMBER ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
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To consider a report by the Solicitor to the Council.  
(Pages 819 - 820)

<b>9.</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>
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To consider recommendations from the Democratic Services Committee.  
(Pages 821 - 822)

<b>10.</b>	<b>APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES</b>
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To note the following appointments to committees made by political groups and approved by the Monitoring Officer under the general power of delegation granted by Council on 16 May 2013:

County Councillor Gareth Pugh appointed to the Planning, Taxi Licensing and Rights of Way Committee in place of County Councillor Mark Barnes.

County Councillor Joy Jones appointed to the Licensing Act 2003 Committee in place of County Councillor Ange Williams.

County Councillor Jon Williams appointed to the Employment and Appeals Committee in place of County Councillor Ange Williams.

## 11. NOTICES OF MOTION

### 11.1. Notice of Motion - Waiver of Registration Fees

The Welsh Government have made £1.5m available until 2020 to support local authorities so that burial and cremation fees for children could be scrapped in Wales with immediate effect.

Sadly fees for registering the deaths of children has not been scrapped as part of this and remain a statutory fee. In light of this we call on Powys county council to follow Ceredigion County council and waive these fees.

Motion

We call on Powys county council to waive all costs for registering a stillbirth, the death of a baby who died before their birth was registered, as well as for all other under 18s.

Proposer: County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe

Seconder: County Councillor Pete Roberts

### 11.2. Notice of Motion - Broadband

#### MOTION

In view of the publication of the report by the House of Commons Library, see below, highlighting the fact that Montgomeryshire is in the top 10 constituencies with worst broadband speeds, the Council calls on Welsh Government when determining the new £80m investment contract to expand access to fibre broadband, to prioritise Montgomeryshire as a key target area in order to ensure access to services and enable the sustainable development of our economy.

Proposer: County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan

Seconder: County Councillor Bryn Davies

#### LINES UNABLE TO RECEIVE 'DECENT' SPEEDS

Around 3% of premises can't receive 'decent' download speeds - defined by Ofcom as 10 Mbps. The inability to receive 10 Mbps is an eligibility criterion for the planned [Universal Service Obligation](#).

In the majority of constituencies, less than 2% of lines are unable to receive 10 Mbps. However, there are parts of the UK where the figure is much higher. The table below shows our estimate of the ten constituencies with the highest proportion of lines unable to receive decent download speeds.

HIGHEST % UNABLE TO RECEIVE DECENT SPEEDS (10 Mbps)	
Kingston upon Hull East	33%
Orkney and Shetland	25%
Ross, Skye and Lochaber	25%
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	20%
Ceredigion	18%
Montgomeryshire	18%
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	18%
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	17%
Argyll and Bute	17%
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	16%

### 11.3. **Notice of Motion - Heart of Wales Property Services Ltd**

#### **This Council:**

- Recognises the investment the Council is making in its Joint Venture Company Heart of Wales Property Services LTD;
- Recognises the need for the Council to manage its corporate estate;
- Supports Council tenants' right to repair in reasonable timeframes;
- Is concerned by the time taken to return empty council houses to use after a tenant departs;
- Recognises the concerns raised by residents and Councillors about the performance of Heart of Wales Property Services LTD and therefore:

#### **This Council resolves to:**

- Undertake a comprehensive review into the effectiveness of Heart of Wales Property Services LTD in responding to Powys County Council's estate and social housing needs;
- Write to the Board of Heart of Wales Property Services to request a review of the effectiveness of its corporate functions and financial viability which reports its findings to Powys County Council as part owner of the company;
- Establish a dedicated point of contact for Powys County Council's elected members dealing with Heart of Wales Property Services LTD;
- Establish an annual reporting mechanism for Heart of Wales Property Services LTD to report to Powys County Council.

Proposer: County Councillor Susan McNicholas  
Seconder: County Councillor Matthew Dorrance

### 11.4. **Notice of Motion - To encourage women to run for roles in politics**

That in celebration of the centenary of women gaining the vote, this council recognises the incredible contribution women have made to politics in Powys, Wales and the United Kingdom since time immemorial.

This council will continue to actively encourage women to run for political roles in the future and will strive to assist them in any way it can.

Proposer: County Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick  
Seconder: County Councillor Amanda Jenner

<b>12. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION</b>
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**12.1. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Education from County Councillor Phil Pritchard**

Re New Welshpool Schools: In an early meeting of combined governors of the 5 schools, the Officers undertook to “consult” with ALL FAITHS in Welshpool regarding this matter. Can you please tell me how many of the 5 or 6 Faiths were indeed consulted, and how many meetings were held with them, and what notes/minutes of such meetings were kept?

(Pages 823 - 824)

**12.2. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Countryside Services from County Councillor Phil Pritchard**

Can you please advise me what was the average length of “void” (i.e. the time when a council house is vacated by one tenant, and is occupied by a new tenant) in the last year before the contractors Kier took over, and what is the average length of time for voids since this contractor has taken over?

For information I have a number of properties in Welshpool that have a void of many months, some over 12 months, and one to my knowledge over three years!!

(To Follow)

**12.3. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Property and Waste from County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe**

Powys County Council have ceased collections of soft plastics from the kerb side. Some communities were working in partnership with Cae Post on soft plastic collection points within their local area that residents could use. Sadly following the Cae Post announcement that it has ended its trade recycling and waste collections, communities no longer have a company to work with on this type of material. Can the council consider providing communities with this service along the lines Cae Post did?

(Pages 825 - 826)

**12.4. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Countryside Services from County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan**

What are the costs to date, and annual costs to the Council in relation to the use and rental of the storage at Hirddol, Machynlleth?

(Pages 827 - 828)

**12.5. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Property and Waste from County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe**

Residents of Powys are fully aware that PCC has a number of important issues to deal with at the moment in relation to asset transfers between its self and communities.

Hay Town Council would welcome the opportunity to work with cabinet and Powys legal to move this forward in relation to Hay-on-Wye as soon

as possible. Thus as local member for Hay I would like to ask whether it is possible for the relevant portfolio holder(s) and legal team to meet with representatives of the Town Council and myself, to progress and finalise the outstanding issues surrounding the transfer of assets process in relation to Hay-on-Wye?

(Pages 829 - 830)

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

What progress is being made to plan for the de-trunking of the A489 through Newtown once the By Pass opens next year?

(Pages 831 - 832)

12.7. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for HR, ICT and Communications from County Councillor Pete Roberts**

At the last full council a cost to the council of having a bank holiday on St David's Day was quoted as being £600k. At the time the breakdown of these costs could not be supplied. Please could you therefore supply a breakdown of costs that the Council would face specifically separating those which would result from lost productivity i.e. an extra day off from those where there would be a genuine additional cost to the Council eg overtime payments? Could you also state the level of cost if St David's Day were to replace the May Day bank holiday?

(To Follow)

12.8. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Countryside Services from County Councillor Pete Roberts**

The failure of a minority of dog owners to control and clean up after their animals has become an increasing problem across the County. Would the portfolio holder consider introducing a control order similar to that employed by Rhondda Cynon Taff to tackle the problem on council owned land and recreation areas?

(Pages 833 - 834)

12.9. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services from County Councillor David Meredith**

Is the Council undertaking appropriate assessments to ensure the right social care packages are in place for residents returning home after hospital stays?

(To Follow)

12.10. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services from County Councillor David Meredith**

How is the Council working in partnership with Health and Social Care providers in the public and private sectors to ensure that delayed transfers of care are minimised?

(To Follow)

- 12.11. **Question to the Leader from County Councillor Matthew Dorrance**  
Will the Leader make a statement on how her administration works with and supports Credit Unions in Powys?  
(Pages 835 - 836)
- 12.12. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Countryside Services from County Councillor Matthew Dorrance**  
What is the Council doing to stand up for private renters and crack down on rogue landlords?  
(Pages 837 - 842)
- 12.13. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Countryside Services from County Councillor William Powell**  
What mechanisms does the Cabinet Member and his officer team deploy to ensure that residential developments throughout the County, both in the Powys County Council and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) planning areas, correspond to demonstrable housing need, both in number and type.  
  
In the case of development(s) within the BBNPA area, how does Powys County Council, as the housing authority, ensure that monies allocated as affordable housing contributions are appropriately invested in affordable development(s) within the county boundary - and in accordance with Council priorities?  
(Pages 843 - 844)
- 12.14. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Countryside Services from County Councillor William Powell**  
The National Assembly for Wales EIS Committee has recently reported that progress across Wales has been slow in delivering affordable, 'above the shop' style living. What is Powys County Council currently doing, with partner agencies, to make a decisive contribution to addressing this challenge within the County?  
(Pages 845 - 854)