

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2019

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

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

The Leader welcomed Dr Caroline Turner to her first meeting of the Cabinet as Chief Executive. She also welcomed representatives of Hay Town Council and Abermule Communities Together.

The Leader received a 1,350 signature petition presented by a delegation from Hay Town Council led by the Mayor, Councillor Trudy Stedman, calling on the Cabinet to reverse the decisions taken on 18 December 2018 in respect of properties in Hay-on-Wye. Councillor Stedman also presented a letter advising that the Town Council was handing back management of the public toilets to the County Council with effect from 1st April 2019.

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Stephen Hayes.

2.	MINUTES
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The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the meetings held on 12th and 19th February as correct records.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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County Councillor James Evans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 5 on the agenda, Business Rates High Street and Retail Relief Scheme 2019-20.

4.	2019/20 ANNUAL STRATEGIC REVIEW OF VISION 2025: OUR CIP
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Cabinet considered recommended changes to the activities and performance measures within Vision 2025: Our CIP following the annual review. The Vision had been reviewed to ensure it remained realistic and achievable within the current financial climate.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That amendments 1 - 66 (set out in Appendix A) for Updating Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan 2018-2023 are considered and agreed for	To ensure Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan remains realistic and relevant. To ensure Vision 2025: Our CIP has a clear delivery plan and that

publication and delivery from April 2019.	all activity is focussed on delivery of the intended outcomes. To strengthen the plan and ensure that the council meets its statutory obligations as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (Part 1 and 2).
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5.	BUSINESS RATES HIGH STREET AND RETAIL RELIEF SCHEME 2019-20
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County Councillor James Evans left the meeting whilst this item was being considered having declared a personal and prejudicial interest.

Cabinet received details of the Welsh Government Business Rates high street and retail rates relief scheme for 2019-20 to support businesses within the retail sector in Wales. The scheme would benefit occupied retail properties such as shops, pubs and restaurants with a rateable value of £50,000 or less on 1 April 2019. Welsh Government had made a sum of up to £1,080,000 to award to Powys ratepayers during the financial year 2019-20. This was a significant increase on previous funds (£155,000) due to Welsh Government extending current scheme to all retailers and not restricting to those on a high street, and increased the maximum relief per ratepayer from £750 in 2018-19 to £2,500 in 2019-20.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a Business Rates High Street and retail rates relief scheme 2019-20 be established in accordance with section 2 of this report. 2. Ratepayers that received high street rates relief in 2018-19 and remain in occupation as at 1 April 2019 be automatically granted this relief for financial year 2019-20. 3. New applications for Business Rates high street and retail rates relief 2019-20 under the scheme referred to above shall be delegated to and determined by the Portfolio holder for Finance in consultation with the Head of Financial Services & Section 151 Officer 	<p>To adopt a high street and retail rates relief scheme for financial year 2019-20 that meets the requirements to maximise funding available, to support local businesses seeking rate relief and is compliant with Welsh Government guidance.</p>

County Councillor James Evans returned to the meeting. County Councillor Martin Weale joined the meeting.

6. DRAFT RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN
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Cabinet considered the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The Plan had been produced following a 3 month consultation process. In presenting the report the Portfolio Holder thanked officers and everyone who had engaged in the consultation and he paid tribute to all the volunteers who maintained the largest network of public rights of way in the UK.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
To approve the Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan set out in appendix 1 to the report and to recommend approval to full Council.	For the Council to uphold its statutory duty to review the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

7. SCHOOLS SERVICE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME 2019-2020
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This report was deferred pending consideration of the budget by Council.

8. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FORECAST AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2019

Cabinet considered the financial overview and forecast report as at 31st January 2019. The projected overspend at year end was £2.7m. 49.8% of savings had been delivered with £6.167m yet to be achieved. £3.9m savings included in previous budget plans which remained outstanding, and which were now undeliverable, had been removed from the budget plan for 2019/20. The report also noted a grant of £28,788 Welsh Government Grant to support reducing the need for Children to enter care in 2018/19 of £28,788 has been received. The Portfolio Holder for Youth and Culture updated Cabinet on some of the actions being taken by Children's Services to reduce expenditure.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the contents of the report are noted. 2. To accept the grant of £28,788 from Welsh Government to support reducing the need for children to enter care detailed in paragraph 6.1 of the report. 3. That given the pressure on the 	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.

<p>revenue budget the Cabinet supports the S151 Officer's requirement to control discretionary expenditure until the end of the financial year.</p>	
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9.	CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD TO 31ST JANUARY 2019
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Cabinet considered the Capital Programme update for the period ended 31st January 2019. The actual spend to the end of January was £50.553m and a further £28.652m had been committed. This left £12.926m or 14.0% of the budget uncommitted at the end of January. The report also set out a number of virements.

The Monitoring Officer referred to the letter received from Abermule Communities Together which had been forwarded to the Cabinet along with the Deputy S151 Officer's response.

RESOLVED	Reason for decision
1. That the contents of the report are noted.	To outline the capital budget position as at 30th November 2018.
2. That the virements proposed in section 2 of the report are approved and those virements over £500,000 are recommended to Full Council.	To ensure appropriate virements, are carried out to align budgets with spending plans.

10.	CORRESPONDENCE
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There were no items of correspondence reported.

11.	DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING
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Cabinet noted the delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

12.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
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The Monitoring Officer asked Portfolio Holders to work with their Heads of Service to ensure that the Cabinet forward work programme was kept up to date.

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)