

County Council

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

Meeting date
Thursday, 23 January 2020

Meeting time
10.30 am

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

17 January 2020

Mae croeso i chi siarad yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg yn y cyfarfod, a bydd gwasanaeth cyfieithu ar y pryd ar gael.
You are welcome to speak Welsh or English in the meeting, and a simultaneous translation service will be provided.

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES
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To receive apologies for absence.

2.	MINUTES
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the meetings held on 10th October and 20th December 2019 as correct records.
(Pages 7 - 46)

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

4.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
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To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council.

5.	LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
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To receive any announcements from the Leader.

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

7.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS
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7.1. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance Countryside and Transport from Gemma Lewis

Could you please confirm how much Powys County Council pay for school transport for children from the Brecon catchment area to attend Welsh education in Calon Cymru or Ystalyfera when their closest provision is the new school in Brecon?

The children access a service bus where passengers have not been DBS checked and there have been instances where the buses are full and children stand for the duration of the journey.

If this transport was no longer funded by the council, I suspect that the numbers would increase in Brecon and therefore the subject provision and standards.

(Pages 47 - 48)

8.	VIREMENTS
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8.1. Virements for Highways, Transport and Recycling

(Pages 49 - 52)

8.2. Virement from Ladywell House to Economic Development Fund

(Pages 53 - 56)

9.	LOCAL AUTHORITY ESTYN IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE
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To consider a report by County Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for Education and Property.

(Pages 57 - 104)

10.	FORTHCOMING INDEPENDENT MEMBER VACANCY ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
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To consider a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

(Pages 105 - 112)

11.	REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES
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To consider the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

(Pages 113 - 122)

12.	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE
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To consider recommendations from the Democratic Services Committee.

(Pages 123 - 248)

13.	NOTICE OF MOTION
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In view of the fact that having full Council meetings is not a legal requirement as part of the transformation of schools, and hence does not bring anything to the process, and with the importance that we make best use of staff resources and don't waste money, Council agrees to remove the requirement for full Council to meet to discuss school transformation and rather to use the other meetings and opportunities that form part of the legal processes.

Proposed by County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan

Seconded by County Councillor Phyl Davies

14.	QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION
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14.1. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transportation from County Councillor Les Skilton

I understand Powys received a grant of about £3 million from the Welsh Government.

Part of this grant was used to purchase 20 new buses for operators within Powys for public transport.

Can the portfolio holder inform me and members have Powys purchased second-hand buses from some of these operators? Could you please confirm if this is correct and why?

(Pages 249 - 250)

14.2. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture from County Councillor Huw Williams

In a recent Improvement and Assurance Board Bulletin, it was written, that, *'workplace supervision (Children's Services) is vital in a whole variety of ways, current compliance levels are low, although slightly rising, and now that the structure is in place, must be addressed as a matter of urgency'*. Can the portfolio holder, therefore, provide a comparative progress report, from September 2019 to December, to include:

- i) evidence of the numbers of qualified, newly qualified and agency social workers receiving structured, regular and

- appropriate level of workplace supervision, and
- ii) what is the current average case load for each worker and is the work appropriate to each worker's qualification and training level?

(Pages 251 - 254)

14.3. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment from County Councillor David Thomas

Residents in the in Tawe Uchaf, Aber-craf, Ystradgynlais, Ynyscedwyn and Cwmtwrch wards received a worse than poor recycling collection service over the Christmas period. This was because of a lack of strategic planning and communication from the Council with Councillors and the community.

What will the Council do to ensure this doesn't happen again?

(Pages 255 - 256)

14.4. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment from County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe

As banks are withdrawing from Powys communities and some communities are being charged to withdraw cash from the local cash machine when will Powys county council start to introduce card payments system to their car parking machines across the county to support businesses as cash is becoming harder to handle?

(Pages 257 - 258)

14.5. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance Countryside and Transport from County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe

Following concerns raised by residents of Hay that they are seeing an increase in second homes becoming "businesses" to get around the increase in council tax will the council review the impact of second homes on communities to support the local residents as well as the business community to ensure we have a 12 month season and homes are not left empty for large parts of the year thus strengthening our community for future challenges?

(Pages 259 - 260)

14.6. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment from County Councillor Karen Laurie-Parry

Many residents have read a Social Media post whereby another County Council had reported financial savings in Grass Cutting, by planting wild flowers which are very pleasing to the eye, and encourage the sustainment of butterflies, bees etc.

Residents have asked for consideration where there are very wide grass verges and embankments, would it not be cost-saving and better time management of workers to grass cut just 3 feet of verge and to allow the already planted wild flowers to take effect?

Might this not free-up time, for the Highways Department Manual Workers, to undertake identified much needed highway maintenance work on 'B' Class roads, other side roads and associated drainage?

(Pages 261 - 262)

14.7. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment from County Councillor Karen Laurie-Parry

A number of residents in my Ward are seriously concerned regarding the cut-backs in street lighting. This is particularly more alarming, where there are older residents, who fear for their safety during the night time, due to the County Council decision to withdraw certain street lights. I will give Neuadd Terrace, Bronllys as one example.

Safety and the well-being of particularly older and vulnerable residents is an utmost priority, so please could the Post Holder suggest how we might find the costs to ensure that our concerned residents needs are met?

(Pages 263 - 264)

14.8. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment from County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan

In view of the increasing concerns about the use of Glyphosate as a weed killer within our communities, and the fact that there have been a number of high profile successful multi million pound litigation cases against Monsanto, and a reported 18,400 pending legal cases against Bayer, due to reported health concerns as result of using glyphosate, and the concerns about the effect of the use of glyphosate on the environment, will the portfolio holder undertake a urgent review of the use of glyphosate by the authority and any of its contractors and look at best practice alternatives and report back to Council in due course with firm recommendations?

(Pages 265 - 274)

14.9. Question to the Leader from County Councillor William Powell

Whilst acknowledging the resource, both financial and human that is being committed by Powys County Council to its Brexit External Working Group and the significant amount of partnership working, both with public and private sector agencies and elected members, there is one area where we could – and arguably should – do more.

As the newly elected UK Government has refused to grant EU Nationals the automatic settlement rights that were promised by the Vote Leave Campaign in the 2016 Referendum, and all amendments to the Withdrawal Bill to reinstate these rights – and even to create an appeals mechanism - were rejected by HM Government, many EU, EEA and Swiss Nationals in Powys and throughout Wales face a daunting challenge in seeking to secure Settled Status from the Home Office.

I am aware of the Settled Status information link to Gov.UK on our PCC website – and of a ‘first come, first served’ booklet for interested Councillors. However, given the huge challenge that we have recognised over time on our PCC Corporate Risk Register in terms of the sharp

decline in Powys residents of working age, it would surely be appropriate for the Authority to adopt a 'best in class' approach to supporting this vital category of workers. Proactive measures have already been undertaken in neighbouring authorities, notably Monmouthshire, Carmarthenshire and across the border in Herefordshire, involving drop in sessions, community meetings and a link with the respective library services, all to support EU Nationals wishing to continue living, working and contributing to our communities.

Will the Leader give consideration to a more proactive programme of support, in line with Powys' reputation for hospitality, humanitarianism and fair play?

(Pages 275 - 276)

15.	REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE
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At the end of the formal meeting there will be a briefing for Members on the Mid Wales Growth Deal
