

County Council

Meeting Venue
By Teams

Meeting date
Thursday, 4 March 2021

Meeting time
10.30 am

For further information please contact
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County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
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26/02/2021

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 meeting held on 26 November 2020 as a correct record.
(Pages 5 - 24)

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.	COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION FOR 2021/22
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To approve the Council Tax resolution and set the Council Tax for 2021/2022.
(Pages 25 - 48)

8.	2021 ANNUAL REVIEW OF VISION 2025 OUR CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN, INCLUDING OUR STRATEGIC EQUALITY OBJECTIVES 2020-2024
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To consider the 2021 Annual Review of Vision 2025 Our Corporate Improvement Plan, including our Strategic Equality Objectives 2020-2024.
(Pages 49 - 126)

9.	PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/22
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To consider the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22.
(Pages 127 - 150)

10.	NOTICE OF MOTION - STAND UP FOR CARERS
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COVID has presented so many challenges for us since March 2020. This motion focuses on an opportunity to STAND UP FOR CARERS.

At the end of 2019 in Powys there were approximately 2627 carers entitled to Carers Allowance, 1563 in receipt of allowance and 1064 of our Powys residents who care for someone unpaid.

1. Council notes for the motion:

- a. Carers – paid and unpaid, young, and old – do a remarkable and important job. They are an integral part of the Powys community. They deserve our support but are far too often forgotten and ignored.
- b. Carers in Powys and across the Wales face big challenges every single day; challenges that have been made even harder by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most are having to spend more time looking after loved ones during the pandemic; most have not been able to take a single break since it started; and most are simply exhausted.
- c. Unpaid carers save the Welsh Government at least £8 billion per year. Carers are asked to work anything from 35 hours to 168 hrs per week for the total payment of £67.25, when Council recruited paid carers can earn up to £1,176 in that same time frame.

2. Council further notes that:

- a. **At just £67.25 a week, Carer's Allowance is the lowest benefit of its kind.**

- b. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government increased the Universal Credit standard allowance and the Working Tax Credit basic element by £20 a week above the planned uprating in April 2020, but it has not increased Carer's Allowance.
- c. Many unpaid carers are facing extreme financial hardship. A recent survey by Carers UK found that more than a third of those on Carer's Allowance are struggling to make ends meet. Many have been struggling for months, often relying on foodbanks to feed themselves and the people they care for. Powys has one of the highest rates of unpaid carers in Wales. Unpaid carers amount to 41% of all carers and only Gwynedd can match that level (UK National Statistics 2019).
- d. The Carers UK survey found that **"43% of carers felt that a rise in Carer's Allowance would help them, given the financial pressures they are facing."**

3. Council resolves that:

- a. We must stand up for carers, do more to support them, and build a more caring society as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic.

4. Council directs the Leader of the Council to:

- a. Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, urging them to raise Carer's Allowance by £20 a week immediately, in line with the increase in Universal Credit.
- b. Council resolves to put out a general communication to unpaid carers, third sector organisations and community councils to encourage carers to claim Carers Allowance.
- c. Ensure that Powys County Council continues to do all it can to Stand up for Carers.

Proposed by County Councillor Jackie Charlton

Seconded by County Councillor Emily Durrant

11.	QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION
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11.1. Question from County Councillor Stephen Hayes to the Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture

On 21st August the Home Office, Department of Education, ADCS and LGA wrote to councils in relation to Unaccompanied Child Migrants (*sometimes referred to as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children*) stating that a crisis of care was arising in Kent due to the numbers of vulnerable young people requiring care.

The letter stated that: '... further emergency support is needed for the following across all parts of the UK:

- Offers of placements in your area
- Offers to take full responsibility under the Children Act 1989 for these young people

- Offers to supervise young people placed in your area
- Offers to accommodate young people directly from the Kent Intake Unit in Dover.'

(the full text can be found at

<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/20200821%20joint%20letter%20re%20Kent%20crisis.pdf>)

On 28th August it was announced in local media that Powys had rejected this appeal and would not be offering a welcome to Unaccompanied Child Migrants. Many people have contacted me to deplore this decision, emphasising the compassion they feel we, as a county and a nation, should feel and our duty to show that in action.

Could you please clarify what response was given to the letter of 21st August; what action has been taken, as a Council and in collaboration with other councils, to offer a welcome to Unaccompanied Child Migrants; and the number of such children so far assisted or for whom Powys County Council has accepted responsibility under the Children Act?

(Pages 151 - 152)