

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD HELD AT BY TEAMS
ON WEDNESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2021**

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

In Attendance:

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair) Rosemarie Harris (PCC) (In the Chair)
Yasmin Bell (Citizens Advice Powys)
Stuart Bourne (Director of Public Health PTHB)
Jamie Burt (PAVO)
Gavin Bown (NRW)
Carl Cooper (Chief Executive PAVO)
Assistant Chief Fire Officer Iwan Cray (Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service)
Councillor Kelvyn Curry (Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority)
Councillor Alison Davies (Welshpool Town Council)
Melanie Davies (PTHB)
Duncan Hamer (Welsh Government)
Christine Harley (HM Prisons and Probation Service)
Helen Lucocq (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority)
Hugh Patrick (One Voice Wales)
Alison Perry (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner)
Chief Inspector Andrew Pitt (Dyfed Powys Police)
Derrick Pugh (One Voice Wales)
Diane Reynolds (PCC)
Amy Richmond-Jones (Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service)
Helen Roderick (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority)
Claire Rumsby (Department of Work and Pensions)
Caroline Turner (Chief Executive PCC)
Anne Wilson (Welshpool Town Council)

Supporting:

Steve Boyd (PCC)
Catherine James (PCC)
Rhian Jones (PCC)
Emma Palmer (PCC)

Apologies

Nigel Brinn (Executive Director Economy and Environment PCC)
Superintendent Steve Davies (Dyfed Powys Police)
Vivienne Harpwood (PTHB)
Chief Inspector Jacqui Lovatt (Dyfed Powys Police)
Catherine Mealing-Jones (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority)
Carol Shillabeer (Chief Executive PTHB)

2. NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Helen Lucocq presented the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Management Plan called Future Beacons. The Authority would be consulting on

the Plan from 4 November 2021 to 4 March 2022 and hoped to adopt it by the end of April 2022. She asked partners to review the document and get in touch with any comments. She advised that she had been working with the Well Being Commissioner's Office to ensure that the plan met the Authority's obligations under the Well Being of Future Generations Act. She confirmed that the plan reflected the importance of having a viable local economy. This was the most important issue for people responding to the Citizens' Assembly organised by the National Park Authority.

3. WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT

The Council was taking the lead on preparations to go out to a six week consultation on the PSB's Well-being Assessment and would be asking the public for their top priorities. Partners were asked to help promote the consultation. The Council had found that response rates had improved during the pandemic.

4. POVERTY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

4.1. Lead on a Promotional Campaign to share information about services and support that people can access – Powys County Council

The PSB was advised that the Council's money advice team had additional capacity and would be actively promoting its services. In 2020/21 the team had dealt with 529 referrals resulting in benefits gains of over £2 million. The team had been set a target to deal with an additional 200 referrals and gain an additional £500,000 in 2021/22.

4.2. To take a recommendation to the One Voice Wales Board to see if Town and Community Councils could coordinate a scheme for residents to donate excess veg that they grow locally - One Voice Wales.

Councillor Alison Davies, the Mayor of Welshpool Town Council, spoke to the PSB about the scheme in Welshpool to distribute surplus fruit and vegetables. The scheme had been a great success and it was hoped to repeat it next year.

Carl Cooper advised that PAVO had a project with a dedicated officer to help develop transactional schemes and he offered to work with organisations to help with these kind of initiatives.

4.3. To lead on undertaking a member development session – Citizens Advice Powys and DWP.

Yasmin Bell of Powys Citizens Advice and Claire Rumsby of the Department of Work and Pensions advised that they would be providing an online briefing for Powys county councillors on some of the lesser known aspects of the services they offered. There was a focus on upskilling people and training, for example, there were 30 placements for fork-lift training in north Powys.

5. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Step 3 – Improvements in the Transport Infrastructure

Iwan Cray advised that there had been some good progress. The delivery plan had been rationalised and now focused on three main points:

- work with and influence others to improve our transport infrastructure
- work with and influence others to improve our existing transport links
- work with and influence others to develop a sustainable and integrated approach for planning and delivery.

Step 4 – Improved Digital Infrastructure for Powys

Diane Reynolds advised that a workshop had been held in September to look at opportunities for shared data. Partners had been tasked with looking for opportunities within their organisations.

Step 5 – Develop a Joint Approach to Community Resilience

Carl Cooper reported that the work of the Community Sector Response Group continued apace, assisting in the provision of hot meals and transport. Since the end of furlough and the easing of covid restrictions, the number of volunteers had reduced so they were looking to recruit, particularly on the vaccination programme and he asked for partners' support.

Step 6 – Develop a holistic approach to skills and lifelong learning

Caroline Turner noted that this enabled many elements such as the Regional Skills Partnership and Adult Community Learning together.

Step 7 – Develop a Carbon Positive Strategy

There had been little progress over the past quarter with officers managing multiple priorities. A green energy strategy had been produced setting out the ambition for energy going forward.

Step 9 – Undertake market research and establish an effective infrastructure to support active enjoyment of the environment and adventure tourism

Step 10 – Develop a strong brand to promote and attract investment into Powys

Both steps were being taken forward the Mid Wales Growth Deal. The business case for the Growth Deal had been submitted to both governments and it was hoped that a response would be received before Christmas.

Steps 11 & 12 North Powys Wellbeing Programme

Stuart Bourne advised that a community development officer had been appointed for the North Powys Project.

6. PSB SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

The minutes of the PSB Scrutiny Committee held on 7 July and the recommendations of the meeting held on 3 November were received. The PSB Scrutiny Committee had recommended that the development of a consistent performance framework be progressed as a matter of urgency.

Iwan Cray asked that officers required to attend were given more notice.

7. FREELANCER AND PUBLIC SECTOR PLEDGE

The PSB noted the letter from the Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport on Welsh Government support for the freelance community in Wales.

8. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The PSB noted with concern the rising number of attacks on the emergency services. Chief Inspector Andrew Pitt advised that the percentage of attacks in Powys was relatively high for a rural area.

9. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 30th July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Inspector Andrew Pitt provided an update on changes to the Dyfed Powys Police Response Model which were coming into effect on 7th November. The changes would ensure that response officers were not tied up with paperwork which would be dealt with by a specialist team in the background. There would be no changes to neighbourhood policing teams. There would be an increase in the number of Police Community Support Officers and by Easter 2022 in the number of Police Officers.

Rhian Jones who was attending her final meeting before taking up a post with National Resources Wales was thanked for her work for the PSB.

The Leader was invited to the next One Voice Wales meeting in Builth Wells later in November.

11. DATES OF FUTURE PSB MEETINGS

3rd February 2022 (10 am -12 pm)
23rd June 2022 (2 – 4 pm)
29th July 2022 (10 am -12 pm)
4th November 2022 (10 am -12 pm)

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)