

County Council

Meeting Venue
Hybrid meeting - Zoom - County Hall

Meeting date
Thursday, 8 December 2022

Meeting time
10.30 am

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

1/12/2022

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 last meeting held on 13th October 2022 as a correct record.
(Pages 7 - 38)

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.	REVENUE VIREMENT
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To consider a report by County Councillor David Thomas, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation.

(Pages 39 - 40)

8.	STRONGER, FAIRER, GREENER
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Presentation on the Corporate Plan.

9.	APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES
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9.1. Appointment of Trustees of the Powysland Museum Trust

To appoint four trustees.

9.2. Rhayader Market Hall and Smithfield Trust

To appoint one Trustee.

10.	NOTICE OF MOTION - COMMIT TO SERVE GOOD QUALITY MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS
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On 14th December 2021, a full council meeting motion was passed by Oxfordshire County Council's ruling Liberal Democrat, Labour, and Green Party alliance, banning meat and dairy products from being served at official events. This result was passed to their Cabinet for a final decision, which was subsequently approved on 15th March 2022.

This decision drew criticism from meat and dairy producing farmers across the UK, various celebrities, journalists, MPs and the public. The motion contained questionable claims that global meat and dairy production was "a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation" and that reducing consumption of these foods was "a key part of tackling climate change". One Oxfordshire farmer who was appalled at the decision was quoted as saying – "They have taken the advice of a reduction and gone for a 100% move, which seems to me like someone is peddling a different agenda,". He went on to say "The whole argument about the environmental impact of livestock farming is hijacked by the carbon debate and ignores any of the plus sides of red meat in the diet in a sensible proportion and of decent quality. Meat from grass-fed livestock reared in the UK has a far lower environmental impact than intensively farmed meat reared from a soya and maize feedlot system in South America.". News source;

<https://www.fwi.co.uk/news/environment/fury-after-oxfordshire-council-moves-to-ban-meat-and-dairy>

Since making this decision, there has been further concern amongst farmers throughout the rest of the country, particularly in counties with Labour, Liberal Democrat or Green Party councillors in administrative control of councils. The concern is that authorities in those counties may follow suit and introduce similar bans, which will show a lack of support for farmers, damage local meat and dairy businesses, send the wrong message to the public and damage the reputation of our agriculture sector.

Following discussions with many farmers, businesses, and members of the public, there is considerable concern that as Powys County Council is under the control of Labour and the Liberal Democrats, a meat and dairy ban may be introduced here in Powys too.

This council therefore calls upon the Labour/LibDem Powys County Council administration to:

Commit to serve good quality meat and dairy products (provided locally where possible) at all official meetings and events where food is to be served and at all council run buildings where food is served, to include all Powys schools and colleges where food is served, for the remainder of this term of administration.

Commit to serve vegetarian and vegan food as options at any of the above locations and events, for the remainder of this term of administration.

Proposed by County Councillor Iain McIntosh
Seconded by County Councillor Les George

Finance Comment on Resource Requirement

Last financial year Catering delivered school meals across Powys and spent over £2.2m on provisions. The spend provided a nutritionally balanced meal for pupils including meat and vegetarian alternatives and use of dairy products. More recently the menu has been refined to have two meat free days every three weeks at some schools.

Most of the food purchased is from UK sources through local suppliers, unless it is normally grown abroad and imported like bananas, melons. Some products are locally sourced like sausages and cold drinks. If the authority is committed to locally sourced food a significant amount of set up and procurement activity would be needed to identify and establish new contracts with local suppliers. Initial discussions suggest this would cost more, but the level of budget increase needed cannot be quantified without undertaking further analysis.

11.	NOTICE OF MOTION - FAIR'S FARE ON POWYS ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES
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On the back of Cop 27 in Egypt, and Powys's declaration of climate and nature emergencies, this Council calls on the U.K. and Welsh Governments to put in place the necessary legislative frameworks and provisions to enable the people of Powys

to retain some of the financial benefit arising from the water and energy resources captured and generated in Powys for export and consumption elsewhere.

Specifically, this Council seeks the ability to raise a levy on water and energy generation/supply companies on piped water and energy destined for export, and not for the direct benefit or consumption by the people of Powys. The rate of return for the shared use of these resources should initially not be less than £1 per mega litre and £1 per megawatt, uplifted by the annual rate for inflation (RPI). In return, this Council undertakes that such monies raised will be spent by Powys Council addressing, and developing resilience to, the crisis we collectively face from global warming.

Proposed by County Councillor Jake Berriman
Seconded by County Councillor Geoff Morgan

Finance Comment on Resource Requirement

At this stage, the motion has minimal financial impact apart from officer time in assisting in drafting of letters that address the requirements of the above motion, the costs of which will be accommodated in existing service budgets.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION - POWYS SCHOOLS

Concerns have been raised by fellow council members, parents and members of the public following the possibility of reducing the schooling week down to just 4 days has and is being considered by the authority as a mitigation action against rising energy costs and budget pressures.

We note that Estyn stated in their 2021-2022 Annual report-

- Overall, learners' skills have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. This is especially the case for numeracy and literacy skills, particularly oracy skills. The social and personal skills of a minority of learners have also been affected, especially the youngest children and those who have struggled to settle back in to more 'normal' educational routines.
- Learners' use of spoken Welsh generally declined as a result of the pandemic.
- Restrictions have had a negative impact on learning involving practical elements, including work placements, practical assessments for vocational qualifications and subjects such as music, design and technology and physical education.
- Overall, the progress providers are making towards implementation of the Curriculum for Wales is too variable.
- Across all sectors, there has been a notable increase in demand for well-being and mental health support.
- Attendance, in schools in particular, continues to be below pre-pandemic levels and persistent absence issues have increased

The cost of living crisis is effecting us all and families are facing significant pressures already, this type of idea, even if just a concept at this stage, is un-helpful, ill thought

out and one that if carried through would may significantly harm our young people and will only add to home pressures.

In view of these negative findings from Estyn, the importance of supporting our young people, the recognition that budget / financial pressures are not only on the council and the need to ensure a full and proper impact assessment on the Welsh language and Welsh language education in accordance with Welsh Government's School Organisation Code is carried out before making any changes -

Council accepts the importance of a 5 day attendance at our schools and that no school in Powys should be asked to reduce their school week to 4 days as a result of the councils budget proposals.

Proposed by County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan
Seconded by County Councillor Bryn Davies

Finance Comment on Resource Requirement

There are no resource implications for the Council's budget from this motion however this would not then be a measure available to Schools to put in place to help mitigate their current budget pressures meaning that they must reduce costs elsewhere.

The presentation by the Chief Fire Officer will take place between 12 and 1.

13. PRESENTATION BY THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

To receive a presentation by the Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas.

Following the meeting the Head of Finance will give a presentation on the budget.