

Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Venue
By Zoom

Meeting Date
Monday, 11 December 2023

Meeting Time
10.00 am

For further information please contact

Rachel Pugh - Scrutiny and Democratic Support Officer
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County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG
05.12.2023

Mae croeso i chi siarad yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg yn y cyfarfod. Rhowch wybod pa iaith rydych am ei defnyddio erbyn hanner dydd, ddau ddiwrnod gwaith cyn y cyfarfod.

You are welcome to speak Welsh or English in the meeting. Please inform us of which language you wish to use by noon, two working days before the meeting.

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES
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To receive apologies for absence.

2.	DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST
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To receive any disclosures of interests by Members relating to items to be considered at the meeting.

3.	DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIPS
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To receive disclosures of prohibited party whips which a Member has been given in relation to the meeting in accordance with Section 78(3) of the Local Government Measure 2011.

(NB: Members are reminded that under Section 78 Members having been given a prohibited party whip cannot vote on a matter before the Committee.)

4.	MINUTES
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the previous meeting held as follows as a correct record: 30.102023.

(Pages 5 - 10)

5.	STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER
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To receive the reports.

(Pages 11 - 42)

6.	HOMES IN POWYS - OVERVIEW
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To receive the report

(Pages 43 - 48)

7.	POWYS RAPID HOUSING TRANSITION PLAN - UPDATE
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To receive the report

(Pages 49 - 56)

8.	WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL
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To consider the proposal.

(Pages 57 - 58)

9.	SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME
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To note that future meetings of the Committee will be held as follows:

Date and Time 2024	Type and Detail
Monday - 08.01.24	Work Programme Rent setting HRA Business Plan Climate Report
Wednesday - 17.01.24 -am	Pre-Meeting
Friday - 19.01.24 -am	Committee – Public Parking Review
Monday - 29.01.24 -pm	Budget
Thursday - 08.02.24-am	Alternative Budget
Wednesday 14.02.24 - am	Pre-meeting
Monday - 19.02.24 - am	Committee – Public

Committee Reflection

Following the close of the meeting the Committee is asked to take 5 to 10 minutes to reflect on today's meeting.

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Public Document Pack

Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee Monday, 30 October 2023

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ECONOMY, RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT BY ZOOM ON MONDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2023

PRESENT

County Councillor A Davies (Chair)

County Councillors B Davies, A Jones, E A Jones, P James, C Kenyon-Wade, G Preston, L Rijnenberg, S Williams

David Selby - Cabinet Member for a More Prosperous Powys

David Thomas - Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation

Jackie Charlton - Cabinet Member for a Greener Powys

Diane Reynolds - Head of Economy & Digital Services

Matt Perry - Head of Highways, Transport and Recycling -Highways Operations

Paul Wozencraft - Improvement and Programme Change Manager (HTR)

John Forsey - Senior Manager - Corporate Fleet and Transport

Jane Thomas – 151 Officer

Jenny Ashton – Head of Community Services

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received: Cllr G Mitchell

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest by Members relating to items to be considered at the meeting

3. DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIPS

The Committee did not receive any disclosures of prohibited party whips which a Member has been given in relation to the meeting in accordance with Section 78(3) of the Local Government Measure 2011.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair was authorised to sign the Minutes of the previous meeting on 11 September 2023 as a correct record.

5. HTR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN - UPDATE

Background:

- The Climate Action Plan had been reviewed and an update was presented.
- The document showed how work had progressed and any slippages were closely monitored and actioned.
- Dates had been populated as requested by the Committee to reflect actions taken and when targets were due for completion.
- Red RAG status items were highlighted and explained that the majority were around the depot infrastructure and fleet requirements.
- Costings were being worked through for the introduction of electric vehicles and the impact on the eleven Council depots.

- Work in progress involved the development of the sub stations in both Brecon and Abermule.
- The Council were exploring various fuel options including:
 - the use of hydrated vegetable oil (hvo) which would result in a significant reduction in CO2 without vehicle adaption.
 - a business case was also in progress for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).
- The Fleet section was flagged as a red status due to the uplift of 50% in costs for any electric light goods vehicle (lgv) and 100% for HGV's that may be purchased in comparison to a non-electric vehicle.
- It was explained that analysis would take place around the change in behaviours towards the use of public transport to help in the next steps towards active travel.
- And new role would be introduced to help support the need for active travel including support for school travel.

Points raised by the Panel	Responses received from Officers or Cabinet Members
The price of hvo was questioned and it was asked if it would be obtained from a sustainable source.	It was explained that the cost difference would be approximately 20p per litre more expensive, but the Council would see a 90% reduction in CO2. It was noted that a lot of hvo was produced aboard and brought into the UK. The Cabinet Member for a Greener Powys added that the procurement process would be controlled, and only clean oil would be used (no palm oil).
It was asked if other types of oil could be used for example old chips shop oil and rape seed oil.	The officer was aware that other oils could be used and would investigate further.
It was commented that in certain areas of Powys bus services had been cut and the public would hesitate to use services until reviewed.	
A school walking bus had been seen in some towns, and asked if that could this be encouraged.	It was stressed that schools were a focus, and an educational service was key to the action plan.
Some actions had long term (10 year) targets, would there be a way of providing more detail along the transition to the target or additional targets to show progression.	It was explained that the targets were monitored, and the street lighting target was given as an example and progression showed the usage in 2008 as 6.6 million kilowatt a year and in 2030 will be reduced to under 1 million kilowatt a year.
	The Cabinet Member for a Greener Powys added that the annual carbon accounts had been submitted in September to the Welsh Government, and could be used for the purpose of checking, monitoring, and comparing data.
It was asked if the cooler led lighting change to amber lighting for streetlights was part of the dark skies scheme and felt the scheme concept may not be fully understood.	The officer confirmed it was part of the dark night skies.

<p>How would staff be charged to use the facilities in depots to charge personal electric vehicles.</p>	<p>The options were being explored and vehicle chargers would predominantly be used for the Council at night and potentially could be used for staff personal vehicles during the day through a charging mechanism like the ones in public car parks. The infrastructure was being explored to ensure it would be used to the full advantage.</p>
<p>It was noted that a lot of the actions were dependant on funding and more details were requested.</p>	<p>Cost had significant implications on the plan and additional funding would be required to facilitate some of the actions. The Cabinet Member for a Greener Powys stressed that additional funding was required and would not be taken from the core fund provided to the service.</p>
	<p>It was explained that under the Climate Board there were separate action plans for different areas of the Council operations and external work. The plans identify what is needed and would then be costed. Limited funding would then be allocated across all action plans and further additional funds needed to help support the Council achieve net zero. One coherent plan would then be compiled in readiness for future funding opportunities.</p>
<p>It was noted that in certain areas active travel was not considered safe and additional paths would be needed, and the current offer of public transport was not attractive to the public as bus shelters and timetables were poor.</p>	
<p>It was commented that the HTR services had the majority of actions to reduce CO2 and would benefit from additional funding from other services towards the cost.</p>	
<p>It was asked if grid capacity had been considered for Council usage. And felt that spare capacity could be used for Powys residents. It was asked if partnerships had been considered regarding wind farms and hydrogen as it was felt that national links were not joined up around certain issues.</p>	<p>Communications and data gathering was underway with energy providers and all options including hydrogen were being explored, however it was not readily available but may change in the near future. The Grow Mid Wales partnership with Ceredigion included an energy workstream who in conjunction with the Welsh Government would compile a joint action plan. Grid capacity had been identified at a national level, and the Leader of the Council had requested a conference on that issue for rural locations.</p>

	<p>It was emphasised by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation that forecasts for service core funding was under enormous pressure and a number of climate change initiatives had already been built into services. However additional funding would need to be sought to achieve actions and every possible opportunity was taken.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for a Greener Powys added that a lot of positivity had been driven by the Climate Action Plan and contributions were included from external parties including stakeholders and avenues were being explored with different groups.</p>
	<p>It was noted that the Council must look at how it invests to deal with current impacts of climate, particularly around increased flooding, and the impact it was having on the infrastructure.</p>
<p>The Officers were thanked for a comprehensive update and providing in-depth detail behind the actions within the plan.</p>	

Action: that the HTR Mobility And Transport Climate Action Plan reflect more detail of progression towards achieving the set targets as some of the actions/targets were long term.

Resolved: HTR Mobility And Transport Climate Action Plan Update be noted.

6.	SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS
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The Chair reported the Cabinet's responses to Scrutiny recommendations to the Committee and thanked them for their contributions.

1. Q1 Performance Report - Cabinet 19.09.23 - three recommendations were made to Cabinet and all partially accepted.
2. Powys Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2023-2028 – Cabinet 01.08.23– all four recommendations to Cabinet were fully accepted.

Resolved: The Scrutiny Recommendations be noted.

7.	WORKING GROUP UPDATES
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Updates were received:

1. County Farms
 - The Chair deferred the decision to disband the County Farms Working Group and would contact the Lead Member to clarify concerns.
 - It was felt that the Working Group had made good progress but had slowed recently due to Council issues.
 - Recent frustration was expressed that information had not been forthcoming.

- Reservations were relayed that the Cabinet Advisory Group may become too close to the Cabinet and would need to be aware of any impact.

2. Heart of Wales Property Services

- The Working Group investigated the transition of the Heart of Wales Property Services back to the Council.
- Various elements of the transition had been analysed and reviewed including speaking with staff to gain understanding and gauge morale levels.
- It was explained to the meeting that minor ICT issues were to be resolved and would be reviewed at the next meeting.
- It was felt that staff have received a positive experience and overall were pleased to be working for the Council.
- The Cabinet were congratulated on the number of apprenticeships being undertaken with the Council.

3. Leisure Review (Joint Scrutiny)

- It was explained that the Working Group had received a significant amount of useful helpful information from officers including:
- Results of the engagement survey and the number of responses received were amongst the highest of any Council survey.
- Findings from the condition surveys.
- It was expressed that officers had conducted a tremendous amount of work and enormous effort had been provided to the project.
- The Project would conclude findings and determine the next steps.

Resolved: The Working Group Updates be noted.

8.	SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME
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Resolved: The Scrutiny Work Programme and dates of future meetings be noted.

9.	EXEMPT
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Resolved: to exclude the public for the following items of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under category 3 of The Local Authorities (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007).

10.	ECONOMY UPDATE
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The Cabinet Member for a More Prosperous Powys introduced the presentation and explained to the Committee that elements within the presentation aligned to the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

The Committee noted that:

- The presentation provided a comprehensive overview of projects ongoing and completed and how the Council had worked on collaborations and partnerships and with organisations, stakeholders, and groups to achieve successful outcomes.
- Assurances were given that regular updates would be circulated.
- Positive impacts and benefits of each project were highlighted to the Committee and would be delivered at pace, however tight timescales had been a challenge for the team to work with to achieve set goals.

- Additional local resource had been made available through funding to provide support to Town and Community Councils.
- The presentation provided details of grant funding opportunities provided by the Council aligned with the Stronger Fairer, Greener ambitions.
Stronger - We will become a county that succeeds together, with communities and people that are well connected socially, and are personally and economically resilient.
Fairer - We will be an open, well-run, Council where people's voices are heard and help to shape our work and priorities, with fairer, more equal, access to services and opportunities. We will work to tackle poverty and inequality to support the well-being of the people of Powys.
Greener - We want to ensure a greener future for Powys, where our well-being is linked to that of the natural world, and our response to the climate and nature emergencies is at the heart of everything we do.
- Rurality and locations were challenged, and assurance given that each application received is considered on set criteria.
- It was explained how each enquiry was dealt with within the team and guided towards the best possible outcome and how further developments were planned to improve the service.

Resolved: The Full Economy Round Up be noted.

County Councillor A Davies (Chair)

5

Powys County Council Scrutiny Report Template

Committee:	Health and Care 1st Dec 23 Learning and Skills 13 th Dec 23 Economy, Residents and Communities 11 th Dec 23 Finance Panel 18th Dec 23
Date:	As above
Subject:	Strategic Risk Register Report Quarter 2 2023/2024 Cabinet 16 th Jan 2024

1. Who will be the Lead Officer(s) / Lead Cabinet Member(s) presenting the report?

Name:	Role:
Cllr David Thomas	Portfolio Holder for Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation
Jane Thomas	Head of Finance
Bets Ingram	Strategic Equalities and Risk Officer

2. Why is the Scrutiny Committee being asked to consider the subject?

To scrutinise strategic risks and their control actions through the strategic risk registers reports including progress reviews.
Monitor progress in addressing risk related issues reported to the committee.
Consider the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.

3. Role of the Committee:

The role of the Committee in considering the subject is to:

Request additional information where necessary to ensure comprehensive process has been undertaken.
Challenge scoring profiles, mitigation and progress made against the managing the risk.
Make informed recommendations to Cabinet.
To scrutinise service, project, transformation and partnership risk registers on scrutiny's request.

4. Key Scrutiny Questions:

What Key areas should the Committee focus on:

Scoring profiles based on the guidance given in the Risk Management Framework (Do you agree? Are they a fair and appropriate judgement of risk likelihood and impact?)
Mitigation (Are the control/mitigating actions robust enough for getting the residual risk score down or confidence to close the risk?)
Progress made against the managing the risk (Does the commentary provided, give confidence that the risk is being managed effectively?)

5. Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members:

To assist the Committee when scrutinising the topic:


- 5.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities :
- 5.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality
[focus on value]
- 5.3 A look at any risks
[focus on risk]
- 5.4 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:
- Long term
 - Prevention
 - Integration
 - Collaboration
 - Involvement
- [focus on wellbeing and future generations]
- 5.5 The potential impacts the decision would have on:
- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
 - those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
 - opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language [focus on equality and the Welsh language]
- [focus on equality and Welsh Language]

Key Feeders (tick all that apply)

Strategic Risk	x	Cabinet Work Plan	
Director / Head of Service Key Issue		External / Internal Inspection	
Existing Commitment / Annual Report		Performance / Finance Issue	
Suggestion from Public		Referral from Council / Committee	
Corporate Improvement Plan		Impacting Public / other services	
Service Integrated Business Plan			
Suggestion from Members			
Partnerships			

Strategic Risk Register

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
ASC0064 Nina Davies Escalated From :- Powys County Council Page 13	IF Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) is not fit for purpose, then it will impact upon service area's ability to carry out our statutory operational duties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veracity of decision making around adults and children in Powys could be compromised, leading to poor outcomes The safeguarding of children and adults in Powys could be compromised There could be significant delays in securing time critical packages of care Our ability to manage transfers of people from hospital to the community could be compromised We may not be able to respond effectively to out of hours emergencies There may be delays in making decisions and taking action to keep children safe Staff morale could be affected, leading to increased sickness absence and staff leaving Potential for reputational damage to the council and negative impact on our ability to recruit and retain social workers. Additional financial pressure due to not being able to utilise all staff/agency staff efficiently while the system is down 	<p>19/10/2023 Qtr 2 23/24 Review Summary: WG announcement made with regards to future plans regarding a national system. Options Paper updated and currently being considered by Directors (end of October 23). A recommendation on a way forward is expected in November.</p> <p>24/07/2023 Qtr 1 23/24 Review Summary: The Council have yet to receive the options appraisal as currently waiting on decisions by Welsh Government to inform next steps.</p> <p>The risk profile has been increased due to WCCIS being consistently not available recently due to issues with WCCIS and the VPN system, this created a risk particularly within the Front Door for Children's Services where children's files were not able to be processed in a timely manner due to no system being available. This resulted in a significant backlog of information to be processed creating delay in responses for children and their families.</p> <p>26/04/2023 Review Summary: An options report considering future options for a data management system is expected shortly. This is part of the ongoing Digital Transformation project.</p> <p>16/01/2023 Qtr 3 22/23 Review Summary: Digital Transformation of Social Services Project is ongoing. The review is considering future options for a data management system.</p>	Cllr Sian Cox Nina Davies	12	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance issues raised to Welsh Government through SBAR Follow correct change management processes Monthly Contract review meetings with Supplier Internal Review Admin support to update records after down time 	Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action Completed Control In Place

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
ASC0071 Sharon Frewin Escalated From :- Powys County Council	If there is insufficient capacity to respond to the longer term demand in ADULTS' services in timely manner	Then the Local Authority will be unable to discharge its statutory duty, safeguard adults, maintain the resilience of the workforce and delivery on transformation then citizens may be at risk of harm: - because they would not have their needs meet and be at risk of deconditioning - Quality of services may reduce - Fined - Failure to listen to citizens' views - Unpaid carers may fail to provide care resulting in requirement for LA provision - Untrained staff may provide service users at risk - Individuals who lack capacity may be deprived of liberty without authority - More people may become unwell due to COVID-19 - Increased complaints	03/10/2023 Qtr 2 23/24 Review Summary: Risk still remains high despite progress being made against reducing outstanding assessments and reviews. Work is ongoing to review operational procedures to maximise efficiently way of working in order to be sustainable in moving forward. We continue to see increased demand and complexity in presentation of needs. 30/06/2023 Qtr 1 23/24 Review Summary: This risk has been reviewed Senior Management Team. The risk remains high even though extra resources have been allocated in order to meet statutory requirements with the service. The service needs to be sustainable going forward.	Cllr Sian Cox Nina Davies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency Staff and reconfiguring existing resources Increase inhouse domiciliary care capacity Ensuring there are sufficient well being responses in place 	Action In Progress Action In Progress Control In Place	

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
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Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
EDR0011 Ellen Sullivan Escalated From :- Powys County Council	A climate emergency has been declared by Powys County Council. IF we experience the extreme consequences of not taking action then we will experience flooding, poor air quality, impact on nature and our communities.	-Exceeding acceptable CO2 emissions -Increasing demand on flood alleviation and response (including increase demand on resources) -Increased emissions due to depletion of natural carbon stores and sequestration -Unable to meet demand for housing linked to land suitability -Unable to meet future public building needs -Councils reputation is hurt if by lack of prevention/resilience planning and being perceived to be a contributor -Deteriorating river and water way quality -Increased phosphates due to extreme weather events i.e. flooding -Investing in adapting service delivery -Risk to Biodiversity - see Nature Emergency risk -Risk of increased wildfires and their impact -Negative effect on supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks -Risks to the people and the economy climate related failure of the power system -increased risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat, in homes and other buildings -possible multiple risks	16/10/2023 Qtr 2 23/24 Review Summary: Dr. Alan Netherwood (Netherwood Sustainable Futures) was commissioned by Powys County Council to review and challenge the Council's current approach in the delivery of its Climate Change Programme. The commission findings provide a set of priorities identifying several ways the council can improve and strengthen the approach, and delivery of our climate change programme, and climate & nature emergency declarations. The scope for the commission asked Netherwood Sustainable Futures to consider several key areas these included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and collaboration (internal and external) • Strategic direction, prioritisation, and pace of decarbonisation • Actions and the financial commitments for achieving Net Zero 2030 for PCC • Approaches to progress Net Zero Powys 2050 across partnerships in Powys • Climate risk and adaptation for the Council and across Powys • Capacity building and resources for an enhanced approach The commission drew on NSF's extensive work and research at UK, Wales, partnership and local authority levels on climate change policy, practice, and governance. The recommendations provided within the report will be considered by senior officers and members to support prioritisation and strategic level planning. The outcomes of the prioritisation exercise will influence appropriate alignment of resources in key areas which are required to undertake transformation at an increased pace. The report will also serve as a key evidence base, providing a backdrop from which robust and clear business cases can be developed to unlock financial barriers to delivery. The Council is currently co-ordinating a period of review with key internal officer and	<i>Cllr Jackie Charlton</i> Diane Reynolds	25	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workstream Action Plans developed • Engagement with stakeholders and experts • Carbon accounts reporting • EMT/SLT dedicated session to take place in December to focus on risk and plan strategic mitigation • Implement Powys' Climate Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action Completed Control In Place

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
		to the County from Climate change impact from overseas. -Inadequate planning for unforeseen events	<p>member working groups, the approach will review each of the recommended priority areas from Dr Alan Netherwood and consider what actions are required to be taken forward, where the action should be managed, and the suggested timeline and cost for implementation.</p> <p>06/07/2023</p> <p>Qtr 1 23/24 Review Summary: No change however progress has been made with some of the controls.</p> <p>- Climate action plans for Mobility & Transport, Sustainable Procurement, Buildings and Land, Energy and Governance continue to be refined. Action plan leads have been tasked to cost action plans to coincide with forthcoming budget setting timescales and to inform future business case proposals to transformation delivery board which identifies the costs and resource requirements alongside potential return of investment.</p> <p>-Climate and Nature event took place on 14th June as part of this ongoing control</p>					

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
			<p>30/03/2023</p> <p>Qtr 4 22/23. Review Summary: Action towards addressing the climate and nature emergency declarations of the council are taking shape with a climate and nature transformation programme being added to the existing portfolio, increased governance, working groups and stakeholder groups being established and closer engagement between members and officers to shape the councils response.</p> <p>Further work is required to fully embed climate and nature into the organisation aligned to the corporate plan and the greener priority objective and to refine and clearly articulate and prioritise our resources in areas where most impact can be achieved. Prioritisation will be driven by the carbon accounts and action plans which have now been developed by service areas but more work is needed. The Council can reduce the risk through mitigation, adaptation and reducing our carbon emission, however, more evidence will be required to reduce the risk further. As well as improve our environmental wellbeing, nature recovery and biodiversity enhancement this risk rating relates to mitigation and adaptation'. Action plans are being developed by service areas but more work is needed. As the Council improves its awareness of its carbon footprint and evidence base the action required as an organisation to meet our climate and nature emergency declarations will begin to inform targeted interventions which will reduce the residual risk impact.</p>					

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
			<p>18/01/2023</p> <p>Qtr 3 22/23 Review summary. On behalf of service. The risk is ongoing. The Climate Emergency Programme Board continue to meet monthly and work on developing workstream action plans has continued. A climate stakeholder group has been established to plan for an event in June aimed at supporting Town and Community Councils to declare climate and nature emergencies. A climate and nature engagement group has also been established and had it's first meeting in December</p>					

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
FIN0001 Jane Thomas Escalated From :- Powys County Council <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 21</div>	The Council may be unable to deliver a financially sustainable budget over the short and medium term. The continued impact of Covid coupled with the more recent events around rising inflation, energy costs and the situation in Ukraine impacting on supply chains and prices all increase the risk on the Council financial resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council is unable to fulfil its legal obligation in setting a balanced budget - The Council will not be financially resilient or sustainable - Council reputation damaged - Inability to fulfil our statutory obligations - Inability to deliver the Council objectives 	23/10/2023 Qtr 2 23/24 Review Summary: The outturn for 2022/23 was extremely welcome and we used the funding opportunities provided to set up a specific reserve to support the likely pay award pressures and capital financing which will be required in this and future years. Quarter 1 projected an underspend for 2023/24 with limited draw on the risk budget to date. This budget helps to manage financial risk during the year and use becomes more likely as the year progresses. Cabinet received a report in September that revised the assumptions in the MTFS which increased the projected budget gap across the 5 years. Work has intensified in recent weeks in developing the budget proposal to bridge the gap both for 2024/25 and future years. Discussions continue at a national level through the WLGA and Welsh Treasurers with Welsh Government 04/07/2023 Qtr 1 23/24 Review Summary: The final outturn 2022/23 reports a net underspend, after contributions to specific reserves, of £6.7 million against the £221.9 million budget a 3.0% variance (excluding Schools and the Housing Revenue Account). This position will release one off funding to support the increasing pressure already facing the 2023/24 revenue budget particularly that relating to teachers and staff pay as pay award negotiations create unfunded pressure in next financial year. This goes some way to de-risk the Councils financial position in the short term but does not reduce the ongoing base budget pressure that continues to create a gap in our budget plans for next year and future years. The Sustainable Powys programme will seek to identify the opportunities to reduce council spend in order to bridge the budget gap over the next few years.	Cllr David Thomas Jane Thomas	25	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise the Medium Term Financial Strategy • Ongoing discussion with WG and WLGA through Society of Welsh Treasurers for Future Funding of Local Government • The Reimagining the Council programme will fundamentally review and reshape the Council for the future • Instruction to all services across the council to pull back on expenditure through 2022/23 to manage the projected deficit • Service Integrated Business Plans will be reviewed and refreshed • Keen focus on procurement issues - sharing information and knowledge across the LA/WLGA network • WG claims for Hardship and lost income continue and expect to remain in place til march 2021 • Cell in place to monitor rising costs, supply chain issues and sharing of information across the Council • Regularly monitor and review the financial position on monthly basis. • Cost Recovery work • 3rd party spend reduction • Income Generation • Monthly reports to cabinet and Management Team on budget progress and progress on savings • Budget Challenge Events • Moved to a 3 year balanced budget • Reassessment of the activities of the Council through the Recovery Coordination Group • Review budget position at end of first quarter and consider changes to the 2020/21 budget 	Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action Completed Action Completed Action Completed Action Completed Control In Place Control In Place Withdrawn Withdrawn Withdrawn Withdrawn Withdrawn Withdrawn Withdrawn

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
			<p>17/04/2023 Qtr 4 22/23 Review Summary: The council approved a balanced budget for 2023/24 with the inclusion of a 5% increase in Council Tax. The budget recognises the impact of increasing inflation across all services which have in the main been funded, although significant cost reductions are required to delivered within budget. The financial year for 2022/23 has now closed and the accounts are being finalised, the latest forecast based on the position at the end of February projects a surplus budget albeit with the draw down of specific reserves, as set aside last year. Work must now quickly turn to addressing the projected budget for 2024/25 and beyond.</p> <p>16/01/2023 Qtr 3 22/23 Review Summary: The development of the budget through the Autumn has seen Cabinet propose a balanced budget for 2023/24 which will be set out at Cabinet on the 17th January. Significant cost pressures across all services can be managed through the increased WG settlement, the delivery of costs reductions and an increase in Council Tax. The longer term 5 year strategy sees further significant shortfalls through to 2028. Work is now underway to reimagine the Council for the future delivered at a lower cost.</p>					

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
HTR0018 Matthew Perry Escalated From :- Powys County Council	Impact of nature emergency on our ability to deliver services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced productivity of agriculture, forestry and fisheries impacting the livelihoods of residents and economic stability. Reduced food availability through declines in pollination, soil health and soil fertility. These will lead to decreased yields, a decrease in food and fodder production, and a decreased availability of wild foods. Ecosystems are more susceptible to invasion by pests and diseases. This will reduce the resilience of the natural environment and require investment in pest and disease prevention/control/eradication. Reduced capacity for land to sequester carbon and thus our ability to tackle the climate emergency – see climate risks (interlinked) Reduced capacity for land to perform other basic ecological functions such as water storage, water purification, nutrient cycling and air filtration. Deteriorating river and water quality. Reduced health and wellbeing of residents through increase of diseases, reduced protection against pollution, health effects associated with increased malnutrition and increased exposure to agricultural chemicals, 	10/10/2023 Qtr 2 23/24 Review Summary: Secured Shared Prosperity Funding for Nature Recovery Officer Role until the end of March 2025. The Nature Recovery Officer has been appointed in Quarter 2, which has expanded the specialist staff capacity which will be available to deliver nature recovery actions and work with partners. Powys County Council has been allocated Local Places for Nature Funding to implement greenspace improvement strategy for housing services sites for 23/25.	Cllr Jackie Charlton Matthew Perry	25	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering on our Section 6 duties Implementing the Nature Recovery Action Plan with partners 	Action In Progress Action In Progress

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
		<p>a loss of cultural values, reduced access to traditional medicines, reduced options for future drug development, and poorer mental health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A decline in tourism due to loss of nature and poor condition of the natural environment. • Unable to meet demand for housing linked to land suitability. • Unable to meet future public building needs. • Council's reputation is hurt by lack of prevention/resilience planning and being perceived to be a contributor. • Investing in adapting service delivery. 	<p>30/06/2023</p> <p>Qtr 1 23/24 Review Summary: Our Biodiversity officer has been in post now close to 6 months and much progress has been made around delivery of section 6 duties. A report reflecting on the actions taken in the period from December 2019 to December 2022 was presented to Cabinet in Spring 2023 and was approved. Publication of this report fulfils the Council's duty to report on its progress against section 6 duties every three years.</p> <p>Local Places for Nature funding has been confirmed for the period from April 2023-March 2025; this will allow for 'Nature on your doorstep' projects to be carried out on the Council estate around maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. This funding has a specific revenue element around section 6 duties, which will allow for the Nature Recovery officer (for which funding has been made available) to work with Council services to look at biodiversity opportunities and support Town and Community Councils in implementing their section 6 duties.</p> <p>Due to time constraints, it was not possible to commission a contractor to carry out a desktop review of progress against the Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan in spring 2023. However, a progress tracker has been developed at officer level to identify the projects and initiatives in which the Nature Partnership is involved and the actions in the Nature Recovery Action Plan against which each delivers. This will continue to be populated as projects develop and progress.</p> <p>Work is also under way through the Powys Nature Partnership to map the extent to which Powys is already contributing to the 30x30 target (which is a worldwide initiative for governments to designate 30% of Earth's land and ocean area as protected areas by 2030.) In combination, the progress tracker and 30x30 mapping will help to target future work to deliver against the Nature Recovery Action Plan.</p>					

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
			<p>Local Places for Nature capital and revenue funding have been confirmed for the period from April 2023 to March 2025 and will underpin delivery of projects that deliver 'Nature on the Doorstep' by the Council, the Powys Nature Partnership and community groups and organisations over the next 18 months.</p> <p>05/04/2023 Qtr 4 22/23 Review Summary: Section 6 report completed outlining all the achievements to improve biodiversity throughout Powys and the ongoing collaboration with our partners through Powys Local Nature Partnership. Report is Scheduled for Cabinet/EMT W/C 17th April 2023.</p> <p>17/01/2023 Qtr 3 22/23 Review Summary: Work is underway to review the 2022 outcomes which will show progress from 2019. There are 15 Local Places for Nature projects under way this year to deliver against the Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan (PNRAP) and 5 of those are on Council land including schools, so will deliver against section 6 duties too. Interest from within and outside the Council is growing rapidly, with enquiries being made by other Services and community organisations around development of projects to be funded in the next year. We have now also been formally awarded SPF funding to appoint a Nature Recovery Officer for the next two years, which achieves one of the aims set out in the declaration of a Nature Emergency</p>					

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
IAWARD0009 Yvette Kottaun Escalated From :- Powys County Council	If the Council is susceptible to higher levels of fraud as people struggle with the cost of living crisis and as organised fraud take advantage of the challenging environment. This could lead to lost income revenues or increased service provision costs.	Then this could lead to lost income revenues, increased service provision costs, some schools will have escalating deficits which will have a financial impact on the rest of the Council and the learners in their care. Other consequences could be: - increased service provision costs because of lost income/reduced budget - Reputational Damage - Lost in stakeholder confidence	29/09/2023 Qtr 2 23/24 Review Summary: On behalf of Service: The situation remains the same for the Council as evidenced by fraud reports. Fraud reports are revealing increased levels of fraud with the 'Cost of living' situation believed to be a contributing and motivating factor.' 20/07/2023 1st Qtr 23/24 Review Summary: On behalf of Service: Of the remaining 4 service areas fraud risk assessments that were outstanding by SWAP, 3 have been completed however the last one has not. A meeting has been scheduled with SWAP to discuss those that have been carried out, as the Council would like further work to take place to give a more robust/realistic view. The Councils team have shared their work plan to ensure there is no duplication of work, and an effort to try and make work around fraud risk, fraud investigation and error work, more joined up. Regarding the remaining fraud risk assessment, SWAP have advised the delay is because of time and capacity resource however are still planning on completing the final one (at the Councils request) but currently unable to give a time frame. 04/04/2023 Qtr 4 22/23 Review Summary: The fraud team are awaiting guidance from SWAP on which service areas they intend to do further fraud risk work with. Once this is established Corporate Fraud will determine their action plan of service workshops so not duplicate work and cost with SWAP. Progress has been made with 3 more service risk assessments having been completed, leaving only one outstanding. It is worth noting despite the work that has been carried out to reduce the risk probability and impact, the service are noting increased incidents of fraud, put down to the cost of living crisis and therefore the scoring remains the same. 13/03/2023 Review Summary: The risk is now live	Cllr David Thomas Jane Thomas	16	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fraud team to review fraud risks with service areas and determine action plan SWAP Undertake the remaining fraud risk assessments in 4 service areas Provide section 151 officer with fraud risk Intelligence bi-annually. regular fraud activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action In Progress Action In Progress Control In Place Control In Place

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
			16/01/2023 Qtr 3 22/23 Review Summary: Activities to monitor and aide compliance continue, as per previous quarters. Corporate Information Governance Group (CIGG) took place November 2022				information asset and ROPA	

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCSC 10 Steps Actions Vulnerability Management • Detection and Response Tools • Cyber Exercising 	Control In Place Control In Place Withdrawn

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
PCC0008 Matthew Perry	IF planned power outages (rota disconnections) occurs then it may affect our ability to deliver services.	Then there will be immediate impacts on telephony, communication, ICT, fuel, transport, medical, retail, sanitation, emergency response, banking and & water distribution which will impact on our ability to deliver services. The impact will vary in severity depending upon the length of time without power (The UK Gov target for 100% restoration from 100% outage is currently (Dec 2022) 7 days therefore in theory POs can be anything from seconds to 7 days.	17/10/2023 Qtr 2 23/24 On behalf of Nigel Brinn. The risk for winter 2023/24 appears to be lower than was the case for winter 2022/23. Nevertheless rota disconnections are still a possibility for the winter ahead. Given the size of the County it is likely (should rota disconnections occur) that some areas would be without power for short periods, but more unlikely that the whole of the County would be impacted. In the event of rota disconnections an internal Incident Management Team would be established together with corresponding multi-agency structures within the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). 06/07/2023 Qtr 1 23/24 Review Summary: The risk profile has been reduced due to lowered demands for heating, lighting etc during the summer months however as we cannot predict the winter months ahead, and the risk of regional and national power outages remains on the National Security Risk Assessment (with their Risk Assessment unchanged) the risk will remain on the Strategic Risk Register. However the risk and its controls will remain under review by the Emergency Planning Team and the Local Resilience Forum. 04/04/2023 Review Summary: Qtr 4 22/23 Risk Summary, on behalf of Nigel Brinn. The risk has been reviewed and probability reduced to 'unlikely' at present however the risk itself will remain under review by the Emergency Planning Team and the LRF. 10/03/2023 Review Summary: Rescheduling date to 1st April inline with Strategic Risk Register review.	Cllr Richard Church Matthew Perry	15	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further electrical work at Penybont depot to ensure access to bunkered fuel supplies of diesel (to drive the generator). SLT to agree a priority list of services/people to have access to county hall and continued use of systems. SLT to agree which services/people get access to county hall and continued use of systems. Property and HTR to agree a forward plan to deliver fuel to County Hall's generator if needed Commission care providers' business continuity planning The Council has contacted providers like EE to see what their plans are Consider UPS at the homes of identified key officers Paper to SLT to initiate discussion on power outages All services to review Business Continuity plans in relation to power outage ICT has setup an management Whatsapp group for all team leaders Uninterrupted power supplies on our key ICT servers monitoring their own readiness Generator at County Hall tested on a monthly basis SLT instructed to relocate to County Hall at first sign of a prolonged outage and activate the SLT Incident Response Guide , Attendance (virtual) at national seminars on planning for Power Outages Take part in major exercises scheduled to test the response to power outages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action Completed Action Completed Control In Place Control In Place Control In Place Control In Place Control In Place Control In Place Control In Place

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
PPPP0030 Gwilym Davies Escalated From :- Powys County Council	IF the Council has an insufficient level of revenue maintenance and major improvement capital funding, then it is likely to result in unsafe and unfit assets within School properties.	Withdrawal of use of the asset by the school leading to disruption to educational continuity with the partial or full closure of the school.	23/10/2023 Qtr 2 23/24 Review Summary: Corporate Compliance Board and Education Property Compliance and Operational Safety Board are actively monitoring compliance and managing risk. Risk assessments are undertaken where compliance risks are identified and appropriate actions taken to manage risk to an acceptable level. Condition surveys are being commissioned to identify program and planned maintenance priorities. This will enable the identification of risks and inform the programme of works to be created. 21/07/2023 Qtr 1 23/24 Review Summary: Compliance Board and Education Working group have been set up to monitor compliance and manage risk. Risk assessments are undertaken where compliance risks are identified and appropriate actions taken to manage risk to an acceptable level. Condition surveys are considered necessary to identify risks and enable an informed programme of works to be created. 30/03/2023 Qtr 4 22/23 The Council is continuing to tolerate (with controls in place) as the risk is in relation to insufficient level of revenue maintenance and major improvement capital funding. The Council has an ongoing assessment of all school properties to plan for essential works to maintain safe and operational premises. The Council has received confirmation from WG of additional capital/revenue maintenance grant and the associated terms and conditions for financial year 2023/24. This risk has been transferred from Educations risk register to Property, Planning and Public Protection risk register however remains cross linked with Education so both services have sight. The service is currently planning and commissioning project work for school property financial year 23/24.	Cllr Jake Berriman Nigel Brinn	20	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor statutory compliance and implement remedial works and programme capital improvements to maintain service 	Control In Place

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
			<p>07/11/2022</p> <p>Qtr 3 22/23 Currently the Council is tolerating (with controls in place) as the risk is in relation to the possibility of insufficient level of revenue maintenance and major improvement capital funding. The Council has an ongoing assessment of all school properties to plan for essential works to maintain safe and operational premises. The Council is awaiting confirmation from WG about additional capital/revenue maintenance grant and the associated terms and conditions for financial year 2023/24. This risk has been transferred from Educations risk register to Property, Planning and Public Protection risk register however remains cross linked with Education so both services have sight.</p>					

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
PPPP0031 Gwilym Davies Escalated From :- Powys County Council	IF the school building stock deteriorates due to the insufficient level of revenue and major improvement capital funding required to maintain them, then they could become un-safe and not fit for purpose.	Disruption to the operational continuity of the building which may either result in the partial or full closure of the school building to ensure the health and safety of all occupants.	03/10/2023 Qtr 2 23/24 Review Summary: Compliance Board and Education Working group have been set up to monitor compliance and manage risk. Risk assessments are undertaken where compliance risks are identified and appropriate actions taken to manage risk to an acceptable level. Condition surveys are considered necessary to identify risks and enable an informed programme of works to be created. 21/07/2023 Qtr 1 23/24 Review Summary: Compliance Board and Education Working group have been set up to monitor compliance and manage risk. Risk assessments are undertaken where compliance risks are identified and appropriate actions taken to manage risk to an acceptable level. Condition surveys are considered necessary to identify risks and enable an informed programme of works to be created. 30/03/2023 Qtr 4 22/23 Review Summary: This risk although sits with PPPP is cross linked with Education so both services have sight. Meeting took place as a matter of urgency with all relevant service areas to review the risk and in particular the controls and actions in place during the last Qtr. School premises critical compliance assessment is being prepared for all school and non school buildings with a view to presenting 'work in progress' document to Corporate Compliance and Strategic Property Board. Also we are completing the major improvement capital programs 22/23 including other capital grant funded schemes and a planned maintenance program to maintain and upgrade school buildings, safeguarding, external infrastructure and school facilities. This is to maintain safe operational school facilities.	Cllr Jake Berriman Matthew Perry	20	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the schools asset management plan within the budget available and escalate to the Transforming Education Programme Actively input into the HOWPS transition working group 	Action In Progress Withdrawn

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
			<p>09/01/2023</p> <p>Qtr 3 22/23 Review Summary: Risk reviewed in Schools SSMT. This risk has been transferred from Educations risk register to Property, Planning and Public Protection risk register however remains cross linked with Education so both services have sight. Meeting to take place as a matter of urgency with all relevant service areas to review the risk and in particular the controls and actions in place.</p>					

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
PROC0008 Wayne Welsby Escalated From :- Powys County Council	IF global supply chain issues arise such as Brexit, Russian invasion of Ukraine, or, other economic or environmental pressures affect the global market then this could lead to increased price variations and labour & material shortages.	Effect on capital and revenue budget which may result in: Council's ability to deliver services, meet its corporate plan objectives and manage its budget. Council unable to deliver statutory and non statutory services which could result in a backlog of work, reputational damaged, quality of buildings and knock-on consequences. Examples of a key consequence include, delayed or cancelled housing development reduces capacity to address homelessness and other housing needs, Delays or affordability of delivery of schools transformation, etc. Potential for businesses ceasing to operate or provide specific specialist services where alternative options are limited.	19/10/2023 Qtr 2 23/24 Review Summary: Commercial Performance and Risk Board is effectively identifying and mitigating known supply chain risks. 10/07/2023 Qtr 1 23/24 Review Summary: Ongoing risk management via the Commercial Performance and Risk Board. 15/05/2023 Review Summary: Risk management is on going via the new Commercial Board. 05/01/2023 Qtr 3 22/23 Review Summary: The new Commercial Performance and Risk Board has been created and now operational and includes increased viability of supply chain risks and thus promoting actions to mitigate.	Cllr David Thomas Jane Thomas	15	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update contract management reporting of supply chain risks Financial Risk Reporting - use of D&B reports etc..... New Commercial Performance and Risk Board created. Controlling costs and supply price increases. Access to Market Intelligence Value Engineering &/or Material substitution Re-evaluate project timescales Value engineering Ukraine Cell Set up to report to Gold on consequences and to manage Develop a Process for approval by S151 officers for minimising effect of Price Increases - replaced by PROC0008/007. 	Action In Progress Action In Progress Control In Place Control In Place Control In Place Withdrawn Withdrawn Withdrawn Withdrawn

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
WO0021 Gemma Gabriel Escalated From :- Powys County Council	IF the Council is unable to recruit, retain and commission the workforce it requires, in the short term due to increased staff absences and a challenging UK labour market, and in the longer term due to an expected long term decrease in the local working age population	Then: *the Council will be unable to secure the services needed by the local population, including care and assessment provision, education, waste, highways, housing culture and support services. *services may not be able to respond to and fully meet increasing demand. *services also may not be able to deliver their normal / planned levels of service provision. Where this is acute or could lead to the inability of the Council to deliver statutorily required services, the Council may need to temporarily step-down elements of its non-business critical activities in order to deploy staff to business-critical work.	13/10/2023 Qtr 2 23/24 Review Summary: Successful recruitment event for reablement and support worker positions. Event enabled staff to received job offers on the day (4 made on the day). This model of recruitment event will therefore be a focus moving forward. 5 apprentices appointed on Q2 (6 others currently being advertised) 21/07/2023 1st Qtr 23/24 Review Summary: • Presentation given to Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee, with positive feedback and contributions. • Successful recruitment campaign for housing trades roles resulting in an overwhelming response and significant numbers of offers made and vacancies filled. • Further success recruiting to vacancies in Children's Residential services following recruitment events and leaflet drops to homes across Powys. • 6 apprentices appointed in Q1 with 3 starts and 3 due to start in Q2. • Review meetings in place to discuss system development with e-recruitment provider 17/04/2023 Qtr 4 22/23 Review Summary: This work continues. We are seeing some impact in key roles for example in social care and environmental health. Metrics are being developed which will used in future reports to review and measure risk.	Cllr Jake Berriman Paul Bradshaw	25	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment and Retention working group delivery Developing a health and care workforce for the future Ensure a robust and effective Apprenticeship programme Improving the skills and employability of young people and adults Telehealth and telecare Formal partnership with the Open University and secondment of students increase use of direct payments and the dynamic purchasing system are intended to secure more creative approaches Support communities to be able to do more for themselves and reduce demand on public services Promoting Powys as a place to live, visit and do business Developing digital solutions and services Developing a workforce strategy which ensures Council is an excellent employer Develop an Adults' Service recruitment and retention strategy , based on a strong brand promoting positive values and working/l Growing our own workforce, including the scoping of a rural academy of learning which would offer social care qualifications t Conduct research to understand the workforce profile in health and social care To maintain rolling adverts for key staff and to link the adverts to relevant sites / job boards To activate the Emergency Plan as may be required in order to facilitate the move of resources to business critical work To internally deploy staff from non business critical work to business critical activities where possible. To develop and run a national recruitment campaign to best attract candidates to social care roles To further develop the Council's recruitment practice, site and campaigns to best promote employment opportunities Improving skills and supporting people to get good quality jobs Improving education attainment of all pupils Consideration of a joint bank of staff available to maintain staffing levels and reduce risk Build better connections with Powys schools & universities within Wales & just across the border in order to attract students 	Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action In Progress Action Completed Action Completed Action Completed Action Completed Action Completed Control In Place Control In Place Control In Place Withdrawn Withdrawn Withdrawn Withdrawn Withdrawn

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
			<p>23/12/2022</p> <p>Qtr 3 22/23 Review Summary: The health and care partners in Powys have a multi-faceted Workforce Futures Strategic Framework is in place and being implemented, which is designed to recruit and develop the workforce needed to support the people of Powys now and for the future. As part of this it's essential that we have people with the education and skills that will be needed, which is supported by the Council's Transforming Education Programme which sets out a ten year strategy and is in the process of being implemented.</p> <p>IN order to best respond to the tight UK and local labour market, a high level resourcing group has been established to ensure that the Council takes every possible step to recruit and retain the workforce needed, including growing our own staff. This group is working with the leadership team and so far has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • piloted an easier process to apply for roles, leading to a significant increase in interest in the roles and led to 3 staff being recruited, this will be rolled out • developed a new website with an enhanced search function to make it easier for applicants to search our vacancies • introduced a new process to use existing vacancies as apprenticeship opportunities for people in our apprentice talent pool. • undertaken a staff pulse survey to all staff to obtain feedback on why they chose to work at Powys, the findings from which will be used to support recruitment and retention plans. • Are working closely with our partners (e.g. PTHB, PAVO) to identify where we can jointly address recruitment and retention challenges • Firm plans in place for 15 social care staff under our grow one own initiative to qualify as Social Workers during 2023 • Developed a new vibrant and attractive advertising brand which will be launched early January 2023 • We have a - New Year, New Job recruitment campaign ready to launch 					

Strategic Risk Register				Portfolio	Inherent	Residual	Controls and Actions	
Ref & Owner	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Last Reviews	Director or Head of Service			Control or Action	Status
			<p>during January 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> And have reviewed and condensed our application form, making it easier for candidates to complete which will be launched in the new year <p>AS can be seen, much work has already been completed to address our recruitment needs and we have many more initiatives and improvements planned for Quarter 4 and beyond.</p> <p>The Council is also working closely with PTHB and our partners to support the release of patients from hospital into reablement and care, this work will continue over the winter period and will focus on joint recruitment initiatives, joint induction and development, with a key focus on reablement.</p> <p>IN addition we are widening access to the health and care sector in Powys by / through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an employability skills hub project (NPTC delivering employability skills training to a range of groups including staff currently within the health and care system, carers, volunteers and new staff trying to access employment in the sector) by widening our apprenticeship offer And enabling access for carers and volunteers to statutory education packages 					

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Heatmap Inherent and Current



Inherent Ratings Summary Heatmap

Residual Ratings Summary Heatmap

Probability



Page 41

Insignificant Minor Moderate Major Severe

Insignificant Minor Moderate Major Severe

Impact

Impact

Detailed Risk Information

Residual and Target Rating Changes since 17/05/2023

Risk Ref	Risk Identified	Owner	Service Area	Prev Inherent	->	Inherent Rating	Prev Residual Rating	->	Residual Rating
EDR0011	A climate emergency has been declared by Powys County Council . IF we experience the extreme consequences of not taking action then we will experience flooding, poor air quality, impact on nature and our communities.	Ellen Sullivan	Powys County Council	25	→	25	20	→	20
ASC0064	IF Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) is not fit for purpose, then it will impact upon service area's ability to carry out our statutory operational duties .	Nina Davies	Powys County Council	12	→	12	12	↗ 8	20
FIN0001	The Council may be unable to deliver a financially sustainable budget over the short and medium term. The continued impact of Covid coupled with the more recent events around rising inflation, energy costs and the situation in Ukraine impacting on supply chains and prices all increase the risk on the Council financial resilience.	Jane Thomas	Powys County Council	25	→	25	16	→	16
HTR0018	Impact of nature emergency on our ability to deliver services	Matthew Perry	Powys County Council	25	→	25	16	→	16
WO0021	IF the Council is unable to recruit, retain and commission the workforce it requires, in the short term due to increased staff absences and a challenging UK labour market , and in the longer term due to an expected long term decrease in the local working age population	Gemma Gabriel	Powys County Council	25	→	25	16	→	16
PPPP0030	IF the Council has an insufficient level of revenue maintenance and major improvement capital funding , then it is likely to result in unsafe and unfit assets within School properties.	Gwilym Davies	Powys County Council	20	→	20	16	→	16
PPPP0031	IF the school building stock deteriorates due to the insufficient level of revenue and major improvement capital funding required to maintain them, then they could become un-safe and not fit for purpose.	Gwilym Davies	Powys County Council	20	→	20	16	→	16
ASC0066	IF a Social Care provider(s) fail THEN the pressure on care homes, domiciliary care providers, supported living and other providers would become unsustainable.	Rachel Evans	Powys County Council	20	→	20	12	→	12
IAWA0009	If the Council is susceptible to higher levels of fraud as people struggle with the cost of living crisis and as organised fraud take advantage of the challenging environment. This could lead to lost income revenues or increased service provision costs.	Yvette Kottaun	Powys County Council	16	→	16	12	→	12
ICT0029	IF the Council incurs a serious Cyber Attack or Security Incident this can result in financial costs to recover , and data loss if recovery is not possible. This will result in disruption and damage to the reputation and running of the Council and its services.	Ellen Sullivan	Powys County Council	16	→	16	12	→	12
ICT0010	IF the Council is found non-compliant with either UK General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and or the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 then, it could be subject to monetary penalties or other regulatory action, data protection audits, civil action and associated consequences, including suffering reputational damage, and resultant detriment to the affected data subjects.	Ellen Sullivan	Powys County Council	12	→	12	12	→	12
ASC0071	If there is insufficient capacity to respond to the longer term demand in ADULTS' services in timely manner	Sharon Frewin	Powys County Council	No Previous		25	No Previous		9
PROC0008	IF global supply chain issues arise such as Brexit, Russian invasion of Ukraine, or, other economic or environmental pressures affect the global market then this could lead to increased price variations and labour & material shortages.	Wayne Welsby	Powys County Council	15	→	15	12	↘ -6	6
PCC0008	IF planned power outages (rota disconnections) occurs then it may affect our ability to deliver services.	Matthew Perry	Powys County Council	15	→	15	8	↘ -5	3

Report Selection Criteria

(REP_RECORD_CROSSCUT.Business Unit Code = @StrategicBusinessUnitCode AND (REP_RECORD_CROSSCUT.Status Flag <> "WITHDRAWN")) and REP_RECORD_CROSSCUT.Record Type=1

6

Powys County Council Scrutiny Report Template

Committee:	Economy, Residents Communities
Date:	11.12.23
Subject:	Homes in Powys – General Overview

1. Who will be the Lead Officer(s) / Lead Cabinet Member(s) presenting the report?

Name:	Role:
Cllr Matthew Dorrance	Portfolio Holder for a Fairer Powys
Andy Thompson	Interim Head of Housing
Richard Batt	Service Manager – Housing Communities

2. Why is the Scrutiny Committee being asked to consider the subject?

Gain an understanding of how the current allocation policy 'Homes in Powys' is used to allocate all social housing in Powys, regardless of landlord, according to the housing needs of the people of Powys.

3. Role of the Committee:

The role of the Committee in considering the subject is to:

Consider the appropriateness of 'Homes in Powys' in making sure that social housing provided by both the Council and housing associations is allocated equitably, with particular regard to the relative priorities accorded to households.

4. Key Scrutiny Questions:

What Key areas should the Committee focus on:

The relative priority accorded to different housing needs.

The role of all social housing providers in meeting the housing needs of those registered with 'Homes in Powys'.

5. Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members:

To assist the Committee when scrutinising the topic:

5.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities :

5.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality

[focus on value]

5.3 A look at any risks

[focus on risk]

5.4 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

- 5.5 The potential impacts the decision would have on:
- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
 - those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
 - opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language [focus on equality and the Welsh language]

[focus on equality and Welsh Language]

Key Feeders (tick all that apply)

Strategic Risk		Cabinet Work Plan	
Director / Head of Service Key Issue	Y	External / Internal Inspection	
Existing Commitment / Annual Report		Performance / Finance Issue	
Suggestion from Public		Referral from Council / Committee	
Corporate Improvement Plan	Y	Impacting Public / other services	Y
Service Integrated Business Plan	Y		
Suggestion from Members			
Partnerships	Y		

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

Economy, Residents & Communities Scrutiny Committee 11th December 2023

Report Author: County Councillor Matthew Dorrance
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for a Fairer Powys

Lead Officer: Richard Batt, Service Manager – Housing Communities

Report Title: Homes in Powys – General Overview

Report For:	Information
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1.0 Purpose

1.1: The purpose of this report is provide a summary of ‘Homes in Powys’ and its impact on meeting housing need across Powys.

2.0 Background

2.1: The allocation of all social housing in Powys is managed through ‘Homes in Powys’, a common allocation scheme which has been in place since 20214 that also offers a one-stop shop for people looking for a home. It is an on-line system making it easy for people to apply and amend their applications as and when needed. One application is all that is needed for someone to be considered for all social housing provided in Powys by the Council and 7 Partner Community Landlords¹.

2.2: Each applicant as outlined in the ‘Homes in Powys Allocation’ Policy is placed in one of five Priority Bands , depending on the type and urgency of their housing needs and requirements. A description of these Priority Bands is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: ‘Homes in Powys’ Priority Band Descriptions

Band One – includes urgent moves for safeguarding needs community safety and extraordinary medical needs.

Band Two – includes under-occupation of a current social housing tenancy, service personnel and key workers and homeless households who have been given a Section 75 ‘Full’ Homeless Duty

Band Three – includes people ready to move and with a clear housing need, this includes households who are threatened with homelessness/homeless (Section 73 ‘Relief’ Homeless Duty)
--

Band Four – ready to move but housing need no covered by Bands One to Three

Band Five – housing need but not ready to move.

2.4 When a property becomes available for allocation, applicants are considered in strict order according to the ‘Homes in Powys’ Allocation Policy, until an eligible applicant accepts the available property. A central requirement of the policy is that applicants are ‘Ready to Move’ when they are offered a home. If applicants are not

¹ The 7 Partner Community Landlords are Clwyd Alyn HA, Grwp Cynefin, Melin Homes, Barcud, Newydd HA, Wales & West HA and Stori (Hafan Cymru)

'Ready-to-Move', they may find that their social housing options are reduced and they could be placed in the lowest Priority Band.

3.0 Advice

3.1 Meeting Housing Need

3.1.1 The provision of social housing in Powys that provides quality, affordable accommodation on a secure contract has a clear impact on achieving the aims of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan as give the people the stability to create a home and settled into a neighbourhood and become part of a community.

3.1.2 As noted in Table 2 at the end of September 2023, there were 4007 households on the Common Housing Register. Of those households, 1921 (47.9%) were in housing need (either in Priority Band 1, Band 2 or Band 3). In terms of size of property required, the greatest need is for one bedroom accommodation of the registered households 2204 (55%) require such sized accommodation. This is not matched by the current social rent stock (both Council and partner Community Landlords) where only 19.9% (1758) of that stock (8829) is one bedroom.

Table 2: Breakdown of applicants on the register by minimum bed size and priority band @ 30.09.23						
Min bed size	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Grand Total
1	28	138	832	957	249	2204
2	28	56	466	450	105	1105
3	11	17	239	208	41	516
4	3	3	86	50	14	156
5	1	1	10	7	1	20
6			2	3		5
7					1	1
Grand Total	71	215	1635	1675	411	4007

3.1.3 As noted in Table 3, the lettings by the Council and Partner Community Landlords over the last 6 months have predominantly been to those in housing need (95.2%), while as noted in Table 4, only 33% have been to applicants requiring a 1 bedroom property.

Table 3: Lettings by Partner and Priority Band: April to September 2023 (inclusive)					
Partner	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Grand Total
Barcud	3	21	16	2	42
Clwyd Alyn	1	4	2		7
Grwp Cynefin			1		1
Melin	1	1			2
Newydd		4	2		6
Pobl	2	2	2		6
Powys CC	22	63	77	8	170
Wales and West	3	15	17	3	38
Grand Total	32	110	117	13	272

Table 4: Lettings by property type and size: April to September 2023 (Inclusive)						
Size	Bungalow	Flat	House	Maisonette	Studio	Total
1 Bed	31	58			1	90
2 Bed	39	39	46			124
3 Bed	1		47	3		51
4 Bed			7			7
Total	71	97	100	3	1	272

3.2 Homelessness

3.2.1 As noted in the Council's 2023-28 Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, it could be argued that the primary contribution of social housing to addressing homelessness in Powys is preventative and with that in mind the importance of allocations through the Common Housing Register to preventing future housing crises should not be underestimated. The social housing sector provides reasonable quality, affordable accommodation to households in housing need on a secure contract basis and that security of tenure (compared to the private rented sector) is a key attraction for households.

3.2.2 The importance of social housing in addressing homelessness is recognised in a 2022 amendment to the Homes in Powys Allocation Policy which gives additional preference (Priority Band 2) to Section 75 (S75) homeless households on the Common Housing Register, This coupled with a more recent policy amendment (August 2023 (which enables S75 homeless households to remain in suitable temporary accommodation through 'flipping it' to a secure contract is having a positive impact on meeting the needs of this particular group. This is exemplified by the fact that of the 272 allocations made to applicants on the Common Housing Register between April and September 2023, 102 (37.6%) were made to S75 homeless households. In addition, a further 24 (8.8%) were made to applicants who we threatened with homelessness/homeless.

3.2.3 Giving increased priority to homeless households via 'Homes in Powys' may lead to the unintended consequence of households in need of secure, affordable housing seeing homeless as a quicker way to secure a tenancy of social housing. However, since the introduction of the above policy amendments there does not seem to have been a significant increase in homeless presentations which can be attributed to this policy change.

3.3 Temporary Accommodation

3.3.1 The Council has an ongoing high reliance on Bed & Breakfast (B&B) provision to help meet the requirement for temporary accommodation for homeless households. The use of such provision increased significantly during the Covid-19 pandemic and at present continues to be at historically high levels. The Council has strived to off-set the use of B&B by making increased use of its housing stock and currently approximately 39% of Council properties that become available for allocation are used as temporary accommodation rather than being let via the Common Housing Register. As of 29th October 2023, the Council provided with its own stock 78% (156 properties) of the self-contained temporary accommodation while having 62.42% (5,511 properties) of the total social housing stock and by comparison Partner Community Landlords provide 14% (28 properties) while having 37.58% (3,318 properties) of the total housing stock with the other provision being met through expensive private rented sector temporary accommodation. There are ongoing discussions with Partner Community Landlords to achieve a more equitable split of this provision and in doing so enable a greater proportion of available council properties to be let via the Common Housing Register.

4.0 Resource Implications

4.1 It is envisaged that the recent Homes in Powys Policy changes will continue to have a positive impact on reducing the cost of homelessness. During 2022/23, the Council Homeless Service incurred a £1,242,940.58 net cost which was met from the Council's General Fund (both Housing and Benefits budgets). A key contributory factor to this net cost was the high use of Bed & Breakfast (B&B) which attracts much higher net weekly cost than self-contained temporary accommodation. The projected number of households that will be placed in B&B during 2023/24 indicates a similar level of net cost despite an increase in special Welsh Government funding to help local authorities manage the rising levels of homelessness.

5.0 Legal implications

5.1. The allocation of social housing is governed by the law most notably the Housing Act 1996 and Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) act 2014 and due consideration needs to be given to the Welsh Government's 'Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness 2016 but there is scope for local needs and priorities, and these are included in the Homes in Powys Allocations Policy.

6.0 Data Protection

6.1 The proposals and recommendations contained in this report do not involve the processing of personal data.

7.0 Comment from local member(s)

7.1 The matters covered in this report have equal effect across all Council wards.

8.0 Integrated Impact Assessment

8.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed for previous Homes in Powys Allocation Policy amendments which identified no adverse equalities impact through their implementation.

9.0 Recommendation

9.1 The contents of this report are noted

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Head of Service:	Andy Thompson
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Corporate Director:	Nina Davies
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7

Powys County Council Scrutiny Report Template

Committee:	Economy, Residents and Communities
Date:	11.12.23
Subject:	Update on Powys Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan

1. Who will be the Lead Officer(s) / Lead Cabinet Member(s) presenting the report?

Name:	Role:
Cllr Matthew Dorrance	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for a Fairer Powys
Andy Thompson	Interim Head of Housing
Richard Batt	Service Manager – Housing Communities

2. Why is the Scrutiny Committee being asked to consider the subject?

Understand the resource and operational implications for the Council, as a statutory housing authority, of the Powys Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

3. Role of the Committee:

The role of the Committee in considering the subject is to:

Consider how the Council is working, and planning ahead, to meet its current and predicted obligations as set out in the Powys Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

4. Key Scrutiny Questions:

What Key areas should the Committee focus on:

The extent to which currently available resources will be able to meet current and predicted demand.

5. Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members:

To assist the Committee when scrutinising the topic:

- 5.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities :
- 5.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality
[focus on value]
- 5.3 A look at any risks
[focus on risk]
- 5.4 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:
 - Long term
 - Prevention
 - Integration
 - Collaboration
 - Involvement

5.5 The potential impacts the decision would have on:

- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language [focus on equality and the Welsh language]

[focus on equality and Welsh Language]

Key Feeders (tick all that apply)

Strategic Risk		Cabinet Work Plan	
Director / Head of Service Key Issue	Y	External / Internal Inspection	
Existing Commitment / Annual Report		Performance / Finance Issue	
Suggestion from Public		Referral from Council / Committee	
Corporate Improvement Plan	Y	Impacting Public / other services	Y
Service Integrated Business Plan	Y		
Suggestion from Members			
Partnerships	Y		

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee 11th December 2023

Report Author: County Councillor Matthew Dorrance

Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for a Fairer Powys

Lead Officer: Richard Batt, Service Manager – Housing Communities

Report Title: Update on Powys Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan

Report For: Information

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update of the delivery of the 2023-24 Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

2. Background

2.1: The Council's 2023/28 Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) sets out how Powys County Council and its partners will work together over the next 5 years to prevent homelessness and where not possible move people swiftly through temporary accommodation and into a settled home with the provision of multi-agency support tailored to meet individual circumstances (*right home with the right support*).

2.2: As reflected in the RRTP , while for most people, a home of their own where they live independently is the intention, others may choose supported accommodation on a medium or long-term basis. On the understanding that rapid rehousing is an approach that works for everyone such individuals will be moved into the appropriate supported housing as quickly as possible, but a focus remains on independent living in the future.

2.3: The RRTP contains a number of key underlying principles which are shaping the Council's rapid rehousing approach, namely:-

- Avoidance of households and individuals seeing homelessness as a route into housing.
- Households in housing need who approach the Council take the lead wherever possible in improving their housing circumstances.
- Wherever possible individuals accommodated in appropriately sized property on a temporary basis whilst a homelessness and support needs assessment is conducted, but on successful conclusion of those assessments, rather than move on, the accommodation is turned over to that person as a permanent tenancy - with a tailored support package as required.

2.4: While the RRTP has a 5 year focus, it also contains a number of initial priorities these are:-

- Introduction of two 'Instant Access 24/7 Triage Centres'.
- Introduction of two 'Interim 24/7 Supported Accommodation Schemes'.
- Provision of modular interim accommodation.
- Converting 'flipping' suitable temporary accommodation to a secure contract.
- Introduction of a homeless triage (first point of contact) service.
- Further embedding a trauma informed approach to service delivery.

3. Advice

3.1 Progress made in delivering against the RRTP initial priorities

- Introduction of two 'Instant Access 24/7 Triage Centres':- It is envisaged that such provision will improve early intervention and homeless prevention through enabling a rounded multi-agency assessment of housing and support needs of homeless clients and where needed immediately available safe and secure temporary accommodation for those who are homeless while appropriate move on plans to the right type of housing are put in place. The capital funding for such provision has been secured and Housing Services are currently exploring suitable sites which when identified would require the relevant revenue budget(s) to be in place for the building of these sites to progress.
- Introduction of two 'Interim 24/7 Supported Accommodation Schemes':- This will provide supported, self-contained accommodation for those whose needs are sufficiently complex that they are not able, without having the time and environment in which to develop life-skills and have put in place appropriate support, to move straight into independent living in the community. As with the proposed triage centre provision, capital funding has been secured and once the relevant sites for the build have been identified relevant revenue budget(s) would also need to be put in place.
- Provision of modular interim accommodation:- The provision of such modular accommodation will off-set the need for the continued high use of expensive Bed & Breakfast as emergency accommodation (as of 26th November 2023 there were 45 homeless households in B&B). While capital funding has also been secured for this modular provision (20 units), it's actual delivery once an appropriate 'meanwhile' (*land earmarked for 'bricks & mortar' new build*) site has been identified will require the same level of planning consent as that need for more traditional new build housing.
- Converting 'flipping' suitable temporary accommodation to a secure contract (permanent tenancy):- As a result of agreed amendments to the Homes in Powys Allocations Policy over 40 homeless households who have a full (Section 75) Homeless Duty and have a clear local connection are in the process of flipping their current temporary accommodation to a secure contract.
- Introduction of a homeless triage (first point of contact) service:- Housing Services have recently refocused the work of its' Housing Support Officers to provide timely advise at the point of a homeless presentation to fully explore available housing options, agree actions to meet current un-met support needs and maintain current accommodation wherever possible. The impact of this change of focus is already having a positive impact of homeless caseloads as evidenced by overall homeless cases have reduced between 31/07/22 and 26/11/23 from 519 to 404 (22.2% reduction) and over the same period statutory homeless cases have reduced from 370 to 263 (28.9% reduction).
- Further embedding a trauma informed approach to service delivery:- It is recognised that Housing Services staff are increasingly exposed to challenging behaviours from traumatised individuals who are often in traumatic situations which could over time lead to indirect/secondary (vicarious) traumatic stress and therefore we have in place a number of mitigating actions to minimise the impact on our staff's health and safety. These actions include:-
 - Timely debriefs between individual staff and their line-manager to unpack those individual challenging/stressful situations as quickly as practicably possible to minimise the negative impact on the member of staff.
 - Reflective practice staff have through current 1-2-1s and team meetings where in addition to performance reviews, time is taken for staff to take a step back and think

about their roles, including what is going well/not so well, how they are feeling and by extension how they make others feel.

- Raising staff awareness regarding how to access 'Care First' to get that employee assistance with those personal challenges which may be impacting on their health, wellbeing, and performance.

4.0 Resource Implications

- 4.1 During 2022/23, the Council Homeless Service incurred a £1,242,940.58 net cost which was met from the Council's General Fund (both Housing and Benefits budgets). A key contributory factor to this net cost was the high use of Bed & Breakfast (B&B) which attracts much higher net weekly cost than self-contained temporary accommodation. The projected number of households that will be placed in B&B during 2023/24 indicates a similar level of net cost despite an increase in special Welsh Government funding to help local authorities manage the rising levels of homelessness.
- 4.2 Turning into reality the vision set out in the Powys Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2023-2028 requires adequate resourcing to be made available by a range of agencies and organisation. This is because the plan represents a step change in the approach taken to preventing and where prevention isn't possible, resolving homelessness. Included in the plan are projects, actions and initiatives that may require the allocation of resources by the Council. All such projects, actions and initiatives will be subject to bespoke business cases and reports presented for consideration to the Portfolio Holder for Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for a Fairer Powys, Cabinet or Full Council, in accord with the Council's constitution.
- 4.3 The Welsh Government is providing support through a range of grant programmes both revenue ('Homelessness Prevention', 'No-one left out' and Housing Support Grant) and capital (Social Housing Grant and Transitional Accommodation Capital Grant). These programmes are seen as being complementary to the expectation that local authorities adequately fund their statutory homelessness duties. These duties include the provision of advice and assistance for homeless households, temporary accommodation of all types at both the initial time of being homeless and where needed interim accommodation until permanent housing can be secured, liaison and relationship management with landlords and property providers to prevent the loss of and, where needed, to secure homes for homeless households and the administration and management of all such services. These obligations, which are funded within the General Fund, rest on all local authorities, including those which are no longer social landlords.
- 4.4 In time, the Powys Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2023-2028 should help maintain downward pressure on overall costs as people are housing more quickly, although this does depend upon there being sufficient homes available in the wider housing system. Powys County Council has in place a strong programme to add to the net availability of homes in the county, including building Council-owned homes, bringing empty properties into use as homes, supporting developers to provide social housing through its Package Deal policy and encouraging housing associations to build homes.

- 4.5 Two of the projects required to make a success of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, and which require a financial commitment from the Council and where appropriate the Welsh Government, are:
- Enhanced Homelessness Services, which includes ‘Instant Access 24/7 Triage Centres’ and ‘Interim 24/7 Supported Accommodation’.
 - Modular Interim Accommodation.
- 4.6 Business Cases have been completed for ‘Enhanced Homelessness Services’, which includes ‘Instant Access 24/7 Triage Centres’ and ‘Interim 24/7 Supported Accommodation’, and for ‘Modular Interim Accommodation’. Provision for the capital investment associated with these projects has been included within the Council’s Capital Programme for future years, which was approved by Council as part of the budget setting process. The capital funding is therefore allocated and available.
- 4.7 The revenue elements of the ‘Instant Access 24/7 Triage Centres’ and ‘Interim 24/7 Supported Accommodation’, projects will be addressed through the Financial Resource Modelling (FRM) and budget setting process for 2024-2025 onwards, as there is no base budget for the expenditure in the current year, although there may be spend to save opportunities once the financial analysis is complete.
- 4.8 The ‘Modular Interim Accommodation’ project will start in the current financial year, with the appointment of a Development Officer who will explore and identify potential sites, research the available suppliers, liaise with the Welsh Government and undertake the preparatory work to secure the necessary planning and regulatory consents.
- 4.8 The Deputy Head of Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer) previously commented on the intention of the intention of the proposed projects to bring down the cost of homelessness. It was noted that the current service is overspending and there is no funding for these projects, although the projects are likely to support the reduction of that overspend and will be worthy of consideration as each business case is reviewed.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 Legal implications regarding the introduction of the RRTP have previously been reviewed by the Housing Solicitor, with comments set out below in paragraphs 6.1.1
- 6.1.1 Rapid Rehousing Plan – Any additional accommodation that can be sourced to assist the Council with their statutory duties around homelessness should be supported. There is a greater need for one bed properties and furthermore there is an increase in the number of presentations by applicants with additional support needs. The triage centres proposed would assist greatly with signposting and providing support quickly.
- 6.2 The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer has previously commented regarding the introduction of the RRTP “the recommendation can be supported from a legal perspective”.

7.0 Data Protection

7.1 The information contained in this report do not involve the processing of personal data.

8.0 Comment from local member(s)

8.1 The matters covered in this report have equal effect across all Council wards.

9.0 Integrated Impact Assessment

9.1 An Impact Assessment has been completed for the 2023-2028 Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan which identified no adverse equalities impact through its' implementation.

9.1 The delivery of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan will assist Housing Services in supporting the Powys Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener', in particular by proactively preventing homelessness and minimising the negative impact of unsuitable accommodation on individual's health and wellbeing.

9. Recommendation

- To note the contents of this report

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Head of Service:	Andy Thompson
Corporate Director:	Nina Davies

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PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

**Report to Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee
11 December 2023**

Report: ERC County Farms Working Group proposal.

Purpose:

- To receive a recommendation from the ERC County Farms Working Group made at its meeting on 27th September 2023 that the Group is disbanded and for a Cabinet Advisory Group be established.

Background:

- The Working Group was established in in late 2022. The group has a good cross party (and independent) mix of councillors.
- The aim of the group is to have a full understanding of the Council Farm and Woodland Estate. To offer advice, support and recommendations to the portfolio holders and senior officers on best practice through learning drawn from within the group and from other outside bodies.
- The group has met on several occasions on farm estate holdings and has met with representatives of the Farm Estate Tenant liaison panel members to learn firsthand how the estate benefits those living and working within it.
- The group has also met with senior leads within the finance team to gain the best insight into the needs of the council from the farm estate.
- The working group has cross representation on the Climate and Nature working and steering groups allowing the two to support mutual aims.
- To scrutinise the current Farm Estate Delivery Plan.
- The group continues to grow, and still meets on a regular basis, however developments have caused the need to separate out scrutiny from development work. Therefore, at its meeting on 27th September 2023, the Working Group resolved to seek approval from the ERC Committee to disband.
- The scrutiny of the farm and woodland estate could therefore be undertaken by the ERC Committee as a whole.
- And a proposal will be presented to Cabinet to establish a County Farms Estate Cabinet Advisory Group.
- The Cabinet Advisory Group would be able support and provide advice to Cabinet and have the ability to explore and investigate future options of the county farms estate.

Recommendation:

1. That the ERC Scrutiny Committee considers the proposal of the ERC County Farms Working Group to disband.
2. For the Council's County farm and woodland estate scrutiny, be undertaken by the ERC Scrutiny Committee.
3. For the established of a Cabinet Advisory Group be proposed to Cabinet.

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