

County Council

Meeting Venue
Hybrid meeting - Zoom - County Hall

Meeting date
Thursday, 2 March 2023

Meeting time
10.30 am

For further information please contact
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County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
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24/02/2023

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

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES
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To receive apologies for absence.

2.	MINUTES
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2022 as a correct record.
(Pages 7 - 22)

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

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

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

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

7.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS
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7.1. Question to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation from Mike Hall

Can you tell me what all the spending budgets have been from 2010 to present and what services have been cut? You can include + or - percentages if that helps and could include council tax rises to give a rounded view of the question.

(Pages 23 - 24)

7.2. Question to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation from Nigel Williams

How, at time when the council is struggling to cover its statutory obligations, does the council justify spending £300,000 of tax payers money on "reimagining" the council? The public want services not snappy catch phrases which mean nothing.

(Pages 25 - 26)

7.3. Question to the Cabinet Member for a Connected Powys from James Holloway

Is Powys County Council supportive of Land based Wind Turbine Farms and if so has the Council considered the means i.e. infrastructure required to convey the energy to the National Grid?

(Pages 27 - 28)

7.4. Question to the Cabinet Member for a More Prosperous Powys from David Balmer-Cribb

What progress has the PCC made in reviewing the Leisure Centres in the County and putting in place a plan to improve facilities and ensure their long-term future? Leisure Centres are right at the heart of remote communities providing education, social interaction and wellbeing. As part of this question, I refer to the review promised in December 2022. <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/13732/Statement-on-a-review-of-leisure-services>

(Pages 29 - 30)

8.	COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION FOR 2023/24
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To approve the Council Tax resolution and set the Council Tax for 2023/24.
(To Follow)

9.	PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2023/24
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To consider the pay policy statement for 2023/24.
(Pages 31 - 56)

10.	PROPOSAL FOR REVISIONS TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND NUMBERS OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES
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To consider the report of the Head of Legal Services and the Monitoring Officer.
(To Follow)

11.	APPOINTMENT TO THE FOSTER PANEL
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To appoint a member to the Foster Panel.

12.	NOTICE OF MOTION CYNNIG IAITH 2023 / 2023 LANGUAGE PROPOSAL
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The results of the recent Census have revealed the desperate need to act immediately and comprehensively in relation to the Welsh language in Powys. We have heard much about environmental sustainability and the need for action, well the same is true of our Welsh communities.

Between 2011 and 2021 Powys lost over 2,600 Welsh speakers, and the percentage is now down to 16%. This also includes a fall of 1,864 in the number of children 3-15 years of age who can speak Welsh.

Powys is the only County during recent years, where a lower percentage had access to Welsh education than the percentage of Welsh speakers in the community. It's no surprise therefore that we are seeing figures decline every decade.

Of course there are a number of reasons for the decline: economic weakness; a change in the agricultural pattern with less people working on the land, which is traditionally is the sector with a high percentage of Welsh speakers; young people moving from the area, and older people moving in; overdevelopment of houses in some communities which do not truly reflect those communities; but also the historical lack of action by Powys county council in favour of the Welsh language, and the lack of status afforded the language and Welsh education. That is why we need to promote the economic foundation and have a development body similar to the old Development Board for Rural Wales.

If sustainability is to mean anything, and if we want to change the situation by the next Census, then we must act now. Don't think that Powys is alone in this situation; traditional communities or other historically linguistic communities across Europe have faced similar challenges, and there are lessons to be learned, especially from

the Basque country in respect of the language and the economy. We must do this with a package of actions which include –
Therefore the Council would like to -

- Accept the principle that the Welsh language belongs to every part of Powys

Financial Assessment – no resource implications

- Support the call for a rural economic development agency

Financial Assessment - Correspondence with WG can be contained within officer resource at no additional cost

- Call on the Welsh Government to extend the ARFOR scheme (a linguistic economic scheme worth £11m in West Wales) to Montgomeryshire to promote the Welsh language and the economy

Financial Assessment - Correspondence with the 4 LAs and WG can be contained within officer resource at no additional cost.

- Learn lessons and transfer knowledge of best practice of what has happened in ANDOAIN in the Basque country by intertwining economic activity and language. Focus will be on how Powys can learn and benefit sustainable Welsh speaking communities.

Financial Assessment – no additional resource anticipated

- Support the development of a cultural tourism plan making the most of the wealth of history in the county such as Sycharth, Brynglas, Cilmeri, Canolfan Glyndŵr etc, ensuring that Powys is as much part of the future as the past. This to be done by identifying suitable grant sources for it's delivery.

Financial Assessment - the proposals can form part of current tourism, archive and museum plans within existing resource, or where additional funding can be sourced this could be extended.

- Ensure sustainability for the Welsh language to be an integral part of the new Local Development Plan.

Financial Assessment - The Welsh Language is an assessment objective of the Local Development Plans Integrated Sustainability Appraisal. Local Development Plan policies will be informed by a Welsh Language Assessment. The Integrated Sustainable Appraisal and the Welsh

Language Assessment are both within budget envelope.

- Ensure that commercial signs are bilingual throughout the County in the New Development Plan.

Financial Assessment - Within the plans the impact assessment will establish the relevant bilingual policies and approach which would be part of existing budgets. But if the new policies stipulate bilingual signage this would then become a cost on the business to put in place and resourced.

- Set an aim of increasing the percentage of fluent Welsh speakers in the Council's workplaces to 16% to represent society.

Financial Assessment - At the moment the Council has just over 7%, to take this up by 9% will take time. A plan would need to cover improvement over a number of years to encourage take up of training and develop recruitment planning for those who are welsh speakers, such as apprentices from dual and welsh stream schools. It is suggested a plan to recruit through schools and develop apprentices who are fluent/good welsh speakers is the easiest way to grow our own, some of which would be contained within existing resources, but targeted recruitment / apprenticeship PR would require additional resource.

Additional work based training offers, as we do now to all staff, could be more targeted and promoted without additional cost.

- A language awareness workshop for all members of the Council as well as the workforce.

Financial Assessment - HR and the Welsh Language Officer could facilitate this within existing resource to comply with the standard:

- Standard 132
- You must provide training courses so that your employees can develop –
 - (a) awareness of the Welsh language (including awareness of its history and its role in Welsh culture);
 - (b) an understanding of the duty to operate in accordance with the Welsh language standards;

(c) an understanding of how the Welsh language can be used in the workplace.

- Move 12 primary schools along the language continuum or create new Welsh provision/Welsh schools where that option does not exist as a matter of urgency.

Financial Assessment – The **Transforming Education Strategy / WESP** already include plans to move 12 primaries and 4 secondaries / all-age schools (including Bro Hyddgen) along the language continuum over the next 10 years. These plans have been included in the whole-life costings work of the Transforming Education Strategy.

- Establish 3 new Welsh medium high schools as soon as possible.

Financial Assessment – The **Transforming Education Strategy / WESP** already include plans to move 12 primaries and 4 secondaries / all-age schools (including Bro Hyddgen) along the language continuum over the next 10 years. These plans have been included in the whole-life costings work of the Transforming Education Strategy.

- Increase the IMMERSION provision in order to facilitate bilingualism.

Financial Assessment – The **Transforming Education Strategy / WESP** already include plans to move 12 primaries and 4 secondaries / all-age schools (including Bro Hyddgen) along the language continuum over the next 10 years. These plans have been included in the whole-life costings work of the Transforming Education Strategy.

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

At the end of the formal meeting there will be a presentation and Q&A session on the services provided by the Economy and Environment Directorate.