

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ECONOMY, RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT BY ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2023**

PRESENT

County Councillor A Davies (Chair)

County Councillors B Davies, A Jones, E A Jones, G Mitchell, S L Williams, J Berriman,
J Gibson-Watt, P James, C Kenyon-Wade, G Preston and L Rijnenberg,

James Gibson-Watt -Leader and Cabinet Member for an Open and Transparent Powys

Jake Berriman-Cabinet Member for a Connected Powys

Cllr A Jenner

Emma Palmer – Head of Transformation and Communications

Clive Pinney – Monitoring Officer

Nigel Brinn - Executive Director Economy & Environment

Matthew Perry - Head of Highways, Transport and Recycling

Gwilym Davies – Head of Property, Planning and Public Protection

1.	APOLOGIES
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No apologies were received.

2.	DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST
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The Committee received the following disclose of interests by Members relating to the item to be considered at the meeting: Cllr Karl Lewis declared a personal interest and prejudicial interest and did not attend the meeting.

3.	DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIPS
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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.	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).

5.	MONITORING OFFICERS REPORT
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The Committee considered the Monitoring Officers Report regarding the Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee Call in of the Cabinet Decision of 19 September 2023 in which challenges were compressively responded to by Portfolio Holders and Officers.

The Committee agreed that there were no solid grounds for the original report to go back to Cabinet for reconsideration, however recommendations would be made to Cabinet for confidential discussion.

Considerable debate took place around the current policies and strategies and the Committee felt a robust system was needed to ensure the documents that govern the Councils work were aligned, reviewed, and updated in a timely manner. Ensuring versions are correctly marked and made available to the public online.

The Committee felt that the timeliness of reports and information could be improved for a thorough scrutiny process and the openness and transparency of the Council was paramount.

The Committee agreed that a number of observations and recommendations would be made to Cabinet for confidential discussion.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet would not be asked to reconsider its decision of 19 September 2023;
2. that the Committee's observations / recommendations be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

County Councillor A Davies (Chair)