

**MINUTES OF THE RECOVERED CABINET MEETING OF 20 DECEMBER 2016
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS
ON TUESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2017**

PRESENT

County Councillor W B Thomas (Chair)

County Councillors R G Brown, J H Brunt, M R Harris, S M Hayes, E A Jones and AG Thomas

In attendance: County Councillors KW Curry, AW Davies, S Davies, DO Evans, DR Jones and H Lewis

The Leader welcomed Councillor Tony Thomas to the Cabinet. He explained that he had received advice from the Monitoring Officer that it was in order for Councillor Thomas to attend and take part in the meeting as the Cabinet was dealing with items that had not been considered when the meeting had adjourned on 20th December.

1.	APOLOGIES	C234- 2016
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors WT Jones and WJT Powell and from County Councillor CJ Gibson-Watt, Leader of the Liberal-Democrat Group.

2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	C236- 2016
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Councillor Brunt advised that whilst not declaring an interest in the report on Bronrevel Bridge he would be abstaining as he was both the Portfolio Holder for Highways and a local member. Councillor Tony Thomas advised that whilst not declaring an interest in the item on Older People's Accommodation, he would abstain as he was a member of Powys Teaching Health Board which might benefit from the proposed investment in older people's accommodation.

3.	MAINTENANCE LIABILITY FOR BRONREVEL / BRON-YR-EFAIL BRIDGE, LLANBISTER	C239- 2016
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The Leader explained that he was presenting the report instead of the Portfolio Holder for Highways who was one of the local members. He advised that there was clear documentary evidence that the County Council and its predecessor authorities had maintained the bridge for many years. County Councillors Hywel Lewis and David Evans spoke in support of the recommendation to recognise the bridge as a Council asset maintainable by the Council.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
1 That Bronrevel Bridge be formally recognised as a Powys County Council asset where maintenance obligations lie with the Council, but not to be recorded as a public	1 To conclude long standing representations and recognise that the bridge is maintainable by Powys County Council.

highway over the bridge	
2 The claim that the road from the boundary with the A483 Trunk Road to the first junction beyond the bridge is maintainable by Powys County Council at public expense be formally rebutted.	2 To conclude long standing representations and recognise that the road is not maintainable by Powys County Council.

4.	USE OF HOMEFINDER RECEIPTS FOR PROVISION OF SUSTAINABLE REVOLVING LANDLORD LOANS TO TACKLE EMPTY PROPERTIES AND DELIVER URBAN REGENERATION	C245- 2016
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Cabinet was asked to approve the utilisation of Homefinder receipts to increase the Landlord Loan budget. Loans offered via this fund would be restricted to the development of strategically targeted empty properties and wherever possible, targeted towards the provision affordable housing. In response to questions from Members, the Section 151 Officer confirmed that this was a permissible use of funds and that mitigation measures such as background checks would be employed. The Head of Service confirmed that there had no defaults on loans made under the scheme.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the Landlord Loan budget is increased by £200,000 in 2016/17 and by £164,000 in 2017/18 funded from Homefinder Receipts.	The decision will allow for delivery of 3 additional strategically targeted empty property schemes currently on hold. It will provide 13 additional units of accommodation and result in significant income generation for the service via fees applied to the delivery and recovery of sustainable landlord loans.

5.	REVOCATION OF COUNTY WIDE ADDITIONAL HMO LICENSING SCHEME	C246- 2016
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Cabinet was asked to consider revoking the county-wide Additional HMO Licensing Scheme. The scheme had already ended in Llandrindod Wells on 31 December 2016 which had the greatest concentration of HMOs having had a positive impact, particularly with regard to improved fire safety standards. The Head of Service confirmed that there would be an ongoing inspection regime of those properties judged to be the highest risk.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the county wide Additional HMO Licensing Scheme be revoked with immediate effect.	(i) The scheme in Llandrindod Wells has addressed property conditions where the greatest concentration of S.257 HMOs were located in the county. (ii) Conditions in S.257 HMOs outside

	<p>of Llandrindod Wells can be addressed using powers contained in Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004.</p> <p>(iii) The decision to revoke the Additional HMO Licensing Scheme will remove unnecessary bureaucracy and excessive financial burden placed on private sector landlords.</p> <p>(iv) The move aligns with Welsh Government adoption of a ‘light touch’ national registration and licensing approach to regulation of the private rented sector using the Rent Smart Wales scheme.</p>
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6.	WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS: POWYS ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16	C247- 2016
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Cabinet was advised that for the year 2015-16, Powys Library Service met 17 of the 18 core entitlements set by Welsh Government, with the 18th in respect of connectivity of mobile libraries service, outside of the service’s control. The framework had 16 quality indicators, of which 7 have targets; for those with targets, Powys met 4 in full, 2 in part, and failed to meet one.

The key performance indicators of library visits per thousand population (actual and virtual) continued to be well above the Welsh median and the average cost per visit was the second lowest in Wales. In answer to members’ questions about the reduced spend on children’s books and Welsh language material, the Portfolio Holder explained that branches had benefitted from the distribution of Book Runner stock and that demand for Welsh language materials was low.

The Strategic Director Place was asked to advise members whether services hosted in libraries paid anything towards the libraries service.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the outcomes in Welsh Government’s Annual Report on the Library Service 2015-16 in Appendix A to the report be duly noted, and considered in forward planning.	To aid compliance with the requirements of the Welsh Public Library Standards 2014-2017.

6.1 Scrutiny Observations on the Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Report

In receiving the Scrutiny report, the Portfolio Holder put on record the commitment of the Library Service staff and officers as evidenced by the improved standards reported and the fact that library closures had been avoided.

7.	OLDER PERSONS ACCOMMODATION	C248- 2016
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County Councillor AG Thomas advised that he would abstain on this item as he was a member of Powys Teaching Health Board which might benefit from the proposed investment in older people's accommodation.

The Portfolio Holder reported that the service planned to invest £3.7 million over the next 4 financial years in improving older persons' accommodation to ensure that it is fit for purpose, enabling frail older people to remain living independently within the community, rather than moving into residential or nursing care. In addition a further £3.4 million would be invested in improvement works to communal areas of blocks of flats, many of which are designated for occupation by older people, to ensure that flats are accessible and conform to the latest fire safety standards.

RESOLVED	Reason for decision:
That the Cabinet notes the content of the report.	Information requested by the Strategic Overview Board.

8.	RECRUITING & RETAINING OUR OWN TALENT AND SKILLS (RROOTS) PROJECT	C249- 2016
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Cabinet was advised that the Recruiting & Retaining Our Own Talent and Skills (RROOTS) project aimed to improve and speed up the internal and external recruitment and retention processes of the Council's workforce, to achieve a slimmer workforce with employees being better matched to jobs. The Joint Director of Workforce and Organisation Development expected to see an immediate improvement in the filling of skills gaps in the Council.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
To note the RROOTS project proposal for information	The RROOTS project is to review, redefine, improve and speed up the internal and external recruitment and retention processes of Powys CC's workforce, to achieve a slimmer workforce with employees being better matched to jobs.

9.	SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT	C250- 2016
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This item was deferred until 17th January.

10.	CORRESPONDENCE	C252- 2016
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There were no items of correspondence reported.

11.	DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING	C253- 2016
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The delegated decisions taken since the last meeting were noted.

12.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME	C254- 2016
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Cabinet received the forward work programme. The Leader advised that the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 21st March would be brought forward to 14th March as purdah for the local government elections started on 17th March.

County Councillor W B Thomas (Chair)