

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 24 MAY 2016

PRESENT

County Councillor W B Thomas (Chair)

County Councillors R G Brown, J H Brunt, M R Harris, S M Hayes, E A Jones, W T Jones and W J T Powell

In attendance: County Councillors SC Davies, MJ Dorrance and DR Jones.

1.	APOLOGIES	C88- 2016
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor EA York, and from County Councillor AW Davies, leader of the Conservative group and County Councillor JG Morris, leader of the Liberal Democrat group.

2.	MINUTES	C89- 2016
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The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th May 2016 as a correct record.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	C90- 2016
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There were no declarations of interest reported.

4.	TALGARTH AND BRONLLYS CP SCHOOLS	C91- 2016
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Cabinet considered the results of the consultation on proposals to close Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools from August 2017, and to establish a new community primary school on the current sites in September 2017, until a new school building is constructed on a new site in Talgarth and opens in September 2018. The Head of Schools confirmed that a Cabinet decision on this would not prejudice any decision on secondary school modernisation in the Gwernyfed catchment.

RESOLVED	Reason for decision
<p>1. to receive the Consultation Report in respect of the proposal related to Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools;</p> <p>2. to recommend the publication of statutory notices for the closure of Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools on the 31st August 2017, in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, and to establish a new community primary school</p>	<p>To provide a sustainable model of education within the Gwernyfed Primaries Catchment Area</p>

<p>on the 1st September 2017 that will operate across the current two sites. Upon the opening of a new school building in Talgarth, the two current sites will close.</p>	
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5.	WELSH MEDIUM STREAM AT YSGOL DOLAFON	C92- 2016
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Cabinet was advised that no objections had been received during the statutory consultation period on the proposal to close the Welsh medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon and transfer pupils to Builth Wells CP School.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
To approve the discontinuation of the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon and change the language category from Dual Stream to English-medium from the 31st August 2016.	To ensure future sustainability of primary education

6.	HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016-17	C93- 2016
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Cabinet received details of the Highways Capital Programme for 2016-17. The Portfolio Holder for Highways drew Members' attention to the projected backlog of works and to the removal of the budget for surface dressing.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the funding proposals outlined in Appendix A and Appendix B to the report be approved.	To enable delivery of infrastructure investment to protect council assets.

County Councillor RG Brown abstained having missed part of the debate.

7.	REVIEW OF THE PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT (WALES) REGULATIONS 2012 - POWYS ACTION PLAN	C94- 2016
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Cabinet considered the results of the play sufficiency assessment that had been undertaken by PAVO. There was a statutory responsibility to undertake an assessment every three years and to develop an action plan.

Officers confirmed that the assessment was limited to local authority facilities as there wasn't the capacity to survey private provision. Members raised an issue over playing areas being taken over as football pitches and were advised that where the County Council transferred assets conditions to prevent this could be included in the terms of the transfer. Officers were asked to clarify whether there was a Communities First area in Ystradgynlais. Subject to this it was

RESOLVED:	Reason for Decision:
To approve the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan for Powys for submission to Welsh Government	To comply with Welsh Government Duty & legislation
That where reasonably possible – “Implement the actions which have secured funding and await confirmation of additional funding to implement the remaining actions within the action plan.”	To support and enable appropriate play opportunities for children & young people in Powys

8.	BRECON CULTURAL HUB	C95- 2016
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Cabinet received a progress report on the Brecon Cultural Hub project and was asked to consider approving additional match funding and permission to commence the enabling works and complete the contract negotiations.

County Councillor Matthew Dorrance spoke as a local member to welcome the recommendations and to urge the Cabinet to support them. Members welcomed progress on this flagship scheme for Brecon and looked forward to the regeneration and cultural opportunities it would bring. Members paid tribute the Arts & Culture Commissioning Officer and the Construction Procurement & Premises Manager for their work on the project.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
1. That Cabinet approve the capital budget contribution be increased by £500,000 to include the funding from Prudential Borrowing.	To provide the balance of the match funding for the increased HLF grant, rectify the projected overspend and provide a minimum level of client contingency.
2. That Cabinet approve an order be raised with Kier Contractors for the enabling works and demolition phase. That officers and the consultant team complete the detailed review of the Kier contract price, agree the final contract price and enter into contract for the entire project.	To allow the project to commence in the summer months and proceed to completion without further delay.

9.	SCHOOL SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT	C96- 2016
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In presenting the Scrutiny Panel’s report the Chair of the People Scrutiny Committee drew the Cabinet’s attention to the fact that of seven secondary schools in Wales in special measures, three were in Powys. He advised that a common theme in the Scrutiny Panel’s inspections was a lack of challenge from school governing bodies to school leadership. The Portfolio Holder advised that training was mandatory for governors to enable them to challenge school

leadership. The Panel had made a number of recommendations and the Portfolio Holder was required to report back within 6 weeks.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
That the School Scrutiny Panel report be received and the Portfolio Holder for Education prepare a response to the Panel's recommendations within 6 weeks.	Response to School Scrutiny Panel report.

10.	CORRESPONDENCE	C97- 2016
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Motorsport Activity in Wales

An email had been received from a campaign group, Rally4Wales, regarding charges being introduced by Natural Resources Wales for using forest roads for rallying which the group said would threaten the viability of the sport and affect rural tourism. Cabinet was advised that the WLGA had contacted NRW on this and that the Leader would write to the NRW and to the relevant Welsh Government Minister drawing attention to the damage that this would do to the rural economy.

11.	DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING	C98- 2016
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Cabinet received details of delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

12.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME	C99- 2016
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Cabinet received the forward work programme. The Portfolio Holder for Social Care advised that the report on Day Time activities for Older People would be deferred to the meeting on 5 July.

13.	EXEMPT ITEMS	C100- 2016
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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 1 of The Local Authorities (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007).

14.	SCHOOLS SERVICE SENIOR MANAGEMENT CAPACITY	C101- 2016
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Cabinet considered changes to the current senior management structure within the Schools Service by creating the post of Chief Education Officer and creating a head of service post to be designated Head of Learning Services.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
To defer the report until the next meeting.	To allow time for further consideration.

County Councillor W B Thomas (Chair)