

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD BY TEAMS ON FRIDAY, 4
FEBRUARY 2022**

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

County Councillors MC Alexander, B Baynham, P Davies, A W Davies, H Hulme and R Powell

In attendance: County Councillor E Vaughan

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Executive Director, People and Organisational Development and the Executive Director Economy and Environment.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported.

3. ADULT SERVICES INTERNAL DOMICILIARY CARE TEAM: DEMAND AND CAPACITY PRESSURES
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Cabinet noted the current demand and capacity pressures being faced by Adult Services. During the pandemic demand for home-based care had significantly increased. Since October 2021 over 2,000 hours had been transferred back by external providers and the service was relying on overtime to deliver care and support.

Cabinet considered an additional investment into the in-house domiciliary care team so that people in Powys had the best chance of living as independently as possible, as well as reducing the need for ongoing support. This would enable the recruitment of 24 additional domiciliary care team workers.

RESOLVED

- 1. Subject to the agreement of the 2022/23 Council budget, that Cabinet are asked to note Adult Services pressures and the service response to them, as well as the proposals set out in section 4 of the report.**
- 2. That £420k is transferred into the Adult Social Care budget from the Corporately held Risk Budget to meet the costs of the increased demand in the current financial year.**

4.	INCREASING THE CAPACITY TO REVIEW CARE AND SUPPORT PACKAGES IN ADULT SERVICES
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Cabinet considered a proposal to use the Welsh Government 'Winter Pressures and Social Care overspend' grant to deal with a backlog of reviews and undertake additional reviews before the end of the financial year. It was proposed that Xyla health and social services undertake this work.

RESOLVED to approve the proposals set out in section 4.1 of the report to utilise additional grant funding to resource the additional capacity.

5.	COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS ON PERIODICALLY OCCUPIED PROPERTIES
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Cabinet considered a proposal to increase the premium charged on periodically occupied properties from the current 50% to 75% with effect from the 1st April 2023.

Cabinet noted the results of a consultation undertaken following a motion passed at Council in September 2020 calling for the premium to be raised to 75%. There were 780 responses to the consultation with 74% of those who had replied paying Council Tax on periodically occupied properties. The majority of respondents viewed an increase negatively and the Cabinet noted that there was a risk associated with increasing the premium if owners switched to business rates. It was felt that by delaying the rise to 2023 would give an opportunity to assess the impact of the increase and make changes if necessary.

County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan who had brought the motion to Council argued that the increase was necessary because high property prices were affecting all parts of rural Wales putting them beyond the reach of young people.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cabinet notes the views of Council expressed at its meeting on the 24th September 2020.**
- 2. That Cabinet approve an increase to the Council Tax premium for periodically occupied properties from 50% to 75% with effect from 1st April 2023, and:**
 - Determine that this decision shall remain effective each financial year unless varied or revoked.**
 - To publish the determination within 21 days in at least one local newspaper in accordance with Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992**
- 3. That the financial implications of the change will be reconsidered as the budget is developed for 2023/24.**

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)