

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNTY HALL AND ON ZOOM ON TUESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2025

PRESENT

County Councillor MJ Dorrance (Chair)

County Councillors J Berriman, R Church, S C Davies, P Roberts, D Selby and D A Thomas

In attendance: County Councillors A Davies, B Davies, G Thomas and A Williams

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors J Charlton, S Cox, J Gibson-Watt and A Kennerley (Cabinet Assistant).

2.	MINUTES
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2025 as a correct record.

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

4.	YSGOL BRO CYNLLAITH - CONSULTATION REPORT
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Cabinet considered the responses received during the statutory consultation process on the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

Based on the findings of the consultation, and further assessment of the options in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code in terms of the Presumption Against Closure of Rural Schools, the advice of officers was that the Council should proceed with the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith by publishing a Statutory Notice for the reasons set out in the report.

County Councillor Gwynfor Thomas, Chair of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee presented the Committee's recommendations which had been circulated to Cabinet in a supplementary agenda pack. He noted that the Committee had not received responses to the two recommendations previously submitted in September 2024. The Head of Transforming Education responded to the Committee's recommendations. Formal written responses would be provided.

The local member, County Councillor Aled Davies expanded on the comments he had made which had been circulated to Cabinet in a supplementary agenda pack. He argued that the Cabinet should not be taking decisions without all the

facts in respect of the catchment area, school transport, finance and the option for a link with Ysgol Llanfyllin.

The Head of Transforming Education explained that the option of linking with Ysgol Llanfyllin had been looked at and ruled out as it did not address the issues of low pupil numbers, combined age classes, the high cost per pupil and because Ysgol Llanfyllin was in Estyn measures. She said that there were no concerns over the capacity of Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant which was the closest Powys school. The Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer gave his opinion that the school transport policy was sound. The Deputy Head of Finance outlined the finances involved. There would be a saving of £121.7k if the school closed but a potential reduction of £66.2k in the Revenue Support Grant.

County Councillor Bryn Davies who wished to speak as a member in the neighbouring ward with Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant was unable to be so because of a fault with the translation system. The Chair decided to adjourn this item until the system was working.

5. YSGOL GOLWG PEN Y FAN STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE

Cabinet considered a proposal to submit a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) to the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme for investment to develop a new 360 place English-medium primary school building with early years and wraparound provision, plus dedicated community/multi-agency facilities, to replace Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan's current buildings. The expectation was that the building would be developed using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). The maximum provisional budget for this project was £19,292,859, with 65% funded by Welsh Government and 35% by Powys County Council.

Cabinet noted the comments of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee and the comments of local members contained within the report and supplementary agenda pack. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Fairer Powys noted that active travel issues needed to be addressed.

RESOLVED to submit a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) to the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme for investment to develop a new 360 place English-medium primary school building with early years and wraparound provision, plus dedicated community/multi-agency facilities, to replace Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan's current buildings. The expectation is that the building will be developed using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC).

6. POWYS LOCAL HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT (LHMA) 2022 TO 2037

Cabinet considered the Powys Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA). The LHMA set out the estimated housing need for Powys for the 15-year period 2022-2037. The LHMA forms part of the evidence base for both Powys and Bannau Brycheiniog planning authorities in preparing their Local Development Plans. The assessment is a key consideration in determining the amount of

market and affordable housing required, and the location of housing growth in their development plans.

RESOLVED to approve the LHMA, to enable sign off by Welsh Government and subsequent use in informing economic development, housing and planning policy for Powys.

7.	DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING
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Cabinet noted the delegated decisions taken by portfolio holders.

8.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
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Cabinet noted the forward work programme.

The meeting was adjourned until such times as the fault with the translation was fixed. Time and date to be confirmed.

**County Councillor MJ Dorrance
Chair**