

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER,
COUNTY HALL - COUNTY HALL ON TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2019**

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

County Councillors A W Davies, MC Alexander, P Davies, J Evans, S M Hayes,
R Powell and M Weale

In attendance: County Councillor Pete Roberts and Mrs Angela Davies, Chair and
Vice Chair of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee.

1.	APOLOGIES
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There were no apologies for absence.

2.	MINUTES
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The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the meetings held on 30th July
and 3rd September as correct records.

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

4.	REVIEW OF SIXTH FORM PROVISION 2019
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Cabinet considered the findings of the review of sixth form provision and recommendations for short term solutions and the development of a detailed business case for post 16 education in the county. The Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language highlighted the decline in the Sixth Form population and she outlined a number of actions that could be taken immediately that would bring about improvements in the short term whilst working towards long term solutions.

The Chair of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee presented the committee's report which included 15 recommendations. He expressed disappointment with the report saying it lacked detail, pace and ambition. He urged the Portfolio Holder to bring forward the review of Post 16 Education and called for a full review of secondary education in the county.

The Portfolio Holder explained that the report set out the initial case for change. There would be further engagement with young people throughout September and October that would examine the extent to which learners were willing to accept digital learning and travel and which would inform the business case that would be brought back to Cabinet in spring 2020. Cabinet agreed that it was important to understand why the retention rates in sixth forms were falling and to offer the best mix of academic and vocational courses.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
i) To receive Stage 1 of the Review of Sixth Form Provision.	To understand the issues raised during the consultation period.
ii) To approve the recommendations of the Review as follows: a) That the short term solutions outlined in section 5.1 of Appendix A are fully supported and implemented with immediate effect b) That the authority proceeds to Stage 2 of the review – to develop a detailed business case that considers the cost-benefit implication and impact of structural change as outlined in section 5.2 of Appendix A. c) That the authority carries out further engagement, focussed on the learners, in order to inform the business case.	To improve the sustainability of the current sixth form system To have a detailed cost-benefit appraisal of the impact of structural change in Powys sixth forms. To ensure that the views of learners are considered when determining how to proceed.

5.	LADYWELL GREEN INFANTS SCHOOL AND HAFREN C.P. JUNIOR SCHOOL
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The Cabinet considered proposals to amalgamate Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P Junior School to create a new primary school in the current buildings. Any future decision about a new school building would be brought back to Cabinet for consideration as part of the wider discussion about the site and the North Powys Wellbeing Project. The Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language confirmed that local members would continue to be kept informed.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
To carry out consultation in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code on the amalgamation of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School, by closing Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School and opening a new primary	To provide a more efficient model of delivering education.

<p>school for pupils aged 4-11 operating from the current school buildings.</p> <p>The target date is to close the two schools on the 31st August 2021 and to open the new all-through school on the 1st September 2021.</p>	
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6. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Cabinet received the Medium Term Financial Strategy which provided the structure and framework for the development for the council's financial plans and annual budgets for the period 2019 to 2024.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2019 to 2024	To aid business planning and development of the budget over a five year period.

7. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FORECAST AS AT 31ST JULY 2019

Cabinet considered the budget outturn report for the period ended 31st July. Cabinet was advised that the total savings required in 2019/20 was £21.692m, £10.876m of which had been achieved to date. Heads of Service had been challenged on the remaining amount and had provided assurance that further savings of £6.851m could be delivered this year, but the remaining £3.965m they considered to be unachievable. Some mitigating action had been taken by services, and alternative means of covering the savings shortfall in the current financial year had been put in place. This resolved the gap for the current financial year but did not remove the requirement to permanently resolve the base budget.

Of the undelivered savings, £1.809m of these were expected to be achieved in full next year, but there remained a further £2.156m of savings that were considered unachievable on a permanent basis. The Senior Leadership Team would look at how this gap could be closed make recommendations to Cabinet within the budget monitoring report for period 5.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
<p>That the contents of the report are noted.</p> <p>That the Senior Leadership Team review the projected delivery of savings and propose alternative means of addressing the shortfall.</p>	To monitor the council's financial performance and ensure that spending remains within approved limits and that the 3% minimum general reserve is maintained.

8. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD TO 31ST JULY 2019

Cabinet considered the capital programme update report for the period ended 31 July 2019. The Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language advised that the contract for the Welshpool Church in Wales primary school project was being let and local firms were tendering.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
The contents of this report are noted by Cabinet.	To report on the Capital Outturn position for the 2019/20 financial year.

9. PRIMARY AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME POLICY

Cabinet considered proposals to adopt a policy to formalise the arrangements whereby suitable businesses trading across local authority boundaries, start-up businesses or a single business in Powys were given the opportunity to enter a legal Primary Authority Relationship with Powys County Council in respect of regulatory functions.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
To adopt the Primary Authority Partnerships Scheme policy attached at Appendix A to the report.	To support businesses and ensure the Council's policy for accepting and declining requests from businesses to join the Primary Authority scheme and how these partnerships will operate is clear and transparent.

10. CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING 6 MONTHLY UPDATE AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

Cabinet received the six monthly update from the Corporate Safeguarding Group. Referring to the Group's comments about safeguarding training for schools staff, the Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language advised that this would be a top priority for training in the autumn term. Cabinet also noted that events would be taking place on 25 November to mark White Ribbon Day in support of the campaign to tackle male violence against women.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That Cabinet receives the 6 monthly briefing update from the Chair of the Corporate Safeguarding Group.	To ensure Cabinet are fully sighted on work to date.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence reported.

12.	DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING
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Cabinet received details of the delegated decisions taken by portfolio holders since the last meeting.

13.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
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Cabinet received details of the forward work programme.

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)