

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER,
COUNTY HALL - COUNTY HALL ON TUESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2019**

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

County Councillors MC Alexander, G Breeze, A Davies, P Davies, J Evans, H Hulme
and R Powell

In attendance: County Councillor G Williams

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 last meeting held on 8th October 2019 as a correct record.

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

4.	QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT
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Cabinet considered the performance report for the second quarter of 2019/20 which set out details of the top 20 Powys specific performance measures, top priorities and milestones in the Corporate Improvement Plan 2018-23, Public Accountability Measures, progress against the Strategic Equality Plan and the Quality Assurance Framework. The report set out remedial actions for targets that had not been met.

The Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture referred to the statistic highlighted in the report on the percentage of assessments completed for children within statutory timescales which had been 54.6% in quarter 2. She explained that this had been during a period of restructure for Children's Services and that all children had received assessments albeit outside of the statutory timescale. In the last month the percentage was up to 97%.

In Adult Social Care, the percentage of safeguarding enquires completed with statutory timescales had increased from 96% to 98%. Delayed Transfers of Care remained an issue and whilst the service was taking steps such as the appointment of a discharge co-ordinator, the weakness of the domiciliary care sector remained an issue.

Referring to the spend within Powys, the Portfolio Holder for Finance explained that although the proportion of revenue spend with Powys based suppliers and

providers had fallen from 29% to 27% in the last quarter, the actual spend with local contractors was greater. The proportion of revenue spend with Powys based suppliers and providers was being reviewed to see if there were any opportunities not being utilised.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet and Executive Management Team consider the remedial actions outlined in the report and allocate resources accordingly to ensure their effective implementation. 2. That portfolio holders discuss any activities or measures with a red or amber status with the relevant Corporate Director and Head of Service to ensure actions are taken to bring performance back on track. 3. That all services familiarise themselves with the updated Performance Management and Quality Assurance Framework. 4. That a review of all of the top 20 performance measures is undertaken across all service areas with a view for this set of measures to be revised for the Quarter 3 report. 	<p>These recommendations have been made to ensure areas of underperformance are brought back on track and the Service's intended outcomes are achieved.</p> <p>To ensure the council can provide appropriate and timely reporting and monitoring against the Top 20 performance measures, Corporate Improvement Plan, Public Accountability Measures and Strategic Equality Plan.</p>

5. PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES 2018-19 ANALYSIS

The Performance Accountability Measures set out the Welsh local authorities performance in a range of key areas. Overall, Powys was ranked 5th of the 22 authorities, improving or maintaining its quartile position in 94% of measures, with 53% of measures in the upper or upper middle quartile. Powys was ranked 1st in the number of visits to local authority sport and leisure facilities, was 3rd best for sickness absence and 2nd for the number of days taken to repair housing stock. The report also noted three areas where Powys was ranked bottom and set out actions being taken to improve performance. In the case of PAM/022 the percentage of C roads that are in overall poor condition Cabinet noted that Powys had by far the greatest length of C class roads in Wales which was not reflected in Welsh Government funding. The Leader noted the extra costs involved in delivering services in such a rural area. Cabinet thanked staff for their work.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
That the report and Powys' position relative to other councils in Wales be noted.	To understand performance against national comparators.

6. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER QUARTER 2 2019-20

Cabinet was advised that two new risks had been added to the Strategic Risk Register, both related to the Estyn inspection report. The Leader also updated Cabinet on the work being undertaken on planning for Brexit.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
<p>1. That Cabinet notes the current Strategic Risk Register and is satisfied with progress against mitigating action for quarter 2.</p> <p>2. Cabinet approves the following two risks to be escalated to the Strategic Risk Register: - The council will be unable to manage the schools budget without extra resource and finance and this will affect every individual school in Powys that has a deficit budget. - The council fails to make the necessary improvements in response to Estyn recommendations.</p> <p>3. Cabinet notes the Brexit strategic level risks and continues to plan and respond as appropriate.</p>	<p>To ensure appropriate understanding and management of risks which could prevent us from achieving our objectives. To ensure a risk managed approach to decision making and good governance for the Council.</p>

7. BUDGET OUTTURN AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER

Cabinet considered the financial forecast and overview as at 30th September. The Portfolio Holder for Finance advised that the only area of major change from the previous report was the increase in the projected overspend in Children's Services as the service focused on delivering the improvements required by Care Inspectorate Wales and Welsh Government. The Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture outlined the service's plans to invest and reduce expenditure in the long term.

Cabinet paid tribute to HTR staff who had worked over the weekend of 26th and 27th October dealing with widespread flooding across the county. Details of the costs of this would be shared with the Cabinet. Cabinet noted the work that had been undertaken to highlight the additional costs of delivering services in a rural authority that had been shared with Welsh Government.

The report also set out virements for the My Travel Pass scheme (£60k), Passenger Transport Budget (£397k) and Home to School Transport (£90k).

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
That the Senior Leadership Team be asked to review the position around undelivered savings and propose a plan to bridge the gap as a matter of urgency.	To monitor the council's financial performance and ensure that spending remains within approved limits and that the 3% minimum general fund reserve is maintained.
That the virements set out in the report be approved.	To ensure appropriate virements, are carried out. To align budgets with spending plans.

8. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER

Cabinet considered the Capital Programme update for the period ended 30th September 2019.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
That the contents of the report are noted.	To report on the Capital Outturn position for the 2019/20 financial year.

9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTER 2 REPORT

Cabinet considered the Treasury Management report for quarter 2. The Portfolio Holder for Finance paid tribute to the Treasury Management team and explained that Treasury Management supported the Council's services and capital programme by loaning surplus cash for short periods of time, earning more interest than would be the case if cash had been left on deposit in a bank account. He expressed disappointment at recent press reports of members questioning this practice given that all members received training on treasury management.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the Treasury Management Quarterly Report be received	To ensure Cabinet remains informed about current Treasury Management performance.

10.	RESHAPING THE PROCUREMENT OF HOME CARE SUPPORT THROUGH THE USE OF A DYNAMIC PURCHASING SYSTEM - UPDATE
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Cabinet considered a proposal to roll out the dynamic purchase scheme (DPS) for the procurement of domiciliary care following a year long pilot in south west Powys. It was proposed to develop and implement three formal approved provider lists in the form of a DPS to replace existing spot contracting arrangements:

- North Powys DPS (North East, North West and North Central community areas)
- South Powys DPS (Mid East, Mid West, South Central and South West community areas)
- Specialist county-wide DPS for people whose domiciliary care needs are more complex.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<p>That the Head of Commissioning (Children & Adults) is authorised to implement three (North, South and Specialist) Dynamic Purchasing Systems for the future commissioning of domiciliary care support services across Powys, as set out in the report.</p> <p>The Head of Commissioning (Children & Adults) is authorised to establish larger block contracts over time, in localities across the county, for the delivery of domiciliary care services, via the DPS's.</p>	<p>The three DPS's will also ensure that future purchasing arrangements for domiciliary care provision are lawful and compliant with Public Contracts Regulations 2015.</p> <p>Block purchasing will ensure that effective and efficient services are procured.</p> <p>The development of geographic and specialist DPS's, will support providers to develop market capacity within the specific areas of Powys that they wish to continue to develop their business in.</p>

11.	REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND ASSURANCE BOARD
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Cabinet considered the report of the Independent Chair of the Improvement and Assurance Board and noted the changes to the terms of reference to reflect the integration of education improvements and the change of membership to incorporate independent members with education expertise. Cabinet acknowledged the contribution of the Improvement and Assurance Board and welcomed its additional remit in assisting with improvement in education.

12.	MINUTES OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND ASSURANCE BOARD
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Cabinet received the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Assurance Board held on 25th September 2019.

13.	APPOINTMENT TO THE LDP WORKING GROUP
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RESOLVED that County Councillor Heulwen Hulme be appointed as one of the Cabinet's representatives on the LDP Working Group.

14.	CORRESPONDENCE
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There were no items of correspondence.

15.	DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING
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Cabinet noted details of the delegated decisions taken by Portfolio Holders since the last meeting.

16.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
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The Leader asked Portfolio Holders to ensure that the forward work programme was kept up to date.

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)