

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC OVERVIEW BOARD HELD AT
COMMITTEE ROOM A - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON
TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2016**

PRESENT

County Councillor W T Jones (Chair)

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

In attendance County Councillors KW Curry and DR Jones
David Powell Strategic Director Resources, Paul Griffiths Strategic Director Place,
Dylan Owen Head of Transformation for Adult Services for item 5.1, Ian Roberts Head
of Schools for item 5.3, Garry Hudson Senior Performance Management Officer, Clive
Pinney Solicitor to the Council, Mark McIntyre Account Manager People, Caroline
Evans for item 1.

1.	RISK REGISTER
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The Chair changed the running order of the agenda to take the report on the Risk Register next.

Two risks had increased:

RPC2 – the Council had lost an appeal in respect of liability for a closed landfill site. Permission to appeal had been granted by the trial judge.

RPC12 County Farms - £1m urgent health and safety works identified on the County Farms Estate.

Two risks had decreased:

RPC6 – Failure to adopt the LDP. The LDP was about to enter the examination stage of the process with the Inspector's approval.

LC1 – the Council had been prosecuted for a health and safety incident in a leisure centre, although the judge had been happy with the procedures the Council had since put in place.

CR7 new members on the Pensions and Investment Committee. This had been identified as a new risk in view of the number of experienced members of the committee who would not be standing for election. This would be addressed through training.

2.	APOLOGIES
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There were no apologies for absence.

The Chair welcomed Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees as observers.

3.	MINUTES
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Subject to the inclusion of Councillor Barry Thomas and the Strategic Director Place to the list of those present, the Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 18th October 2016 as a correct record.

4.	MATTERS ARISING
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There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

5.	CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN TRACKER
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SOB considered the Corporate Improvement Tracker.

5.1. Support in the Community

Single Point of Access (**Amber**): work was progressing but SOB noted that some people were still spending a long time on hold when they phoned. SPB asked for an update to be emailed to Cabinet members.

Provide seamless and co-ordinated working across health and adult social care (**Amber**): The amber rating reflected progress on integration with PTHB to date.

Develop and implement the joint health and social care commissioning strategies (**Amber**): A number of joint commissioning strategies were already in place so this was moving to green.

Deliver improvements for safeguarding adults (**Amber**): An officer was in post so this was moving to green.

Deliver additional sites for Gypsies and Travellers (**Amber**): Work was continuing to identify sites. 3 more pitches would be developed in Brecon with Welsh Government funding and the site in Welshpool was being extended. A possible site had been identified in Machynlleth and the Town Council was being consulted. SOB noted that the identification of sites was essential to the LDP.

Ensure compliance with the Government's welfare reform agenda (**Green**): SOB was advised that the average loss per household was £2,000, with some losing up to £6,000. The service was working with stakeholders.

Implement Welsh Community Care Information System (**Amber**): Implementation had been delayed due to problems with governance and data protection. This was a nationwide issue and not a problem of the Council's making.

Flood Alleviation Schemes (**Amber**): Welsh Government funding had been secured and the Council was consulting on schemes.

Older Persons Dwellings & Level Access Bungalows (**Amber**): Funds had not been spent yet.

5.2. Developing the Economy

Improve the supply of affordable and suitable housing (**Amber**): SOB was advised that there was a lot of work going on. STAMP workshops had been held and land in Council ownership identified. Council had also applied to suspend the right to buy council houses.

SOB noted the problems caused by not having an LDP in place with the Planning Committee being forced to approve applications for housing outside development areas because of the requirement to meet the 5 year land supply. The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning explained that many Welsh local authorities were in the same position and that they were lobbying Welsh Government.

Encourage and facilitate the skilling of young people and young adults (**Amber**): A number of careers events promoting engineering had been held and there had been good feedback from them.

Provide a transport system that helps to keep people mobile and connected (**Amber**): This had moved from green to amber as services reduced with budget cuts. The mobile phone app needed further development.

Housing Capital Strategy (**Amber**): This was amber because the service was waiting for Welsh Government approval of the Council's application to suspend the right to buy.

Local Development Strategy (**Green**): SOB agreed that this should be changed to **Amber** because of the issue of search areas.

Implement the council's Key Infrastructure Capital Programme (**Amber**): Amber because of limitation on the funds available.

Review workshop portfolio so that they provide an income from 2017/18 onwards (**Amber**): the workshops were 98% occupied and providing an income.

Brecon Cultural Hub (**Red**): This was being considered by Cabinet on 20 December.

Regeneration Fund (**Green** from **Amber**): funds were being spent in line with the plan.

Community Regeneration Fund (**Green**): The Strategic Director Place agreed to email members details of the spend.

5.3. Learning

All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential (**Amber**): The inclusion of "all" in the aim meant that this was always going to be amber. Performance varied between school sectors with primary schools generally good and secondary schools adequate. The Schools transformation policy was contributing to instability in schools with headteachers not staying in post. Generally standards were going up, but had fallen in two schools, and

progress varied between schools. Powys remained in the top 5 in terms of school performance in Wales.

Restructure the Looked After Children Co-ordinator Service (Amber): This had been downgraded from green because it had not been possible to recruit to two posts below the LAC Manager. These posts had been re-advertised and SOB asked for an update to the next meeting.

Manage major scheme development of 21st Century schools in Gwernyfed primary schools, Brecon learning campus, Welshpool and Bro Hyddgen (Amber): This had been downgraded to amber until completion of schemes. The Gwernyfed application had been deferred by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority but officers remained confident that the scheme would get planning approval. Keeping the schemes within budget remained a challenge.

To improve outcomes in Key Stage 4 (Amber): This had been downgraded to amber because of the variation of performance between schools. The secondary school strategy would be looked at again in January as would the support available to schools from Erw. An update would be provided at the next meeting and report on standards taken to Cabinet on 7 February.

To improve the quality of leadership (at all levels), including governors, across our schools with a specific focus on secondary schools (Amber): The Head of Schools advised that the categorisation of schools exercise would be completed by quarter 3. He reported difficulty in recruiting head teachers with 15 schools with acting or seconded heads. Uncertainty over school modernisation was a contributory factor. He also advised that online training was being developed for governors and that training would be arranged for newly elected councillors after May 2017.

To realise efficiencies of £265k as identified in the MTFP (Amber): This had been downgraded from green in the face of significant opposition to proposals from elected members. There would be £40k slippage because a proposed reduction in hours of learning assistants would not be achieved. This amount would be found from savings in another budget for this year. The Head of Service reported that some officers had come under considerable pressure from elected members opposing proposed savings. If officers felt that pressure on this or any other service overstepped the mark and felt they were being bullied then this should be reported to the Portfolio Holder, Head of Service and Monitoring Officer.

To progress implementation of restructuring secondary education in North Powys following Cabinet decision in respect of Welsh medium education (Amber): This had been downgraded from green. An officer workshop would be held in the New Year to consider how to take this forward.

Deliver school budgets within the schools funding formula and Statement of Intent principles (Amber): The number of schools with projected deficits was rising. Cabinet would be considering a report on 20 December.

To progress the raising of admission age to schools to the beginning of the academic year after a child reaches his/her fourth birthday (Amber): This had been downgraded from green. The Service was working to implement the Cabinet decision and had gone out to tender. Until the tender process concluded

and there was certainty that there was capacity in the settings the evaluation would be amber.

Establish an internal supply insurance pool on a stop loss insurance basis (Amber): work was continuing with Pembrokeshire County Council. There had been some slippage in quarter 2 but the project was back on track again.

Brecon School Campus (Amber): Welsh Government had approved the outline business case so this would move to green.

Cashless system for schools (Green): this project was proceeding in line with the timetable.

5.4. Services Delivered for Less

Improve our strategic planning and performance improvement processes (Amber): This would be reassessed after the Strategic Director Resources met Wales Audit Office.

Remodel the Adult Social Care service so that it can deliver effectively within available resources (Red): this was red because of the financial position of the service which was being addressed.

Establish a model where services are delivered locally with an emphasis on early intervention and prevention (Amber): downgraded from Green. SOB asked for a briefing to be emailed to them.

Undertake a review of residential/respite care for children with a disability at Bannau / Camlas to provide the service more efficiently (Amber): SOB asked for a briefing to be emailed to them.

Establish a local asset backed vehicle (LABV) focusing on Brecon and Welshpool to generate capital receipts from property holdings (Amber): upgraded from Red. Report to Cabinet on 20 December.

Remodel the Library Service so that it can deliver effectively within available resources and release efficiencies of £250k (Amber): The project was still on track to deliver savings.

Meet statutory provision of rights of way and countryside access (Amber): This would always be amber because there would never be sufficient resources to meet the commitment.

Transfer outdoor recreation and play provision to communities who wish to take on these local services. If not, seek full cost recovery or sell assets (Amber): work was ongoing.

Achieve the Welsh Government's recycling targets to reduce the impact on the environment and avoid fines (Amber): The service was on track to meet targets but there was a risk associated with closing HWRC sites.

Meeting the targets of the Medium Term Financial Strategy so that we can deliver effectively within available resources (£5.956 million) (Red): because of the current forecast deficit which was being addressed in the budget recovery plan.

Reduce the number of IT systems in use and achieve improved functionality and value from our investment in digital technology through a corporate hub and joined-up systems (Amber): downgraded from green. The number of systems in use by the Council had been reduced from 170 in December 2015 to 146 in September 2016 but the rate of reduction had now slowed.

Implement effective business intelligence, providing data insight to support our decision making (Amber): the sickness absence dashboard was being rolled out to line managers. Wales Audit Office had made positive comments about the council's business intelligence support.

Oversee income generation and cost improvement opportunities through the establishment of the Income and Cost Improvement Board and supporting challenge events (Amber): the Board would be reorganised in 2017 to make it smaller with more regular meetings and to provide more of a challenge.

Recover cost of services through generating income of £1.6 million (Red): £244k off target. There had been no interest from companies in advertising on council vehicles (£50k). The £70k recharge to Schools for recycling had not been realised as they had procured the service elsewhere. SOB noted the need for urgent action to make up the shortfall and asked for a report. Targets for Legal fees and Internal Audit savings would be achieved.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That Strategic Overview Board receive the Corporate Improvement Plan Quarter 2 Tracker.	To ensure effective evaluation of progress in implementing the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan 2016-19, supported by good practice and simple governance.

6.	POSITION SUMMARY: SERVICE ITEMS NOT COVERED IN THE COUNCIL'S CIP
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The Portfolio Holder for Highways noted that the steps being taken to move the Highways, Transport and Recycling service to a company needed to be tracked so that Cabinet were kept informed of the position.

7.	REGULATORY RECOMMENDATION TRACKER
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The Board considered a tracker of recommendations made by regulators. Of 104 recommendations, 39 actions were complete and ready for sign off by the Audit Committee, 51 were on track, 6 were mainly on track with some minor issues and 8 were not on track and the report set out the position for each of these.

With respect to R5R5, public bodies should give due consideration to the equality impact of all early departure arrangements, SOB was advised that this had been actioned so this would be green for the next report.

With respect to R5, monitor efficiency savings and demonstrate that services provide value for money, the Strategic Director Resources would be meeting WAO to discuss what measures they wanted to put into place.

With respect to R4, develop Key Performance Indicators to monitor the MTFP, this would be introduced for the next financial year.

With respect to R7, Strengthen budget setting and monitoring arrangements to ensure financial resilience, resilience had been built in so SOB agreed that this should be amber rather than red.

For future reports SOB asked for details of when reports were due.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
1: The tracker is received as a correct indication of the Council's response to regulatory recommendations.	To ensure that agreed actions to address regulatory recommendations received by the Council are monitored appropriately.
2: That 39 recommendations (status blue) are approved to be archived by decision of the Audit Committee.	Recommendations were planned action is complete and desired outcomes have been achieved / embedded as required.

8.	STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2016 PROGRESS REPORT
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Received.

9.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING
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14 March 2017.

County Councillor W T Jones (Chair)