



## **Audit Committee**

**29 January 2015**

### **Finance Scrutiny Panel**

**Purpose of Report:** Progress report

As Members will be aware, the Finance Scrutiny Panel was established as part of a project with CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny) to strengthen financial scrutiny in Powys.

The Panel is chaired by the Chair of Audit and the membership comprises non executive group leaders, chairs of scrutiny committees and other members of the Audit Committee.

A programme of ten formal meetings and seminars has been agreed to the end of March 2015, six of which have taken place. Cabinet and Management Team are invited to attend to ensure that the Authority moves forward as a whole.

Seminars held to date have covered:

- Principles of Effective Financial Scrutiny
- Strengthening resilience through effective challenge
- Understanding Strategic Commissioning

In addition the Panel has discussed the current financial position and efficiency savings as well as the proposed budget and longer term plans with the Cabinet and Management Team in group sessions and with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Strategic Director, Resources individually.

A series of recommendations for future improvement are being prepared which are likely to be submitted to Cabinet in late February.

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**Sources/background papers:** Agendas of meetings 10 October, 20 October, 10 November, 18 November 2014, 9 January and 15 January 2015

**Panel Members:** County Councillors **A W Davies (Chair), J Brunt, S C Davies, M J Jones J G Morris, A G Thomas, D A Thomas, R G Thomas and Mr J Brautigam**