

NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS STEERING GROUP – SCRUTINY, AUDIT AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEES

20 FEBRUARY 2015 – COMMITTEE ROOM A, COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS

PRESENT: County Councillor S.C. Davies (Chair).
County Councillors E.Michael Jones, R.G. Thomas, D.R. Jones, A.W. Davies, J.G. Morris and L.V. Corfield.

Officers:

Wyn Richards (Scrutiny Manager), Lisa Richards (Scrutiny Officer), Nick Philpott (Director – Change and Governance), Peter Jones (Programme Office Manager).

1. Apologies

County Councillors - County Councillor M.J. Dorrance.
Officers – Jeremy Patterson (Chief Executive), Paul Griffiths (Strategic Director – Place), Liz Patterson (Scrutiny Officer), Clive Pinney (Solicitor to the Council), David Powell (Strategic Director – Resources), Amanda Lewis (Strategic Director – People) and Susan Simpson (Partnership and Policy Manager).

2. Draft Notes of Last Meeting

Documents Considered:

- Draft Notes – 14th November, 2014

Issues Discussed:

- Item 3 – Scrutiny Manager to progress an update on the Community Benefits Fund.
- Item 5 – need to clarify that scrutiny chairs were being paid travel expenses only for attending Cabinet meetings. Also a need to clarify that in the new Constitution the right by a scrutiny chair to speak could not be vetoed by the Leader. It was further clarified that the items which could be raised by the scrutiny chair were any matters which fell within the remit of that scrutiny committee.
- Item 8 – the final bullet point should have read 73 Members and 1 Lay “Independent” Member.

Outcomes:

- Notes Received.
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Action	Completion Date	Action By
2/1 Scrutiny Manager to progress an update on the Community Benefits Fund	March, 2015	WR

3. Discussion with Chief Executive, Strategic Directors / Director Regarding Potential Scrutiny Items.

Documents Considered:

- None.

Issues Discussed:

- None.

Outcomes:

- **Defer to the next meeting.**

4. Draft One Powys Plan.

Documents Considered:

- One Powys Plan Update.
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Focus on Poverty Matrix.
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Focus on Poverty.
- One Powys Plan Approach.

Issues Discussed:

- Powys has moved to an integrated plan working with partners. However Powys continues to have to produce its own improvement plan.
- The report reaffirms that last year's objectives are the correct ones which are continuing.
- The Wales Audit Office is very positive about the integrated plan and supports the Council's position in producing an update to the plan annually rather than a full version.
- In relation to the update a small needs assessment was undertaken on poverty and the economy. The Joint Needs assessment was circulated to the Steering Group and the conclusions of the assessment fitted into existing programmes.
- The conclusions of the needs assessment were that generally the plans covered most of the points raised. However some new conclusions were added where necessary.
- The survey undertaken shows that the Council is on the right track in its programmes of work.

Outcomes:

- **Documents Noted.**
- **The detailed comments raised by the Steering Group are attached as an appendix to these notes.**

5. Scrutiny Committees – Areas of Responsibility.

Documents Considered:

- Scrutiny Committees – Areas of Responsibility.

Issues Discussed:

- None.

Outcomes:

- **Defer to next meeting.**

6. Scrutiny Annual Report to the Council.

Documents Considered:

- None.

Issues Discussed:

- None.

Outcomes:

- **Defer to Next Meeting.**

7. Scrutiny Consideration of Service Improvement Plans.

Documents Considered:

- Challenge Arrangements – Service Improvement Plans.
- Guidance Note – Areas for Challenge.

Issues Discussed:

- Timetable of meetings and guidance note.

Outcomes:

- **Programme of Service Improvement Plans' Challenge and Guidance Note approved.**

8. Recommendations from the Adult Social Care Working Group – 9th January, 2015.

Documents Considered:

- None.

Issues Discussed:

- None.

Outcomes:

- **Defer to Next Meeting.**

9. Request from County Councillor Wynne Jones, Deputy Leader.

Documents Considered:

- None.

Issues Discussed:

- None.

Outcomes:

- **Defer to Next Meeting.**

10. Work Programme.

Documents Considered:

- Work Programme 2014-15
- Work Programme 2015-16.

Issues Discussed:

- Amendment to remove Draft One Powys Plan and Service Improvement Plans from 13th March meeting.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
10/1 Amend / Update Work Programmes	March, 2015	WR

11. Dates of future meetings

- 13th March, 2015
- 15th May, 2015
- 17th July, 2015
- 18th September, 2015
- 20th November, 2015

12. LSB Meeting Dates

- 5th March, 2015 (Provisional)
- 11th June, 2015 (Provisional)
- 24th September, 2015 (Provisional)
- 3rd December, 2015 (Provisional)

Additional Items Approved by the Chair for Consideration.

13. Finance Scrutiny Panel Report to the Cabinet.

Documents Considered:

- Draft Report prepared by Rebecca David-Knight, Wales Programme Manager, Centre for Public Scrutiny.

Issues Discussed:

- An update on the changes to the draft report was provided as highlighted in the report.
- A question was raised as to whether Members of Council should be considering elements of the budget in more depth (Para 2.18). The Finance Scrutiny Panel (FSP) would need to take an overview of the responses from the Working Groups on the challenge of the Service Improvement Plans.
- The Cabinet would need to look at what areas of service the Council should cease to provide although there was a reluctance to do this.
- Para 2.3 – many of the savings identified will not be achieved until Quarter 4 of the financial year so the full impact of that saving is not achieved in that financial year.
- Para 2.15 – it was suggested that there was a lack of ownership of budgets by Portfolio Holders with too much emphasis on officers leading, where it was felt that Portfolio Holders should be leading discussions at Council seminars.
- Para 2.27 – there was a need to be clearer about timescales for responses and a more timely response from the Cabinet. The response to this report should be received by mid April 2015.
- There should be a scrutiny of the growth in the budget which should consider how much of a reduction has come from Welsh Government and how much growth in services is needed e.g. need to look at what makes up the £70million reduction as only 50% of that is due to cuts by Welsh Government. This should be included on the FSP's forward work programme.

- There was a discussion about the level of detail which Members required to consider the budget. Members were reminded that their role was at a strategic level rather than looking at the minutiae of the budget. However Members felt that they needed sufficient information to be convinced about the Council's direction of travel. There was also a need for a better idea of the costs of running services, as well as a need for Portfolio Holders to better sell the vision for change to other Members.

Outcomes:

- **Subject to the comments raised that the report be approved for consideration by the Cabinet.**

14. Local Service Board Scrutiny.

Documents Considered:

- None.

Issues Discussed:

- A workshop had been held on 19th February comprising members of the Local Service Board, the Transformation Programme Board and the Chairs of the Scrutiny, Audit and Democratic Services Committees.
- The Steering Group was asked to consider the next steps to develop the scrutiny of the Local Service Board.
- It was clarified that the scrutiny of the Local Service Board was different to the scrutiny of a "designated person" as it involved the scrutiny of the partnership rather than individual organisations which made up the partnership.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
14/1 Agreement to establish a multi organisational approach to the scrutiny of the Local Service Board	March, 2015	WR
14/2 Information about how each of the bodies making up the Local Service Board were scrutinized to be collected	March 2015	WR
14/3 Centre for Public Scrutiny to assist in the collation of Terms of Reference used by other Councils	March 2015	WR / RDK
14/4 Draft Terms of Reference to be drawn up for agreement by the Steering Group	April 2015	WR / CP
14/5 Draft Terms of Reference once agreed by the Steering Group to be considered by the Local Service Board for adoption	tbc	WR / SS
14/6 Agree with the Local Service Board the representatives from other bodies	tbc	
14/7 New multi organisational scrutiny group to be established	June 2015	WR
14/8 Work Plan for new multi organisational scrutiny group to be drawn up	June 2015	WR

County Councillor S.C. Davies
Chair

List of Actions Arising from the Joint Chairs and Vice-Chairs Steering Group meeting on 20th February, 2015.

Action	Completion Date	Action By	Completed / Notes
2/1 Scrutiny Manager to progress an update on the Community Benefits Fund	March, 2015	WR	
10/1 Amend / Update Work Programmes	March, 2015	WR	
14/1 Agreement to establish a multi organisational approach to the scrutiny of the Local Service Board	March, 2015	WR	
14/2 Information about how each of the bodies making up the Local Service Board were scrutinized to be collected	March 2015	WR	
14/3 Centre for Public Scrutiny to assist in the collation of Terms of Reference used by other Councils	March 2015	WR / RDK	
14/4 Draft Terms of Reference to be drawn up for agreement by the Steering Group	April 2015	WR / CP	
14/5 Draft Terms of Reference once agreed by the Steering Group to be considered by the Local Service Board for adoption	tbc	WR / SS	
14/6 Agree with the Local Service Board the representatives from other bodies	tbc		
14/7 New multi organisational scrutiny group to be established	June 2015	WR	
14/8 Work Plan for new multi organisational scrutiny group to be drawn up	June 2015	WR	

Organisational Development and Partnership Support
Joint Chairs and Vice Chairs Steering Group: 20th February 2015

One Powys Plan 2014-17: 2015 Update Challenge

- Scrutiny members made 13 recommendations/challenges to improve the quality of information in the One Powys Plan update. Of the 13 recommendations, nine (69%) have resulted in appropriate changes being made to the plan. Reasons for not making changes in response to 4 of the recommendations have been provided in the table below.
- Scrutiny also raised a number of questions and more general comments concerning the One Powys Plan and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Responses to these questions have been collated and are outlined in the table below. These comments will be valuable as part of the continued development and progress of the plan.

Page No:	Joint Chairs & Vice Chairs: Challenge / Comment	Portfolio Holder / Programme:	Response:	Change to Update: (Y/N)
3 - Message from Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance requires more balance to reflect multi-agency approach. • Reference to avoiding salami slicing at odds with approach on budget eg libraries. • Mindful of ‘communities people <u>want</u>’ v ‘<u>need</u>’ or ‘<u>what we can afford</u>’. • Should statement suggest greater sense of flexibility as we don’t know what future needs will be? 	SP&BI / John Evans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message from the Chair has been amended to reflect comments opposite. 	Y
4 - Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page references • Use of colour and text (user friendly) 	SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page references amended • Concerns shared with graphic design team 	Y
5 - New Challenges (JSNA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to work on graphics for presenting data and key messages. • As messages are in isolation - messages need to be more complete. • Remove word ‘only’ on FSM and balance statement with attainment levels. 	SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSNA Matrix has been amended and now includes more data to give better context to the headline findings. • The word ‘only’ has been removed and the following information with regards FSM and attainment levels is included in the full JSNA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>At the Foundation Phase, the gap between learners receiving free school meals and non-free school meal, achieving the Foundation Phase Indicator narrowed by 3% (from 14.6% in 2011/12 to 11.6% in 2012-13). Pupil attainment of free school meal learners improved by 8.5% to 74.8%. This is in comparison to 86% of non FSM learners.</i> ○ <i>At key stage 2 the gap between free school meals and non-free school meal learners achieving the core subject indicator narrowed by 9% from 22% in 2011/12 to 13.8% in 2012-13. The achievement of free school meal</i> 	Y

Page No:	Joint Chairs & Vice Chairs: Challenge / Comment	Portfolio Holder / Programme:	Response:	Change to Update: (Y/N)
			<p>learners improved by 8.4% to 74.3%. This is in comparison to 88.1% of non-free school meal learners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At key stage 3, 53% of free school meal learners achieved the Core Subject Indicator compared to 85.5% of those not in receipt of free school meals. This a gap of 31.5% which is 3% bigger than in 2011-12. ○ At key stage 4, 31.4% of free school meal learners achieved Level 2 inclusive compared to 29.06% in 2011-12 (Wales average 2012-13: 25.80%). 	
6 - New Challenges (JSNA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is tourism referred to separately to business? Should it not just refer to business as tourism is just part of a wider sector? 	SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reason for separating tourism data from business data was to take account of the fact that tourism has an overall impact on the economy of an area for many local business sectors. We also thought it was important to highlight the differences in trends between Powys and the rest of Wales. The following facts have been published by our tourism section which support the importance of this area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism value in 2013, £654.9 million (Total 9.68m visitor days) • 1,549 tourism accommodation providers & 11,164 FTE jobs supported by the tourism economy 	N/A
5/6 - New Challenges (JSNA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should conclusion of JSNA be better reflected in section 4? 	SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 4 of the OPP update has been amended and now includes statements to show how the programmes are addressing the key issues identified in the 'Focus on poverty' JSNA. 	Y
6 - New Challenges (JSNA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emergent 5 issues: What is the evidence for these? They do not correspond to what central government recognise as factors underlying poverty. 	SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2014 is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. It was produced by the Welsh Government and developed as a tool to identify and understand deprivation in Wales. The WIMD gives an overall deprivation rank for each of the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) for Wales and for the following deprivation domains: 	N/A

Page No:	Joint Chairs & Vice Chairs: Challenge / Comment	Portfolio Holder / Programme:	Response:	Change to Update: (Y/N)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income • Employment • Health • Education • Access to Services • Housing • Physical Environment • Community Safety <p>Each of the eight domains are based on a range of different indicators, these are weighted and combined into an overall index of multiple deprivation. The weighting is the adjustment of the contribution of the domain indexes make to the overall index when they are combined. Income and employment are classed as the most important domains and are given the biggest weighting in the overall index.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint workshop was held on 7th November to analyse the findings of the JSNA and to consider which issues (WIMD domains) are most significant to tackling poverty. A methodical approach (tried and tested in 2014) was used to judge the significance of each issue and to draw conclusions from each group. 	
7 - Overview of Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figures quoted should reflect multi-agency targets not just council. Could disaggregate across partners. 	SP&BI / Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savings targets for 2015/16 have been given for PCC, PtHB and DPP. 	Y
Section 4 - Our Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • References to council vision – ensure it’s not part of main text and review wording 	SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed ‘supports this priority’ to ‘aligns with this priority’. 	Y
8 - Our Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the link between priorities and reduced funding? • Have we got too many priorities – should we just have 4? 	SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The priorities identified in the OPP are shared across our LSB partners. There are activities within the plan that help realise savings through the remodelling of services. 	N/A

Page No:	Joint Chairs & Vice Chairs: Challenge / Comment	Portfolio Holder / Programme:	Response:	Change to Update: (Y/N)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In agreeing partner budgets, consideration has been given to the commitments made in the OPP. • Whilst we recognise the term “if you prioritise everything, you’ve prioritised nothing’, the LSB recognise the challenging ambition in delivering the OPP, but are prioritising resource to ensure capabilities and outcomes are delivered to schedule over the 3 year plan. Performance to date acknowledges adequate progress, not with-standing understandable issues emerging that impact delivery in a programme of this size and magnitude. 	
9 - Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In light of recent announcements regarding an increase in suicide rates (across UK), is there need to draw attention to this issue in context of Powys? 	Joint Programme Board (Adults & Children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference has been made to the level of suicide rates in the original One Powys Plan, therefore no further detail will be included in the update. 	No
11 - Learning Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures of success: • Budget reduction at bottom of list. • Service users using respite care – linkages to actions • Service users receiving residential care – linkages to actions 	H&ASCILB Programme Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The measure regarding budget reduction has been moved to the bottom of the list. • The two measure of success listed opposite align to the following action in the OPP update: Enable people to live in their choice of local community, particularly those currently living far away. There are a number of specific projects underway to achieve this action. 	Y
12 - Healthy Lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change ‘two’ commitments to ‘three’ • Provide full description for what ‘brief advice training’ is 	PtHB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wording has been changed from two to three. • The following description for ‘brief advice training’ has been added to the OPP update to provide context and clarity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief Advice training can be provided to potentially all public sector staff and enables them to opportunistically identify individuals who wish to make changes to a lifestyle behaviour, provide basic information and signpost to appropriate local resources. This is termed a ‘healthy chat’ and should not add to an already busy workload, but rather provide staff with the skills and knowledge to discuss health improvement when opportunities arise. 	Y

Page No:	Joint Chairs & Vice Chairs: Challenge / Comment	Portfolio Holder / Programme:	Response:	Change to Update: (Y/N)
13/14 - Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of 'against other Welsh authorities'. Can service confirm if comparative data against these attainment criteria is still available from LEAs / WG for future benchmarking or have they been discontinued? 	Schools Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently this data is not published by local authority area. However, WG do publish a report which gives all Wales data on academic achievement by pupil characteristics which includes SEN. The report can be accessed via the following link. http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/academic-achievement-pupil-characteristics/?lang=en 	N/A
14 - Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check accuracy of '15,000 learners' – feels high 	Schools Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The figure for number of learners in secondary schools has been changed to approximately 8,000 (which is the latest available figure from 2014). 	Y
14 - Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 16.6% secondary schools in special measures following inspection. What is the impact of this on our plans – ie. is it still appropriate to re-confirm the priorities as made in last year's plan or should we be amending our plans to better address the above? 	Schools Service / TL&S Programme Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently 2 out of 12 secondary schools have been put into special measures following Estyn Inspections (this represents 16%). We remain confident that the following commitment and measures in the One Powys Plan will address and monitor performance of our schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Fully implement the Education through Regional Working (ERW) school improvement strategy. This will ensure school leaders are supported and held to account for their performance and that of their school to ensure that all children achieve their potential</i> <i>The percentage of schools that are categorised as "good" or better by Estyn for prospects for improvement will increase to 70% by academic year 2015/16 (baseline 2012/13 academic year: 53%)</i> <i>The percentage of schools categorised as "good" or better by Estyn for current performance will increase to 85% by academic year 2015/16 (baseline 2012/13 academic year: 67%)</i> 	No
15 - Stronger Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is there not more emphasis on development of the economy and supporting local businesses? 	Stronger Communities Programme Board / R&P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The significant outcome we are seeking to achieve within the Stronger Communities Programme in the One Powys Plan is 'Opportunities and mechanisms to promote the County's assets and strengths to establish a robust and sustainable economy, to bring in jobs, and to support affordable housing and community development'. 	N/A

Page No:	Joint Chairs & Vice Chairs: Challenge / Comment	Portfolio Holder / Programme:	Response:	Change to Update: (Y/N)
			<p>This outcome will be achieved in a number of ways including ensuring that the supply chain is considered as part of our commissioning process to generate opportunities for local businesses and also our efforts in exploring inward investment and economic development utilising our Business Leaders on the Programme Board as well as the work of our regeneration team. In addition it will be necessary for all services across the Council to contribute to supporting local businesses given the significantly reduced capacity within the Regeneration Service.</p>	
15/16 - Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the significant funding reductions, how can we have confidence to re-confirm this as a priority; should something be changing? 	Stronger Communities Programme Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In light of the funding reductions, we have already changed the original outcome to ‘Create an affordable transport system that helps to keep people mobile and connected, by reshaping the county’s transport services’. We are still confident that the work on efficiencies in the integrated transport project in conjunction with other Local Transport Plan efforts will deliver a more efficient transport network by the end of the Programme. 	No
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document is too Powys centric – not enough information on contribution from partners. 	SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizen feedback has indicated that the citizen is not interested in who delivers which service, they are just interested in receiving a seamless service. Therefore the style and presentation of the OPP 2014-17 and the 2015 Update reflects this. JC&VC are reminded not to interpret the lack of reference to partners as an inference that all this work is being delivered by PCC – these are agreed, multi-agency commitments and changes. All 5 programmes are multi-agency programmes with multi agency governance arrangements in place. Respective responsibilities between partners is identifiable within programme and project detail. 	No

Page No:	Joint Chairs & Vice Chairs: Challenge / Comment	Portfolio Holder / Programme:	Response:	Change to Update: (Y/N)
General / For future reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be helpful if update included progress during year 1 of 3 year plan. 	SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Chairs & Vice Chairs Steering Group has a role in evaluating progress to date which will inform adjustments to programme delivery if appropriate; provide contribution to JSNA development and influence future priorities for OPP 2017 onwards. Linked to emerging LSB Scrutiny Group. 	N/A
General / For future reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSB need to do more to improve the economy for Powys. 	SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst the plan is not too explicit in terms of its actions to support and develop the economy, initiatives under the Stronger Communities programme and revision of the Regeneration Strategy confirm commitment from the LSB to this important sector. 	N/A
General / For future reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop more around the needs of local business and developing the economy. Suggest local businesses are potentially more important than Tourism, yet tourism gets singled out. 	LSB / TB / SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For future reference 	N/A
General / For future reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In developing the JSNA – more proactive in engaging Town and Community Councils (T&CC) in determining local needs. Ensure they have a more active role in the planning process – not just consult and engage. What is the involvement of One Voice Wales in LSB and development of JSNA? 	LSB / TB / SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For future reference 	N/A
General / For future reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSB Scrutiny Process: How do we hold partners to account? LSB Scrutiny Group should look at individual organisation plans and see how they align with OPP. 	SP&BI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A way forward to developing a multi-agency approach to research and evaluation (scrutiny) is being proposed via Joint Chairs and Transformation Board and will be presented to LSB for approval. The evaluation overview of current corporate / organisational plans may be built into the work-plan for that emerging group. 	N/A