

# County Council

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Meeting Venue  
**Council Chamber - County Hall,  
Llandrindod Wells**

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Meeting date  
**Wednesday, 20 January 2016**

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Meeting time  
**10.45 am**

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For further information please contact  
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County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

14 January 2016

## AGENDA

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>CC1- 2016</b>
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To receive apologies for absence.

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>	<b>CC2- 2016</b>
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 as a correct record.

(Pages 7 - 34)

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>CC3- 2016</b>
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To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be considered on the agenda.

<b>4.</b>	<b>CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<b>CC4- 2016</b>
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To receive any announcements from the Chair of Council.

<b>5.</b>	<b>LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<b>CC5- 2016</b>
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To receive any announcements from the Leader.

<b>6.</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BRIEFING</b>	<b>CC6- 2016</b>
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To receive a briefing from the Chief Executive.

<b>7.</b>	<b>VIREMENTS REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL</b>	<b>CC7- 2016</b>
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To consider approving virements in the capital budget.  
(Pages 35 - 36)

<b>8.</b>	<b>CHAIRS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES</b>	<b>CC8- 2016</b>
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To consider a report by the Solicitor to the Council.  
(Pages 37 - 40)

<b>9.</b>	<b>APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES BY POLITICAL GROUPS APPROVED BY THE MONITORING OFFICER</b>	<b>CC9- 2016</b>
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To note the following appointments to Committees made by political groups and approved by the Monitoring Officer under the general power of delegation granted by Council on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013:

County Councillors David Price and Gillian Thomas appointed to the Audit Committee by Powys Independent Alliance to fill vacancies.  
County Councillor Garry Banks appointed to Place Scrutiny Committee by Labour in place of County Councillor Matthew Dorrance.  
County Councillor James Gibson-Watt appointed to People Scrutiny Committee by the Liberal Democrats to fill a vacancy.

<b>10.</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT (LAY) MEMBER ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CC10- 2016</b>
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To consider the report of the Solicitor to the Council.  
(Pages 41 - 42)

<b>11.</b>	<b>WYE NAVIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CC11- 2016</b>
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To consider making an appointment to the Wye Navigation Advisory Committee.  
(Pages 43 - 44)

<b>12.</b>	<b>COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME</b>	<b>CC12- 2016</b>
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To receive the Council work programme for 2016.  
(Pages 45 - 46)

<b>13.</b>	<b>NOTICE OF MOTION - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL MEETINGS</b>	<b>CC13- 2016</b>
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Powys County Council

- believes that we should do more to encourage residents of Powys to have a greater say in all council meetings
- thinks that public participation provides a means by which those with a view to express are able to do so at meetings where particular issues are being raised
- believes public engagement would be improved by offering a structured format at the start of all meetings of the council and its committees for members of the public to address councillors
- notes that a large proportion of Welsh local authorities already make provision for public participation at meetings

This council resolves

1. to empower the Democratic Services Committee to look at ways in which public participation operates successfully across Wales
2. to explore options for introducing public participation and make proposals aimed at introducing a system to allow members of the public to contribute in council meetings.

Proposed: County Councillor Gemma Bowker

Seconded: County Councillor John Morris

<b>14.</b>	<b>QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION</b>	<b>CC14- 2016</b>
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**14.1. Question to the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Children's Services from County Councillor Huw Williams**

How many fully qualified dedicated Social workers are employed within Children Services in Powys and where are they located? Also, what is their current average 'case work' load and how does this compare to other authorities and national guidelines?

(Pages 47 - 48)

**14.2. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance from County Councillor Bob Mills**

It is very important that we keep council tax to a minimum so why not move the appropriate personnel into the Shires and get rid of County Hall?

(Pages 49 - 50)

14.3. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Property, Buildings and Housing from County Councillor Gwilym Williams**

Can you please tell me how many County Council houses, that would include flats and all residential properties, that are currently unoccupied and how many of these have been unoccupied for more than six months?  
(Pages 51 - 52)

14.4. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning from County Councillor Matthew Dorrance**

In November 2015, the Cabinet Member informed Brecon's County Councillors that the planned cultural hub was delayed partly because of a funding shortfall.

Will the Cabinet Member provide Council with an updated position statement, details of the financial shortfall and how the Council plans to close this funding gap so that this regeneration project can proceed?  
(Pages 53 - 54)

14.5. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Education from County Councillor Matthew Dorrance**

Does the Cabinet think it's fair to ask Learning Support Assistants in Schools to fund a £15 registration fee to enable them to do their jobs?  
(Pages 55 - 56)

14.6. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care from County Councillor Graham Jones**

In the face of deep concerns from your electors, is Powys County Council willing to re-think its funding priorities in order to safeguard both day care, and the vital day centres, for its vulnerable elderly; taking into account that the professional care currently provided by Maes-y-Wennol Day Centre, Llanidloes, for example, could not guaranteed by the voluntary sector? What positive alternative measures are you considering to help this situation, I feel as an authority that we must try our utmost to look after our elderly residents?  
(Pages 57 - 58)

14.7. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability from County Councillor Gemma Bowker**

Could the portfolio holder please provide reassurance that, following the significant increases in fees for bereavement services to full recovery rates, the bereavement service is being as well and efficiently run as possible and offering those having to meet these charges at a difficult

time are provided with high levels of care and value for money?

(Pages 59 - 60)

14.8. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability from County Councillor Graham Jones**

Now that higher burial charges may be imposed by Powys County Council re: Cemeteries, concerns are that some families simply cannot afford these extra charges.

Has the Council considered that if these excessively high increased charges are implemented, this could well lead to an environmental problem?

What measures are the Council proposing, to address this?

(Pages 61 - 62)

14.9. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Education from County Councillor David Meredith**

In view of the significance that the uptake of Free School Meals has on the Family of Schools in which a School is situated what action is the Authority taking along with ERW in order to provide better promotional material for schools to send out to parents in order to encourage them to apply? Furthermore when is the Authority likely to introduce a Cashless System which will avoid any embarrassment for those pupils receiving Free School Meals?

(Pages 63 - 64)

14.10. **Question to the Portfolio Holder for Education from County Councillor David Meredith**

When is the Authority going to take the decision on Welsh-medium Education in the Secondary Sector in the South of the County and, if not in the foreseeable future, when does the Authority intend notifying parents, especially of those who currently have children in Year 6 of where their children are going to receive their Welsh-medium Education with effect from September, 2016?

(Pages 65 - 66)