

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER -
COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 13 MARCH 2018**

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

County Councillors A W Davies, MC Alexander, P Davies, J Evans, L Fitzpatrick,
S M Hayes, R Powell and M Weale

In attendance: County Councillor D Jones

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Jonathan Wilkinson.

2.	MINUTES
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The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 20th February 2018 as a correct record.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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County Councillor James Evans declared a prejudicial interest in item 6 Schools Policy having spoken on it at a governors meeting.

4.	REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD 'DELIVERING THE VISION': THE JOINT AREA PLAN
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Cabinet considered the Joint Area Plan to prioritise the integration of health and care services over the next five years. It was a statutory requirement of the Social Services and Well-being Act to publish a plan by 1 April 2018 approved by both the Council and the Health Board. The plan would focus on delivering the Health and Care Strategy approved in March 2017 and would take forward joint working with the Health Board.

The Leader advised that the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, Vaughan Gething AM and Minister for Children and Social Care, Huw Irranca-Davies AM to discuss the parliamentary review of health and social care in Wales.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
To approve the Joint Area Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the statutory requirements outlined in Part 14a of the Social Services and Well-being Act in respect of Joint Area Plans. • To support the partnership

	<p>approach to developing sustainable health and well-being services in Powys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To align with the Parliamentary Review on Health and Care.
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5.	SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN: QUARTERLY UPDATE
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In presenting the safeguarding report the Portfolio Holder stressed that the period it covered was October to December 2017 and that it was not the current position of the service which continued to show signs of improvement. The actions taken following the CSSIW inspection making Children's Services a corporate priority with the support of the Improvement Board, Welsh Government and the Inspectorate had helped stabilise the service and now the focus needed to be on improvement. A follow up inspection in December had highlighted concerns about operational practice which were being addressed in the latest iteration of the Improvement Plan.

The Portfolio Holder gave the latest staffing figures for the service: there were 360 posts, of which 53% were permanent, 25% fixed term and the rest casual or agency staff. 43 agency staff had been brought in following the inspection report and the aim was now to reduce the number of agency staff and recruit full time staff and continue to stabilise the service. She noted that sickness levels which had been high during the period covered in the report had fallen considerably with only 15 staff taking sick leave in February.

The Portfolio Holder, Interim Director of Social Services and Interim Head of Children's Services acknowledged that there was a considerable amount of work still to be done in areas such as the supervision of frontline staff. Roadshows were being held with staff dashboard of indicators was being developed for each team, to help them focus on and monitor their own performance in respect of assessments, visits to children, care planning and reviews and staff supervision. The Acting Chief Executive also noted that the appointment of a permanent Director of Social Services due to take up post in April would further help to stabilise and improve the service.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
<p>That Cabinet accepts the safeguarding update in line with its safeguarding responsibilities.</p>	<p>Safeguarding is everyone's business and this report provides assurance to Cabinet of work that is underway both locally and regionally on</p>

6.	SCHOOLS POLICY - PLANS FOR POWYS SCHOOLS AND FORWARD TRANSFORMATION WORK PROGRAMME
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County Councillor James Evans left the meeting whilst this item was being considered having declared a prejudicial interest.

Cabinet considered feedback received during the recent consultation on the Plans for Powys Schools Policy, and an updated version, renamed the 'School Organisation Policy', and an associated Delivery Plan which outlined the Council's priorities for the period 2018-2021. The new policy would replace the current Schools Organisation Policy 2015, and would become effective from the 1st April 2018.

County Councillor David Jones presented the report of the Scrutiny Group which had looked at the policy and highlighted three areas of concern: issues raised by Wales Audit Office on need to increase the pace and scale of change, post 16 provision and the reducing number of pupils and courses in the face of competition from cross border sixth form colleges, and issues of governance and a lack of clarity of where decisions would be taken.

The Portfolio Holder for Education explained that the need to increase the pace of change was one of the main reasons for the revised School Organisation Policy. She acknowledged the competition from sixth form colleges noting that it showed that pupils were prepared to travel to access courses. Pastoral care and access to the Welsh baccalaureate compensated for some of the social pressures to go to sixth form colleges in larger towns. It was confirmed that all decisions would be taken by the Cabinet.

Members noted that not every pupil wanted to go on to take A Levels and that there had to be a range of options open to them as shown by the recent very successful careers fair. Members also discussed the review of ALN currently being undertaken and the configuration of special schools in the county noting the preference of many parents for their children to be educated close to their communities.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
1. To approve the post-consultation version of the School Organisation Policy.	To enable the Council to move towards a more efficient network of schools
2. To approve the Delivery Plan for 2018-20.	

County Councillor James Evans returned to the meeting.

7. JOINT ICT STRATEGY

Cabinet considered the revised Joint ICT strategy.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
The Joint ICT Strategy in Appendix 1 to the report is	Approval of the Joint ICT Strategy will enable both Powys County

approved.	Council and Powys Teaching Health board to continue to effectively plan, deliver and sustain ICT systems, services and projects across both organisations.
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8. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FORECAST AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2018

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the budget outturn report for the period ended 31 January 2018. He noted that whilst an additional £602k of savings had been achieved during the month with Highways, Transport and Recycling saving £336k and Adult Social Care £266k, all other Service's unachieved savings remain the same leaving £3.981m yet to be attained.

RESOLVED	Reason for decision
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the contents of the report are noted by Cabinet. 2. That Cabinet supports appropriate action by services to curtail or reduce the reported forecasted service deficits. 	To monitor the Council's financial performance and ensure spending remains within approved limits and that the 3% minimum general fund reserve is maintained.

9. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD TO 31ST JANUARY 2018

Cabinet received the capital programme update for the period ended 31st January 2018 and noted that the capital virements referred to in the report had been approved by Council the previous week. The Portfolio Holder for Finance drew Cabinet's attention to additional grants received from Welsh Government for investment in Highways and Brecon cultural hub and advised that Welsh Government were likely to extend the directive allowing authorities to use capital receipts to finance the revenue costs of transformation.

RESOLVED	Reason for decision
That the contents of the report are noted.	To outline the capital position as at 31 st January 2018.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

The Leader advised that a poppy making workshop would be held at County Hall on 4 April to make a curtain of poppies to commemorate those who had died in the First World War and she invited all members to participate.

11. DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Cabinet received details of delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

12.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
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Cabinet received the forward work programme. The Portfolio Holder for Education asked for the report on Banw and Llanerfyl primary schools to be included. Cabinet was advised that a visit to both schools had been arranged for the afternoon of 19 March.

13.	EXEMPT ITEMS
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RESOLVED to exclude the public for the following item of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under category 3 of The Local Authorities (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007).

14.	RESIDENTIAL / NURSING CARE HOME, AND SUPPORTED TENANCY FEE REVIEW
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Cabinet considered the fee setting methodology for Residential and Nursing Care Homes following a review undertaken by an independent specialist. The report set out a series of options which were expanded upon by the Health and Social Care Change Manager and the Head of Transformation in a presentation to Cabinet.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<p>1. Subject to recommendation 2, Option 5b is approved as the new fee setting methodology for residential and nursing care homes for older people from April 1st 2018.</p> <p>2. The Portfolio for Adult Social Care in consultation with the Interim Director for Social Services has delegated authority to confirm the new fee setting methodology for independent older people's residential and nursing care, if appropriate to do so following discussions with the care home providers on the 15th March 2018 provided that the it is affordable within budget.</p>	<p>Recommendations have been developed following a robust review of the Council's fee setting methodology for residential and nursing care homes that support older people.</p> <p>The recommended Option will enable both continuity of care to be maintained for residents, and provide an appropriate period for care homes to consider the outcome of the review, and to evaluate their respective business models to ensure that care homes are able to continue to operate as cost effectively as possible.</p>

<p>3. From April 2018, an uplift is applied to the above fee rates of Option 5b to take account of the national living wage increase, CPI and mandatory pension increases in line with proposals within the report.</p> <p>4. That the interim uplift fees level agreed in March 2017 for peoples residential and nursing care home placements is maintained as a final uplift for 2017/18. Where a provider is able to provide evidence of exceptional increases in costs incurred during 2017/18, delegated approval is given to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Adult Social Care Head of Transformation and the Head of Financial Services to agree a further increase as detailed within the report provided that such increase remains within budget.</p> <p>5. An interim increase of 1.94% (CPI Jan 2018) for residential care support (including residential care, nursing care, and supported tenancies) for people with a learning disability, physical disability, or who have mental ill health is agreed for 2018/19 whilst the Head of transformation undertakes a review of current fee setting methodologies. Any further increase in fee rates will be subject to a further report to Cabinet following completion of the fee setting methodology review.</p>	<p>The original date for presenting the review outcome to providers was cancelled due to inclement weather. A revised date of March 15th 2018 has been agreed with providers. Subject to the outcome of the meeting, delegated authority for the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and the Interim Director for Social Services is sought to enable an alternative option to be implemented if appropriate following the discussions the care home providers.</p> <p>The review of care home fee setting methodologies undertaken identified that a range of different business models and cost drivers need to be assessed across care homes commissioned to support people with a learning disability, physical disability, or who have mental ill health people compared to care homes that support older people. Further work is therefore planned to be undertaken in 2018/19 to focus on the specific cost drivers for care homes and other residential forms of support commissioned to support people with a learning disability, physical disability, or who have mental ill health people to enable appropriate fee setting methodologies to be agreed for these client groups.</p>
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Cabinet considered the review of office accommodation in the north of the county. The Solicitor to the Council advised that the report should remain confidential until staff had been informed.

RESOLVED	Reason for decision
<p>1. Subject to establishing a cost effective alternative front line location in Welshpool, Neuadd Maldwyn is to be closed at the earliest opportunity with the majority of back office services being transferred to Newtown.</p>	<p>To ensure that the Council has a fit for purpose base out of which to operate its services in the north of the County for the benefit of the citizens of Powys.</p>
<p>2. That a front line presence is retained in Welshpool and delegated authority is given to the Portfolio Holder for Property and Waste in consultation with the Head of Service for Property, Planning and Public Protection, to determine from where the front line presence (and any residual back office services) is maintained.</p>	<p>To enable us to act quickly once the best option has been identified.</p>
<p>3. Authorisation is given to proceed to stage 2 which will fully investigate all costs and benefits for Newtown options to provide a recommendation and that the Portfolio Holder for Property and Waste (in consultation with the Head of Service for Property, Planning and Public Protection) has delegated authority to implement that recommendation.</p>	<p>To enable us to act quickly once the best option has been identified.</p>

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)