

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER -
COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER
2018**

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

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

In attendance: County Councillors DR Jones, K Laurie-Parry, J Morris, E Vaughan and
G Williams.

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| 1. | APOLOGIES |
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All members of the Cabinet were present.

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| 2. | MINUTES |
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The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on
9th and 16th October 2018 as correct records.

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| 3. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST |
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There were no declarations of interest reported.

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| 4. | FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FORECAST AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018 |
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The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport reported on the budget position as at 30th September 2018. On the basis of expected savings delivery and capitalisation of transformation costs, the projected position was an overspend of £3.8m against the approved budget. 42% of the total £12.296m savings required had been made, with £7.171m yet to be achieved. Responding to the report of the Joint Audit Committee/Finance Scrutiny Panel, the Portfolio Holder advised that budget process would address unachieved savings, some of which dated back to 2015/16 by removing £3.9m from the base budget although this would add to the budget gap for 2019/20. As part of the budget process a Panel comprising the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Financial Services would examine savings proposals to ensure that that they were supported with a robust business case and delivery plan. He also advised that a policy on the use of capital receipts was being considered in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Chair of the Audit Committee highlighted the areas of concern that the Joint Audit Committee / Finance Scrutiny Panel had with the budget outturn report. The Panel was concerned that there was reliance on windfalls to balance the budget at year end and wanted to see a policy on capital disposals and better

business cases for transformational projects and savings proposals. The Audit Committee and Finance Scrutiny Panel remained concerned at the overspend in Children's Services and at the state of schools delegated budgets. Councillor Morris noted that the example of Adult Social Care gave reassurance that overspending in services could be turned around.

The Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language agreed to provide a report on the current state of schools finances. She advised that the Schools Service was looking to improve schools' financial resilience by reviewing the schools funding formula review and evaluating the effectiveness of cluster financial managers.

| RESOLVED | Reason For Decision: |
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| <p>1. That the contents of this report are noted.</p> <p>2. That the virements proposed in sections 6.1 to 6.3 are approved.</p> | <p>To monitor the council's financial performance and ensure that spending remains within approved limits and that the 3% minimum general fund reserve is maintained.</p> |

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| 5. | CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018 |
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Cabinet received the capital programme update. The report also contained a number of requests for virements. The Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language advised that the 21st century schools projects for Welshpool Church in Wales School, Brecon High School and Ysgol Bro Hyddgen were all proceeding on time and in budget.

| RESOLVED | Reason for Decision: |
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| <p>1. The contents of this report are noted by Cabinet.</p> <p>2. The Capital virements set out in Section 2 of the report are approved, and those over £500k be submitted to full council for approval.</p> | <p>To outline the capital budget position as at 30th September 2018.</p> <p>To ensure appropriate virements, are carried out to align budgets with spending plans.</p> |

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| 6. | HOMELESSNESS REVIEW & STRATEGY |
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Cabinet considered the Homelessness Strategy. In presenting the report the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, Housing and Public Protection thanked officers for their work and acknowledged the contribution of Scrutiny, in particular County Councillor Jackie Charlton. Responding to Members' questions the Head of Housing confirmed that the service was mindful of those living in caravans and he undertook to provide members with details of the numbers of homeless ex-servicemen in the county. The Leader reported that Powys was the only county in Wales that did not benefit from having a Welsh Government

funded officer working with ex-servicemen. She was lobbying with WLGA support to address this situation.

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| RESOLVED | Reason for Decision |
| To note the Review in Appendix 1 to the report and to approve and publish the Homelessness Strategy in Appendix 2 and the Action Plan in Appendix 3 | To comply with Statutory Requirement |

7. PRINCIPLES OF CORPORATE LANDLORD

Cabinet considered a proposal to investigate the feasibility of the council centralising in one department the management of PCC assets and the associated budgets to ensure that the maintenance of the assets were managed in a consistent, centralised, programmed manner. The property team would explore the advantages and disadvantages of a Corporate Landlord within approximately 3 months, and report back to Cabinet with an action plan.

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| RESOLVED | Reason for Decision: |
| To gain approval to proceed with further investigation into the advantages, disadvantages and the potential implications of Corporate Landlord. | To explore the advantages, disadvantages and potential implications of Corporate Landlord further to ascertain if there are any short and long term benefits to the Council. |

8. LOCAL AUTHORITY LOTTERY

This item was deferred.

9. REVIEW OF FARMS POLICY

This item was deferred.

10. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, Housing and Public Protection updated Cabinet on the Communications Plan.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

12. DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING

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

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| 13. | FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME |
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Cabinet received the forward work programme.

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| 14. | EXEMPT ITEMS |
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The Leader advised that the following item had been deferred and that there was no need to pass the access to information resolution.

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| 15. | NORTH OFFICE REVIEW |
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This item was deferred.

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)