

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER -  
COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 9 JULY 2019**

**PRESENT**

County Councillor

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

In attendance: County Councillors G Breeze and P Pritchard and A Jenner for part of the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from the Leader, County Councillor Rosemarie Harris who was speaking to the House of Commons Welsh Affairs Select Committee on the Mid Wales Growth Deal.

**2. MINUTES**

The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 as a correct record.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest reported.

**4. DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018/19**

The Director of Social Services presented her annual report for 2018/19. She noted that there had been significant progress in the service's improvement journey which she expected to continue apace with a stable leadership team in place. Cabinet welcomed the aspiration to excellence in the Director's report and acknowledged the hard work of staff in Children's and Adult Services.

**5. ADOPTING - A CHILDREN'S PLEDGE FOR ALL CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN POWYS - FROM DAY ONE TO WHEN THEY'RE 25 YEARS OLD**

Cabinet considered the pledge for all children and young people in Powys which had been developed by a representative group of young people in the county. The pledge would mean services would have clear parameters of their duties when they plan, review and deliver services, to develop a deeper understanding on how proposals can impact on children and young people.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision:</b>
<b>To adopt the Children's Pledge set out in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 of the report.</b>	<b>To instil an ideology and make a public whole council commitment to the Children &amp; Young People of Powys and ensure continued compliance with the Children's &amp; Family Measure 2010.</b>

## **6. FOSTERING SERVICE IMPROVEMENT**

Cabinet considered proposals to aid recruitment of foster carers and supported lodgings hosts in order that a greater number of Powys looked after children could be placed within county where they were closer to their families, friends and schools. The report outlined the support available to foster carers and changes to the structures within the service.

Members asked how the amounts paid to carers by the council compared to those by Independent Fostering Agencies and were advised that the rates tended to be lower but were comparable. A review of the rates paid by Welsh local authorities was taking place which would lead to an eventual harmonisation of rates.

<b>RESOLVED:</b>	<b>Reason for Decision:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note the content of the report.</li> <li>2. To support the intention to increase the number and quality of support for Powys Foster Carers.</li> <li>3. Support the intention to strengthen the Corporate Parenting responsibility across the council through mechanisms as described within the body of the report.</li> <li>4. Approve the allocation of 5 days foster care leave per annum for Powys County Council Staff who are approved foster carers.</li> </ol>	<p>It is vital that the Council recognises the value of foster carers to the local authority, both in terms of the care they provide to some of our most vulnerable citizens and in terms of the financial implications to the authority where there are insufficient Powys foster carers.</p> <p>Provide recognition and tangible support to foster carers employed by the local authority for the important and indispensable role and range of tasks they undertake.</p>

## **7. EFFICIENCY SAVINGS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019**

The 2018/19 budget required efficiency savings of £12.296m. The total savings delivered in 2018/19 were £6.536m, or 53% of the total required. Services would be expected to outline how they proposed to achieve these savings in the

Quarter 1 outturn report that would come to Cabinet on 30 July. Regular reporting and challenge around non-delivery would be essential to ensure that appropriate action was taken to deliver within the approved budget.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision</b>
<b>That the contents of the report are noted.</b>	<b>To outline the financial position regarding savings delivery for 2018/19; and to provide assurance that action is being taken to address the shortfall in the 2019/20 budget.</b>

#### **8. POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL INFORMATION GOVERNANCE (IG) REPORT 2018-2019**

Cabinet considered the Information Governance report for 2018/19 and the recommendations of the joint scrutiny working group. Cabinet noted the increase in Freedom of Information requests being received which had led to a reduction in compliance rates for response times. Portfolio Holders asked for the responses to the scrutiny recommendations to be shared with the Cabinet.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision:</b>
<b>That Cabinet notes and approves the report.</b>	<b>The report reflects the Information Governance activities undertaken within the year.</b>

#### **9. IMPROVEMENT AND ASSURANCE BOARD MINUTES**

Cabinet received the minutes of the Improvement and Assurance Board meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

#### **10. JOINT PARTNERSHIP BOARD MINUTES**

Cabinet received the minutes of the Joint Partnership Board meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

#### **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.

**13. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Cabinet received the forward work programme.

**14. EXEMPT ITEMS**

**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).**

**15. EXTRA CARE & NEUADD MALDWYN, WELSHPOOL**

Cabinet considered proposals to transfer Neuadd Maldwyn by way of contribution to Clwyd Alyn Housing Group to enable the development of extra care housing in Welshpool to proceed in 2019-20. Cabinet also considered the comments of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee. The proposals were warmly welcomed by the Cabinet and by local members County Councillors Graham Breeze and Phil Pritchard. The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care gave an assurance to Councillor Pritchard that concerns he raised in relation to one aspect of the project would be taken fully into account.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<p>1. That Cabinet agree in principle to transfer Neuadd Maldwyn at nil cost to Clwyd Alyn, to enable the development of an extra care housing scheme at the site</p>	<p>To enable the development of extra care housing scheme in Welshpool, to proceed. As set out in the MPS and in the Cabinet report of 21 May 2019, the benefits to the Local Authority of providing appropriate extra care housing are significant. These are in reducing the demand for residential and domiciliary care and associated costs.</p>
<p>2. That the capital receipt foregone in disposing of Neuadd Maldwyn at nil cost, is regarded as the council's capital contribution to the development of the extra care scheme</p>	<p>To ensure that the Council's investment into the scheme, according to Vision 2025, is recognised.</p>
<p>3. The transfer to be made following a final decision by the Cabinet for Powys County Council when assurance is received of the development's</p>	<p>To ensure that the development is viable and practical, with commitments from Clwyd Alyn as to the development commencement.</p>

<p>viability and practicality, with commitments from Clwyd Alyn on the development commencement via a further report.</p> <p>4. An effective communication strategy should be developed to provide clarity or all sections of the community and responsibilities of partners within the project.</p>	<p>Recommendation added following consideration of Scrutiny Committee's report. It is imperative that the development is communicated effectively with the public to ensure transparency.</p>
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**County Councillor Aled Davies  
Chair**