

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER,
COUNTY HALL - COUNTY HALL ON TUESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2019**

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

County Councillors P Davies, J Evans, R Powell, A W Davies, G Breeze and H Hulme

In attendance: County Councillors K Laurie-Parry and P Roberts

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor M Alexander.

2. MINUTES

The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 27th November 2019 as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported.

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA & SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS
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Cabinet considered amendments to the Schools' Funding Formula (SFF), the Post 16 formula and the Scheme for Financing of Schools, following consultation with all schools. The amendments to the Schools' Funding Formula being proposed were

- The creation of a Teacher Learning Responsibility (TLR) allowance for secondary schools.
- Recognition of pupil movement during the year for secondary and primary and schools.
- Post 16 Grant Funding allocations.

The Chair of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee advised that the Committee broadly welcomed the proposals but had been disappointed that the impact assessments had not been available for their meeting. Scrutiny felt that if Welsh Government funding to support the proposals was not forthcoming there were not sufficient steps in place to mitigate the risks to the proposal and there was a danger that this would be at the expense of other schools that had balanced their budgets.

Cabinet was advised that these considerations would be taken into account as part of the budget setting process.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
To amend the formula to recognise pupil movement during the year for secondary and primary schools as per paragraph 3.4.2 of the report.	To recognise pupil movement in year.
To agree the Post 16 funding principles as set out in paragraph 3.4.3 and Appendix B inclusive of a transition period for year 1.	To realign the funding with Welsh Government methodology and provide a transition period for Secondary schools during year 1.
To approve changes to the Scheme for Financing of schools as set out in paragraph 3.5 and appendix C.	To recognise changes that have been agreed by Schools' forum following a consultation process.
To amend the formula to create a TLR allowance for the Secondary sector as per paragraph 3.4.1 and 5 above.	To recognise the omission of the allowance of the Average Teacher Cost (ATC) calculation and include it within the funding formula.

5. CUSTOMER FIRST IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Cabinet considered the Customer First Improvement Plan that had been produced by the Housing service to address concerns identified in the STAR tenants satisfaction survey. The plan had been developed in consultation with tenants and HoWPS and had been reviewed by the Economy, Residents Communities and Governance Scrutiny Committee who had been content with it.

RESOLVED	Reason for decision:
That the Customer First Improvement Plan is accepted and endorsed by the Cabinet	To demonstrate high corporate support for the Customer First Improvement Plan, alongside a clear expectation that both the Council and its joint venture HoWPS will together drive forward an improvement in customer satisfaction with Housing Services.

6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FORECAST AS AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2019

The report for the period ended 30th November showed an improved position with the projected overspend £1.765m by year end down from £2.715m reported the previous month. Further savings were expected to be delivered by the end of the financial year. Cabinet noted the provisional financial settlement announced for Powys was better than in previous year and paid tribute to the Leader and Deputy Leader and members from all political groups for their work lobbying for a better settlement. Cabinet also noted that grants had been received for

Children's Services and for Digital Transformation and thanked officers for their work securing this additional funding.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
That the report be noted.	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.

7. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE AS AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2019

Cabinet considered the Capital Programme update for the period ended 30th November 2019. The report also contained two requests for budget virements:

- Realignment of capital funded from borrowing totalling £664,872 to be used as a separate fund for economic development activities to be utilised in 2020/21.
- £130,000 from the refurbishment programme for leisure centres brought forward from 2020/21 to 2019/20 to enable the urgent replacement of the pitch at the Flash Leisure Centre.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision
1. That the contents of the report are noted.	To report on the Capital Outturn position for the 2019/20 financial year.
2. That the virements proposed in the report are approved.	To ensure appropriate virements, are carried out to align budgets and financing requirements.
3. That the virements over £500k are recommended to Council for approval.	

8. IMPROVEMENT AND ASSURANCE BOARD MINUTES

Cabinet received the minutes of the Improvement and Assurance Board minutes held on 22nd October 2019.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The Leader advised that she had written to both of the newly elected MPs for the county to congratulate them on their election and to express her willingness to work with them. She thanked everyone who had helped in the election, particularly the elections team led by Sandra Matthews.

10.	DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING
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Cabinet noted the delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

11.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
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Cabinet noted the forward work plan and the Leader reminded colleagues of the need to keep it populated.

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)