

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNTY HALL AND ZOOM  
AT COUNTY HALL ON TUESDAY, 1 AUGUST 2023**

**PRESENT**

County Councillor J Gibson-Watt (Chair)

County Councillors J Berriman, R Church, S Cox, M J Dorrance, P Roberts, D Selby  
and D A Thomas

In attendance: County Councillor AW Davies

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors J Brignell-Thorp (Cabinet Assistant), J Charlton, S C Davies and A Kennerley (Cabinet Assistant), the Interim Chief Executive and the Director of Education.

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>
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The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as correct records.

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
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There were no declarations of interest reported.

<b>4.</b>	<b>POWYS RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN 2023-2028 AND ASSOCIATED MINOR POLICY AMENDMENTS TO THE 'HOMES IN POWYS' HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY</b>
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Cabinet considered the Powys Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2023-2028. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Fairer Powys explained that Rapid Rehousing was designed to address the unprecedented pressures that the Council's homeless service had seen in recent years and to make sure that anyone experiencing homelessness could move into a settled home as quickly as possible.

Two of the projects required to make a success of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, and which require a financial commitment from the Council and where appropriate the Welsh Government, were:

- Enhanced Homelessness Services, which includes 'Instant Access 24/7 Triage Centres' and 'Interim 24/7 Supported Accommodation'.
- Modular Interim Accommodation.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Fairer Powys thanked the Economy Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee for their comments and recommendations. He said that he partially accepted recommendation 1, advising that the Housing Service did plan and monitor the allocation of housing, but that homelessness was a priority. He partially accepted recommendation 2 saying that everyone would be treated fairly dependent on their need. Recommendations 3 and 4 were fully accepted.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Fairer Powys advised that the service would be increasing the presence of housing officers on estates to increase the opportunity for face-to-face contacts.

In response to a question by the leader of the opposition about funding, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Fairer Powys explained that capital was in place for the projects and that there was no revenue requirement for the modular accommodation project as Welsh Government funding had been secured. This project would save money and lead to better outcomes for those facing homelessness. The specific initiatives, actions and projects set out in the plan which had financial implications for the Council would be subject to further approval on a case-by-case basis.

**RESOLVED to approve**

- 1. The Powys Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2023-2028 in Appendix A, with specific initiatives, actions and projects set out in the plan which have financial implications for the Council, being subject to further approval on a case-by-case basis.**
- 2. The minor amendments to the ‘Homes in Powys’ housing allocation policy set out in Section Five of the report.**

<b>5.</b>	<b>ANNUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT</b>
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Cabinet considered the Annual Self-Assessment Report and Annual Governance Statement (AGS). The Annual Corporate Self-Assessment report incorporated the annual monitoring of the Council’s performance against its Corporate Improvement Plan and Strategic Equality Objectives and provided a holistic view of the organisation in delivering it’s well-being objectives. The AGS provided an account of the processes, systems, and records that the council had in place to demonstrate the effectiveness of its governance arrangements during the financial year.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. To approve the Self-Assessment report and endorse the Annual Governance Statement.**
- 2. To accept that the Annual Corporate Self-Assessment Report**
  - fulfils the Authority’s obligations under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.**
  - That the conclusions presented in the Self-Assessment Report are considered corporately**

**to be a fair and accurate evaluation of the Authority's performance in 2022-23.**

- **That the self-assessment report offers an open, balanced, and realistic picture of the Council's achievements and challenges over the previous year.**
- **That the document is clear and provides the right level of information to make it meaningful and relevant to all audiences.**

- 3. To accept that the Annual Governance Statement provides a complete and accurate account of the processes, systems, and records that the council has had in place during 2022-23 and demonstrates the effectiveness of its governance arrangements over that period.**

## **6. CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING BOARD ACTIVITY REPORT**

Cabinet received an update report from the interim Director of Social Services and Housing who chaired the Corporate Safeguarding Board. She was pleased to report that mandatory safeguarding training had been delivered to staff without access to a computer in Catering and Cleaning and HTR, with completion rates of 85.8% and 96.6% respectively.

## **7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT YEAR END REPORT**

Cabinet received the Treasury Management Year End report. The report noted that it had been a very volatile period with high inflation and rising interest rates. The Authority aimed to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. The risk appetite had been low in order to give priority to security of investments. With interest rates for investments remaining lower than borrowing rates, the use of cash reserves as opposed to borrowing was prudent and cost-effective.

Sundry debt levels were lower than the previous quarter but there were still significant levels of debt and the Head of Finance advised that the Cabinet would be receiving a report on debt in Adult Services in September.

## **8. BUDGET BOOK**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation advised that the budget book was available and could be accessed at [Council Accounts - Powys County Council](#)

## **9. DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

Cabinet noted the delegated decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the last meeting.

<b>10.</b>	<b>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME</b>
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Cabinet noted the forward work programme.

**County Councillor J Gibson-Watt (Chair)**