

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS STEERING GROUP HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT: County Councillor

County Councillors K W Curry, M J Dorrance, D R Jones, JG Morris and Mr J Brautigam

Officers: Officers: Jeremy Patterson, Clive Pinney, David Powell, Peter Jones, Rhian Jones, Wyn Richards, Liz Patterson and Lisa Richards

1.	APOLOGIES	JCSG42 - 2016
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Members: County Councillors L Corfield and S Davies
Officers: Paul Griffiths

2.	DRAFT NOTES - FOR CONSIDERATION	JCSG43 - 2016
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Documents Considered:

- Notes of meeting 5 July 2016

Issues Discussed:

- The Chief Executive confirmed that he had briefed the Leader regarding scrutiny of ERW and that he had also raised the issue with ERW directly. Similar concerns had been identified within the Estyn Inspection of ERW.
- The Group queried whether a response had been received from Cabinet regarding a report submitted by the Chairs relating to the Commissioning and Procurement Board. No response had been received and the Chair agreed to pursue this with the Leader

Outcomes:

- **Noted**

3.	DISCUSSION WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STRATEGIC DIRECTORS REGARDING POTENTIAL SCRUTINY ITEMS	JCSG44 - 2016
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Issues Discussed:

- Previously the Chief Executive had focussed on ERW – the schools service are in the process of preparing a standards report and provisional results show some good results. The Welsh Government are particularly

- keen to study information in respect of free school meals. Using that indicator, Powys has performed just below the national average. It was suggested that work should be undertaken to evaluate how pupil deprivation grants are used and what benefit is derived from that funding. It was essential to target those funds where they were needed and this should be evidenced – perhaps in conjunction with a review of standards.
- The Chief Executive informed Members that the Financial Overview and Forecast report showed significant overspends particularly in Adult Social Care. Following discussions with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, further work will be undertaken around modelling and savings. Whilst every local authority is different there needs to be an assessment of savings patterns elsewhere. It is widely acknowledged that current methods of delivery are not sustainable but ongoing initiatives do not seem to be making sufficient difference. The Chair of Audit proposed that joint Audit /People scrutiny be undertaken as a priority. There was a further discussion around the costs of bringing some home care provision in house – costs of £750K had been written off in 15/16 and have been included in the base budget for 16/17 and should not be contributing to the overspend. In total an additional £1.053M had been included in the ASC base budget. Further savings relating to residential care and day time activities are not likely to be achieved in the specified timescale. Members were of the opinion that it had been apparent for some time that savings would not be achieved but this did not seem to be recognised within the service. Spending appears to have been out of control within the service for many years. There was a role for Audit Committee to review and scrutinize the financial affairs of the Authority. The service were reliant on other services meeting their shortfall on a regular basis. The Chief Executive suggested that there was a role for scrutiny in stabilising the ASC budget. The service will produce a Sustainability Plan but Members felt this should be designated a ‘Recovery Plan’. People 2 were also to give advice to the service and scrutiny should be involved throughout this process. The Strategic Director, Resources informed the meeting that the finance team assisting ASC had been bolstered and were currently going through the budget line by line – this detail would be available by the end of the month. The Chair of People suggested a strategic review would also be required.
 - The Chair of Place noted the projected £ ½ M overspend on school transport and suggested that this should be subject to scrutiny.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Joint Audit /People scrutiny to be undertaken on ASC budgets	End October 2016	Chairs - Audit and People

4.	ONE POWYS PLAN - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION 2015-16	JCSG45 - 2016
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Documents Considered:

- Annual Performance Evaluation 2015-16

Issues Discussed:

- Annual process
- Document circulated for comments to scrutiny Members
- Will be circulated to the PSB by the end of the week
- Cabinet - 4 October 2016
- Council - 19 October 2016
- Communications Team to proof read
- Consideration should be given to improving the preamble to clarify why the PSB was established together with its aspirations. Statutory partner organisations should be listed. The two stories that are presented may benefit from greater detail regarding the situation before intervention
- There was a disconnect between the narrative and statistics – eg the section on older people is relatively positive but the statistics show that the authority is only ranked 17 and 21 out of 22 for particular services
- There is no reference to the drop in attendance at leisure centres following the takeover by Freedom Leisure
- All Wales performance details were released in early September and it is necessary to qualify some statements and cross reference
- There are no targets for future improvements
- Within the section on education, some data relates to Welsh statistics and some to changes within Powys – there needs to be consistency. There was no mention of schools in special measures or of those being supported.
- Members were informed that it is the Programme Manager and Sponsor who decide whether a project has been successful. In some instances it was noted that success related to initial proposals rather than the totality.

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Any further comments to be emailed to Peter Jones or Rhian Jones	23 September 2016	Members

5.	WORK PROGRAMME	JCSG46 - 2016
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Documents Considered:

- Work Programme

Issues Discussed:

- Adult Social Care budget – to be given priority
- Further discussions to be held with the Leader regarding pre decision scrutiny

Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
The work programme to be amended in line with the discussion	30 September 2016	Wyn Richards
Further discussion regarding pre decision scrutiny items with the Leader	30 September 2016	Wyn Richards

6.	PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD	JCSG47 - 2016
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47.1. Draft Notes of Previous Meeting(s)

Documents Considered:

- None

Issues Discussed:

- Minutes of the last meeting were not yet available
- The PSB is a statutory body with membership comprising Powys County Council, Natural Resources Wales, Health Board and Mid and West Wales Fire Authority
- Invitees include Police and Crime Commissioner's office, Dyfed Powys Police, Probation Service and PAVO. The Brecon Beacons National Park have requested that they also be invited.
- During the first meeting there had been a broad discussion around the terms of reference. Further development has been requested and the next scheduled formal meeting will become a development session
- Programme spotlights will consider learning and skills initially, followed by organisation and partnership
- Confirmation is awaited regarding the date of the next formal meeting – 20 October has been suggested
- The PSB intends to develop joint scrutiny
- Members discussed the commitment of partner agencies to the PSB. Only the four partner agencies were accountable to the Welsh Government
- The PSB cannot operate on a majority, must be unanimous

Outcomes:

- **Noted**

47.2. PSB Dates - For Information

- 22 September, 2016 – development
- 20 October 2016 - tbc
- 1 December, 2016

7.	DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS - FOR INFORMATION	JCSG48 - 2016
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- ??? 18 October 2016
- 29 November 2016
- 17 January 2017
- 28 February 2017
- 21 March 2017
- 11 April 2017
- 20 June 2017
- 11 July 2017
- 19 September 2017
- 10 October 2017
- 7 November 2017
- 5 December 2017

County Councillor