

REPORT FROM POWYS COUNTY COUNCILLOR HEULWEN D HULME PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT

NOVEMBER 2019

CABINET MEETING 5.11.2019 - PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

For Quarter 2 report Powys is ranked 5th out of 22 other authorities.

- Number of visits to local authority sport and leisure facilities during the year where the visitor will be participating in physical activity per 1,000 population - this has improved from last year and Powys is ranked 1st in Wales.
- Number of working days/shifts per full-time equivalent (FTE) local authority employee lost due to sickness absence during the year – this has improved from last year and Powys is ranked 3rd in Wales.
- Average number of calendar days taken to complete all repairs – Powys is ranked 2nd in Wales. It should be noted that not all authorities have housing stock.

However areas of concerns were: Condition of Class C roads, Loss of rent due to unoccupied properties, Fly Tipping.

CABINET MEETING 5.11.2019 - HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT & RECYCLING

Highways (incl. Salt Barn) – £10M budget, spend/committed to date £6M - The highways capital spend is progressing well, with a green status, and Llangammarch Salt Barn is nearing substantial completion. It is expected that remaining allocations will be spent by the end of year.

Structural Maintenance – £1.5M budget, spend/committed to date £1M. It is forecast that the remaining budget will be spent by the end of the year.

Highways Lighting - £100K budget, spend/committed to date £80K. It is forecast the remaining budget will be spent by the end of the year.

Recycling – £2.6M budget, spend/committed to date £200K. Projects have been delayed that have seen reduced spend in 19/20, but works have/will start before the end of the financial year. Any further underspend in capital funding this year will need to be re-profiled accordingly in due course.

Transport (Local Transport Fund (LTF) & Fleet Replacement including Vehicle Technology) – LTF grant £1.4M, spend/committed to date £250K. There have been some delays in Newtown Bridge project from grant approval, land negotiations and design progression; discussions with WG in relation to funding options and progress are on-going. Vehicle Technology project (£295K) is a month behind as a result of late award and data quality / correction.

Flood Alleviation Schemes – Grant £900K, spend/committed to date £560K. Welshpool phase 3 (£130K) will not be progressed this financial year, discussions with WG are on-going to re-profile grant/spend. It is forecast that the remaining budget will be spent.

Active Travel Schemes – Grant £158K. It is forecast that the works will be completed.

CABINET MEETING 5.11.2019 - DYNAMIC PURCHASING SYSTEM

A presentation was given on the authorities new Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) which will be piloted in South Powys as to how PCC obtain domiciliary care packages in the future. This was approved.

EDUCATION IN POWYS

Estyn Post Inspection Action Plan. Work on a document that will inform improvements to education in the county has made good progress, Powys County Council has said. The council has been working on its Post Inspection Action Plan to address Estyn recommendations following their inspection of the Education Authority back in July. When completed, it will be the action plan that will detail how education in the county will be strengthened over the coming years.

TENANT HOUSING

The Tenant Scrutiny Panel have had several meetings with HOWPS and housing services to scrutinise why delays are occurring and what has been noted as Voids and Repairs.

LOCAL AUTHORITY TRADING COMPANY

A LATC has been set up by PCC to move create more commercial opportunities and to generate income. It will facilitate trading opportunities with local private and public companies. The areas currently under consideration are: Catering and Cleaning Contracts, Building Control, Trade Waste, Engineering Design, Land and Property Development.

ECOFLEX 3 SCHEME (ECO 3)

Several residents have received telephone calls regarding the replacement of heating boilers under the ECO3 Scheme. PCC have not yet launched the scheme for Powys Residents and an announcement is not likely until early 2020. The next tranche has great potential to assist with fuel poverty and we need to make sure that Powys residents can access these grants. The authority wants to ensure suitable controls are in place to prevent any mis use of the funding. PCC also want to maximise use of local contractors which did not happen under ECO 2.

ABBREVIATIONS:

DPS – Dynamic Purchasing System

HOWPS – Heart of Wales Property Services

LATC – Local Authority Trading Company

PCC – Powys County Council

PLANNING IN THE RHIWCYNON WARD

ABERHAFESP PLANNING

19/1560/HH – 1st floor extension above single storey, Woodview, Aberhafesp SY16 3HL

19/1724/HH – extension to property, Caebryn, Bwlch Y Ffridd SY16 3HZ

19/1825/FUL – 4 Shepherd Huts for holiday accommodation, Bronfynnon, Bwlch Y Ffridd. SY16 3JA

DWYRIW PLANNING

19/0995/OUT – Agricultural dwelling, garage and assoc. works, Argae Fields, New Mills, SY16 3NG

19/1475/FUL – Egg production unit at Tyn Yr Wrta, Llanwyddelan, SY16 3BT

19/1568/FUL – Erection of 2 Agricultural Buildings at Penygelli, Adfa Sy16 3BX

19/1211/FUL – Agricultural building and access at Mount Pleasant, Adfa SY16 3DR

19/1542/DEM –Demolition of Agricultural Buildings at The Bryn, Adfa Sy16 3DL

19/1623/FUL – Installation of a Biomass System, Ffraithwen, Adfa SY16 3DB

MANAFON PLANNING

19/1391/RES – Agricultural Workers dwelling at Caenant, Llanfair SY21 0DG

19/1523/FUL – 3 pods, Tan Yderwen, Llanfair SY21 0DG

19/1803/ELE – Upgrade Electricity Supply to 3 phase – Hillview, New Mills SY16 3NW

TREGYNON PLANNING

P/2018/0580 – 76K Poultry Rearing Shed, Red House, Tregynon

19/1532/RES – Reserved matters for 4 affordable houses, Ty Perllan, Tregynon SY16 3EH

19/1633/REM – Section 73/ Conditions at Dolycoed, Tregynon SY16 3PY