

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR HEULWEN D HULME – RHIWCYNON

JANUARY 2024

ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES – THE PRESSURES

The service receives approximately 1300 calls per month into the information service called Assist and of which 60% of these proceed to assessment.

We provide 7500 hours of domiciliary care per week and a care package lasts for approximately 2 months.

November 2023 we provided 123 care packages in comparison to 105 in November 2022. We also delivered 800 more care hours in November 2023 in comparison to November 2022.

65 + years of age make up 25% of our population whereas the Welsh average is 21%.

Hospital discharge delays ranged from 41 – 67 throughout 2023.

BLUE PRINT FOR PLACE BASED PLANNING FOR POWYS.

Going forward PCC cannot continue to exist with its current infrastructure and the need to change at pace is vitally important. We must ensure we engage with our rural communities as well as our towns. Each village and town have different facilities and services and these may need to be upgraded or downgraded depending on demand. Public transport infrastructure needs to be a key focus. School and the pupil entitlement and experience must continue to move at pace. Re-purpose some of our leisure centres and libraries to incorporate other services. Difficult decisions will have to be made.

GROUP LEADERS STAKEHOLDER RECRUITMENT PANEL.

3 days were spent interviewing for the following County Hall

Director of Education

Director of Corporate Services

Director of Economic Development and Growth

Director of Social Services and Wellbeing

Chief Officer – Place

The final interviews took place in front of the full council on 24th and 25th January and all positions were filled. This will now enable the new Chief Executive to form her Corporate Leadership Team.

ASSET REVIEW 26.01.24

The local authority has a vast property asset portfolio comprising of Office Blocks, Depots, Libraries, Museums, Care Homes, Day Centres, Social Care Facilities, Historic monuments and Clock Towers, Community Centres, Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and Pupil Referral Units, Cemeteries, Commercial Units and County Farms. This totals 629 properties.

COUNCIL TAX REFORM CONSULTATION WALES

The Welsh Government are looking to consult with residents on a fairer Council Tax system. The aim is to update property values (last done in 2003 and to legislate to review property values every 5 years in the future. The consultation will seek views on re-valuing properties and council tax bands. To have your say please search Council tax reform consultation Wales and complete the survey.

COUNCIL DEBT OF £283,180 (CEREDIGION £106,867)

The Council's debt relates to capital investment in council assets, including, but not limited to, highways improvements, investment in council buildings such as schools, libraries, museums, sports and leisure centres etc, improvements to the existing council housing stock and the construction of much needed additional Social Housing. Any future Capital investment decisions will support the Council's corporate priorities and mitigate any statutory risks taking account of the return on investment and robust business cases. Any additional borrowing will only be used to support the capital programme where it is affordable, prudent and sustainable within the Council's overall borrowing limits and the revenue budget over the long term. At all times, the Council will comply with the CIPFA's (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Prudential Code and Local Government Act 2003.

The cost of funding the capital programme is closely monitored due to the impact on the budget and the ongoing funding constraints. The Council aims to minimise the cost of borrowing on the revenue budget and other funding

sources need to be maximized such as capital receipts and external grant funding. The Councils Statement of Accounts and Treasury Management Strategy are published annually which include the Council's debt position, forward estimates, prudential indicators and the impact of the debt on the revenue budget. The Governance and Audit Committee receive quarterly reports on the Council's treasury management activity. All of these documents are available on the Council's public website.

We are unable to comment on the differences between the debt level of Powys and Ceredigion as each Council will have different numbers and types of assets. These will be in different conditions. Each Council will be different priorities for the capital investment and each Council is funded differently so may not need to borrow to the same level as other councils.

However, it should be noted that Powys County Council has over 5,500 Council dwellings. Ceredigion does not have any Council dwellings which will have a significant impact on the level of debt for each council."

PLANNING IN THE RHIWCYNON WARD

- ABERHAFESP PLANNING
- 23/0740/FUL – Erection of a chalet, improved access and assoc drainage – Tyn Y Coed Field, BYF SY16 3JA
- 23/0636/FUL – Conversion of agricultural outbuilding into an annex – Bwlchcaehaidd, BYF SY16 3JB

- DWYRIW PLANNING
- 22/2217/FUL – Lateral extension to extraction area at Tan Y Foel Quarry, Cefn Coch, SY21 0AN
- 23/1612/FUL – Demolish existing dwelling & replace with new & assoc. works & new septic tank – Tyn Y Celyn, Adfa, SY16 3DD
- 23/1836/FUL – Conversion of abandoned dwelling & barn to form dwelling & vehicular access & sewage treatment plant – Minffordd, Cefn Coch, SY21 0AP
- 23/1644/CLE – Certificate of lawfulness for breeding and boarding kennels – Tan Llan, Llanwyddelan, SY16 3NN
- 23/1738/CLE – Occupation of a dwelling and Agricultural occupancy, Ffinant, Llanwyddelan SY16 3BU
- 24/0042/FUL – Residential dwellings, Pant Y Crai, Adfa SY16 3BX
- BOC/24/0027 – Llawnt Uchaf, New Mills SY16 3NP

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- MANAFON PLANNING
- OPDE/22/0160 – Brynteg, New Mills, SY16 3NQ – **case closed but re-opened.**

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- TREGYNON PLANNING
- 23/1826/FUL – Conversion of outbuilding to residential dwelling & associated works – Penyborfa, New Mills SY16 3NT
- 23/1959/LBC – Remove render from gable end and paint. Old School, Tregynon SY16 3EH
- 24/0027/LBC – Repair and rebuild Walled Garden, Gregynog Hall, Tregynon SY16 3PW

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