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Please note: The direct online links to pages set out below are to pages in the English language. To access pages in the Welsh language, please go to the homepage of the subject website and select your preferred language. For Powys County Council this is [Powys.gov.uk](https://www.powys.gov.uk)

1. Community Information

Planning Infrastructure training for town and community councils

Planning Aid Wales is hosting two online training sessions on the infrastructure planning system, looking at where communities' voices fit into its processes, how infrastructure planning links to local planning policies and Place Plans, how community evidence can inform Local Impact Reports and how communities can optimise the effectiveness of their input.

More info and link to booking here: [Infrastructure Planning for Communities – Planning Aid Wales](#)

The first training is on Thursday 5th March but there's another one on 25th March.

County council collaboration with housing developers

The county council's programme of work to address the housing shortage in Powys includes the purchase of affordable turnkey properties, which meet Powys County Council and Welsh Government Design Requirements and are fully completed and ready for people to move into without further construction or refurbishment. 11 such properties have been purchased to date, seven in Llanigon and four in Ystradgynlais, and a further 16 will be purchased in Penybont upon completion later this year.

The county council will host an engagement event this month, to support housing developers to consider becoming involved in this work. The event will provide an opportunity for developers to meet the Housing Service, learn more about the type of schemes the council is looking to bring forward and discuss opportunities.

The event will be held on Tuesday 24th March at Llandrindod Wells Sports Centre between 9am and 1pm.

Developers seeking further information or to discuss opportunities can also contact the email the county council directly on: affordable.housing@powys.gov.uk

Powys Local Access Forum, Countryside Volunteers programme and reporting footpath issues

The Powys Local Access Forum (LAF) works closely with the county council's Countryside Access and Recreation team, offering advice, insight, and local knowledge to help shape future priorities for managing public rights of way and outdoor access.

Expressions of interest are open for new members to join Forum for the 2026–2029 term. Interested people are invited to submit their expressions of interest by Friday, 3rd April, via email at: rights.of.way@powys.gov.uk by Friday, April 3.

Residents who would be interested in more hands-on countryside work are invited to join the county council's Countryside Volunteers programme. The programme operates in all areas of Powys except within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and volunteers support a range of practical activity such as installing gates, repairing bridges, refurbishing footpaths and caring for local green spaces.

Volunteers can choose active roles or positions focused on supervision, coordination or engaging with local communities about upcoming work. More information is available on the county council's website at: powys.gov.uk/countrysidevolunteers

Members of the public can also report issues they encounter on the path network via the county council's online reporting portal, which facilitates the pinpointing of the exact location of a problem and enables the team to address it more quickly. The portal can be accessed by following the pathway from the Report function on the county council's homepage, selecting 'Report a concern with a right of way'.

Anyone wishing to learn more about joining the Powys Local Access Forum, volunteering, or using the new reporting tool is encouraged to contact the team.

Email: rights.of.way@powys.gov.uk / Phone: 01597 827595.

[Economy and Climate Service bi-monthly newsletter](#)

The newsletter contains information on the range of activity led by the Economy and Climate Service, including schemes to support local businesses, activity to contribute to decarbonisation and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The newsletter is available on the Sway platform, [here](#).

[Powys Anti-Poverty Locality Fund update](#)

The Anti-Poverty Locality Fund was launched in Summer 2025 using the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, administered by the Economy and Climate team of the county council. It allocated £5,000 to every county councillor to be used to fund projects which addressed poverty and supported community resilience. County councillors nominated a range of eligible proposals from local volunteers and community groups in their wards, to the total value of £5,000 per councillor, and the successful nominees were enabled by the fund, supported by the county council's Shared Prosperity Fund team, to develop and deliver their proposals.

The initiative has supported the launch of a range of community-led projects across the county, all tailored to the needs of their local areas, and including meal provision schemes, school uniform swap shops, mother-and-baby groups, youth activities, and community gardens.

The projects supported in the LLangors with Bwlch ward were:

- First Llyn Safaddan Scout Group: to purchase uniforms for families on low incomes, to enable more children to join the cubs and engage in the Group's range of skill-building and peer support activities.
- Bryn Celyn horticulture volunteer training programme: to purchase the tools and build to tool shed for volunteers to use, in their training and afterwards, to tend their own vegetable plot, for their own use, at Bryn Celyn.
- Dementia Interpreters course: to enable 48 people interested in supporting people with dementia and in making ours a dementia-friendly community to learn how to understand the changed behaviour of people with dementia and respond to it in ways that include and help.
- Weekly coffee, cake and chat happy hours at Llangors Community Café

The small-scale, locally driven investment model has supported nearly 150 community projects across Powys. Tangible benefits include increased access to support services, reduced social isolation and new opportunities for skill-building, engagement, and wellbeing.

Brecon town centre refurbishment 2026

Plans for the redevelopment of Brecon Town Centre have been finalised and work is anticipated to begin at the beginning of March.

The improvements were informed by engagement with local people and will focus on enhancing the pedestrian experience, strengthening connections across the High Street and supporting biodiversity. The scheme covers the full length of High Street Superior, High Street Inferior and the Bulwark. The first phase of the scheme will run from the eastern end of St Mary's Church through to the Bulwark.

Community suggestions have directly influenced decisions such as the type of non-slip surface materials to be used, the inclusion of play elements and design features that support people who use wheelchairs, mobility scooters or who are less mobile.

Modifications to the design were made to accommodate the requirements which local businesses contributed to the engagement. Plans include changing the one-way direction of St Mary's Street and the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process is due to commence shortly. An automatic bollard system will be trialled at the top of the Struet, to provide more flexible access for businesses. The Showman's Guild, which operates Brecon Fair, has been involved in discussions about the proposed layout. Officers will be liaising with businesses and residents to keep them informed of the phasing of work and the support available.

Some free 1-hour car parking spaces will be made available in the George Street Car Park for the duration of the construction works. The number of temporary free spaces will be equal to the number of spaces lost during the works.

The project, including the construction, is funded by Welsh Government.

The final plans will be available to view at Y Gaer.

Updates on the plans, the construction work and key dates are available on the county council's website, at: powys.gov.uk/brecontown

Engagement on long-term Economic Strategy for Powys

The county council has initiated a public engagement process for its draft GROW / TYFU Powys Economic Strategy, which sets out the vision for the local economy through to 2040.

The GROW acronym represents the following:

Growth in key sectors of the economy

Resilience and adaptability of the environment

Opportunities for investment and innovation

Wellbeing through improved pay and learning.

The draft strategy focuses on seven key growth sectors, including advanced manufacturing, energy, rural and foundational economies, tourism and events, and skills development. It emphasises sustainability, resilience and creating better paid opportunities for people who

live and work in Powys. Residents, business owners and community representatives are encouraged to participate in the engagement, to contribute to the shaping of the strategy.

During the engagement period, people can:

- Complete a survey on the Council's Engagement Hub, at: haveyoursaypowys.wales/grow-powys
- Complete a printed survey, available on request in Powys Libraries, and return completed forms to library staff, or scan and email them to: haveyoursay@powys.gov.uk

The county council will be working directly with Town and Community Councils, businesses, partners and community organisations so that local perspectives from across Powys help inform the final strategy.

The closing date for responses is Wednesday 25th March.

All submissions will be analysed and used to refine the strategy before it is finalised and published.

Pre-school admissions open

An admissions round for children starting pre-school in 2027 opened on 1st March.

Children born between 1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024 are eligible for a place in an early year setting in 2027.

Applications must be completed and submitted by Tuesday 31st March 2026.

The Welsh Government funds the council to ensure that all children in Powys have access to free part-time early years education from the beginning of the term following the child's third birthday.

Each qualifying child can receive a maximum of 10 hours per week of funded early years education if they attend an approved, funded pre-school education setting.

Children eligible for free part time education will only receive the funded place if they are attending an approved funded pre-school education setting.

Parents are encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible, to ensure that their child has the best opportunity of a place at their preferred early years / pre-school setting.

Untimely submissions may put a child's place at risk if their preferred setting is a very popular one.

Parents / carers are required to complete an online application form, available [here](#).

The pathway to the form is powys.gov.uk (homepage) > Services > Schools and Students > Applying for a school place

Further information or advice is available from the Admissions Team:

Phone: 01597 826477

Email: preschooladmissions@powys.gov.uk

Private housing tenants' survey

The county council is seeking to learn from private tenants' experiences of renting, to help shape improvements in the county's private rented sector.

Almost 23,000 people in Powys currently live in private rented accommodation. This represents around 10,760 homes across the county. Tenants are spread across many communities and rent from a large number of mostly small landlords, which hinders their collective experiences and concerns from being heard.

The county council has launched a survey to platform the voice of private tenants and to explore whether there is interest in creating a county wide Private Tenants Forum, to enable their views directly to influence future housing policy. The survey asks tenants to share views on the suitability and condition of their home, communication with landlords or letting agents, affordability, and any barriers to finding or moving to suitable accommodation. Previous tenants and others with experience of the sector are also encouraged to take part.

The commitment to establishing a Private Tenants Forum is part of the county council's Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan 2023–2027. The forum would give tenants a stronger and more structured way to influence the council's wider housing strategy and raise issues that matter most to them. The survey will help the council understand whether tenants want a forum, and if they do, will enable its design to be informed by tenants' insights.

The survey is open to:

- current private tenants
- people who have rented privately in the past
- others with experience of the private rented sector

Contact details are only requested from those who may wish to be involved in shaping the forum.

The survey is available at: haveyoursaypowys.wales/private-tenant-survey

The pathway is: Homepage (scroll down to) Get Involved > Take part in surveys and consultations

The closing date is 5th April 2026.

Further information is available from the Housing Service:

Email: housing@powys.gov.uk

Phone: 01597 827 464.

Garden waste recycling subscriptions open

Subscriptions for the 2026 collections are open and collections start from early March.

Subscribers before the end of March will be charged the same price as last year - £60 for a 240-litre wheeled bin, or £55 for a 140-litre wheeled bin or compostable sacks. From April, following approval of the council's budget, it is anticipated that the costs will rise with the rate of inflation to £62 and £57 respectively.

Previous subscribers have already been contacted and reminded of the opportunity to re-subscribe. Subscriptions can be made online, [here](#), or by telephone: 01597 827465.

The pathway is Homepage > Services > Bins, Rubbish and Recycling > Households

Or by searching Garden Waste on the homepage.

Fortnightly collections operate from 2nd March to 27th November. The subscription cost includes the hire of a wheeled bin or, for residents who have their non-recyclable waste collected in purple bags, a supply of compostable garden waste sacks.

Residents who re-subscribe will receive a sticker to place on their green wheeled bin, to help collection crews identify which households have signed up. New subscribers will have their green bin delivered within 10 working days.

Residents are reminded to check their collection day, as this may have changed from previous years. Collection days for all waste and recycling can be checked online at: powys.gov.uk/binday

The pathway is homepage > Services > Bins, Rubbish and Recycling > Households

Garden waste is also accepted at Powys's Household Recycling Centres.

Public notice about controlling dogs during the lambing season

Residents and visitors are encouraged to be mindful of the risk to pregnant ewes and lambs presented by dogs not kept under close control. Ewes become particularly vulnerable during lambing. The friendliest and most well-behaved dogs can unintentionally cause stress, distress, miscarriage, injury or fatality to sheep if not kept under close control.

The 'close control' standard required to protect grazing animals requires the owner to be in a position to intervene immediately, and able to stop or recall the dog instantly, regardless of distraction, distance or temptation.

Farmer health and safety during lambing season

Powys County Council, Powys Teaching Health Board and Public Health Wales are working together to raise awareness about infections that can be associated with lambing, focusing particularly on pregnant women, women of child-bearing age, people with weakened immune systems, and those living on or visiting farms.

Infections such as Toxoplasma and Listeria can be passed on through contact with newborn lambs, birthing fluids, afterbirth or contaminated materials, including bedding, fences or equipment. These infections can be harmful and, in some cases, may lead to miscarriage or other serious complications

Recommended precautions include:

- Changing and washing clothing at 60°C or higher
- Wearing appropriate protective clothing
- Washing hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling animals or equipment

Further guidance on reducing risks is available at: powys.gov.uk/lambingsafety

Welsh medium all age school in South Powys

Transformation proposals for Ysgol Calon Cymru and Builth Wells C.P. School were approved by Cabinet on 24th February.

Under the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, both schools will receive major upgrades.

At Builth Wells, the campus will be remodelled to accommodate early years and primary pupils, and will become part of a new all age Welsh medium school.

The Llandrindod campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru will be expanded with new, modern buildings.

The council has recently prepared a Strategic Outline Case (SOC), the first of three business cases required to secure capital funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

The SOC is currently being considered by Welsh Government.

The proposals will be delivered in two phases and comprise:

Phase one (September 2027)

The new [Welsh medium all age school](#) (4–18) would be established on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru. This would mean:

- All Welsh medium pupils from Builth Wells C.P. School would transfer to the new Welsh medium all age school in September 2027 and Builth Wells C.P. School would no longer have a Welsh stream.
- Welsh medium provision for Years 7, 8 and 9 would also be available at the new school with pupils transferring from Ysgol Calon Cymru.

Initially, the new school would share the Builth campus with Ysgol Calon Cymru, with part of the building remodelled to accommodate primary aged pupils. Pupils would continue to be able to join Ysgol Calon Cymru for English medium provision on both campuses.

This would be a temporary arrangement until works to improve and extend the Llandrindod Wells campus are completed.

From September 2027, [Ysgol Calon Cymru](#) would continue to have a Welsh medium stream for Years 10 onwards, but this would be phased out by September 2029.

Secondary aged English medium pupils would continue to access provision at the Builth Wells campus until new facilities are available in Llandrindod Wells

Phase two (September 2029 at the earliest):

Ysgol Calon Cymru would close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the expanded Llandrindod campus. Free home to school transport would be provided for all eligible learners.

The new Welsh medium all age school would occupy the full Builth Wells campus.

The updated Strategy for Transforming Education 2020–2032 and details of the Transforming Education Programme – Wave 2 (2022–2027) are available on the county council website at: powys.gov.uk/transformingeducation

Further information about Welsh-medium education in Powys is available (scroll to the 8th tile) at: powys.gov.uk/schools

[New industrial park for advanced manufacturing centre and research and innovation hub](#)

The new development, CymruTech Park, aims to create a hub for innovation, skills and growth by combining on one site the Mid Wales Advanced Manufacturing Centre and a number of new, modern business units. The county council will purchase 14 hectares of land in Newtown on which to site the park.

The business units will be available to companies looking to expand or relocate to Mid Wales, and it is envisaged that their proximity will benefit from, strengthen and support the neighbouring research and innovation facility.

The county council will work with key partners, including the Mid Wales Growth Deal, to secure funding towards the project's capital costs.

The council is working with consultants BIC Innovation on the specifications for the AMC and the park and, in partnership with BIC Innovation, has been liaising with manufacturing businesses across Powys and Ceredigion to make sure the project will meet their needs.

The development is expected to unlock long-term economic, social, and environmental benefits for the upper Severn Valley region, and to boost the area's mid-sized manufacturing and engineering firms. The park is expected to deliver more than 400 new jobs, a £100 million boost to the area's output and a high value return on investment

The intention is for the new Advanced Manufacturing Centre to provide:

- High Technology Ready Level 6–9 equipment
- Skills training (apprenticeships, CPD, schools outreach)
- Research and development, prototyping and demonstration space
- Technical and innovation support for businesses
- Conference, collaboration, hospitality and meeting facilities

Several partners are expected to invest in the scheme. The project is being developed in alignment with the Mid Wales Growth Deal and an outline business case is due to be considered by the Growing Mid Wales Board, which is accountable for the Growth Deal, in July.

The county council encourages companies looking to move to, or expand in, Newtown, who may be interested in being based on the new CymruTech Park, to register their interest via an online form, [here](#).

CymruTech Park will also be home to a bespoke Green Skills Academy, which is being developed by NPTC Group of Colleges on a plot next to Newtown College.

The academy will provide state-of-the-art workshops and learning spaces focused on renewable energy, low-carbon construction, alternative fuels, and emerging green technologies.

It is expected to support training for 150–200 learners each year, who will include full-time students, apprentices and professionals seeking to upskill.

The project is dependent on planning permission being granted, and planning consultancy Asbri Planning is scheduled to undertake a pre-application consultation on the county council's behalf.

Further information about economic development and growth in Powys is available from the team by email at: economicdevelopment@powys.gov.uk

The Mid Wales Growth Deal sits within a broader Vision for Growing Mid Wales and is a long-term investment programme providing capital funding to support regionally significant economic

infrastructure that drives private sector investment and stimulates growth.

It is supported by a combined commitment of £110m from UK and Welsh Governments to leverage further public and private investment. The Growth Deal supports projects that drive innovation, productivity and high-value job creation across the region, and aims to contribute to economic recovery and growth across the region.

Housing Services update

The work undertaken over the past three years has led to faster support for people in housing difficulties and more secure housing available across the county.

Emergency housing placements have fallen from 63 in October 2023 to 29 by December 2025. Weekly emergency accommodation estimated net costs have reduced from £39,024 to £16,408.

This has enabled more resources to be directed towards prevention, early help and long-term support. Statutory homelessness cases have reduced to 257, from 283 in March 2025 and from 382 in August 2022, as a result of the impact of proactive prevention work.

The use of temporary accommodation has fallen from 285 households in March 2025 to 259 in November 2025.

Average letting process times have improved from 18.16 days in June 2022 to 6.27 days in December 2025. Faster lettings reduce the need for temporary accommodation and help new tenant households to settle sooner.

Rent collection is stable at 92.9%. Arrears levels are stable and being well-managed across all areas, as a result of effective early engagement with tenants.

Since April 2025, the Housing Communities Team has:

Completed 184 new-tenancy visits

Carried out 135 formal estate inspections

Conducted 430 block cleaning checks and

Achieved an 86% response rate on housing calls (excluding repairs)

During November 2025, staff called at 143 tenancies, completed 50 tenant surveys, and received strong positive feedback from residents.

Partner updates

Growing Mid Wales newsletter

The February newsletter includes articles on the potential of green hydrogen to decarbonise forestry and the Careers Connections pilot which connects young people with local employers.

The newsletter is available on Sway, [here](#).

An accessible version of the Sway is available via the 'Accessibility view' function, via the 3 dots in the right-hand corner of the screen.

A pdf version of the newsletter can be requested by email at: growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk

Previous newsletters can be viewed at: growingmid.wales/Newsletters

Marches Forward Partnership Workshop

The Marches Forward Partnership is collaboration between local authorities in Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, Powys and Shropshire and provides a framework for joined up activity based on shared interests and common issues that cross national boundaries. Further information about the MFP is available at marchesforwardpartnership.org.uk

The partnership is led by Powys County Council and Shropshire Council. It is progressing a green growth programme, central to which are:

- The Marches Environmental Investment Platform (MEIP): to attract private capital and direct it to land managers by addressing barriers such as unclear returns, risk quantification, and fragmented project pipelines.
- The Marches Environmental Delivery Vehicle: a proposed governance model to bring together communities, buyers, investors, policy makers and delivery partners.
- The Severn Valley Water Management Scheme: a pilot project led by the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Powys and Shropshire Councils to explore large-scale water infrastructure solutions.

The new workshop will bring together business, infrastructure providers and local authorities to discuss resilience and green growth opportunities through the MFP.

Participants will explore how joint action with the MFP could improve the way the area responds to environmental and economic pressures.

The focus is on understanding common barriers and the practical steps organisations can take forward together.

The workshop sits within the MFP's wider programme of work to support green growth and long-term resilience across the region, and will contribute to the green growth programme's aim of developing a regional model for long-term environmental investment. It aims to achieve a clearer shared understanding of natural assets, region-wide funding gaps, land-use pressures and opportunities to co-ordinate action across local authority boundaries in the Marches. By bringing different sectors together in a practical setting, the session is intended to support that work by generating insight on how partners can collaborate more effectively, feeding into emerging investment models such as MEIP as well as cross-border land and water management.

The MFP has also identified the need for stronger delivery structures and more consistent

cross-border coordination, such as the proposed EDV, which is intended to help overcome delivery barriers and support a more joined-up approach to environmental and economic outcomes.

The workshop will help build the shared understanding needed to inform these developments.

Insights from the session will shape the next phase of MFP programmes, including work on long-term investment, MEIP development and cross-border approaches to land and water management including delivery of the SVWMS.

Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service update

An update on the ongoing work to review and improve the EMRTS has been issued, following discussions at the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC) in January 2026.

Further information is available [here](#).

WAST newsletter

The newsletter shares news and updates from the Welsh Ambulance Service, and celebrates the work of its staff and volunteers.

The newsletter is available on the Sway platform, [here](#).

Contacting the county council

Set out below is a range of ways to contact the council, report faults or issues with council services, and make a complaint.

Opening a My Powys Account

A My Powys account can be used for a range of activity, including:

- Keeping a record of requests and reports made by the resident, and information obtained by the resident (such as school bus routes, as discussed above)
- Enabling the resident to view and track requests and reports
- Pre-filling forms submitted by the resident with the resident's address and contact information
- Expediting phone calls made by the resident by enabling the call handler to view and track the resident's requests and reports
- Enabling the council to send residents updates about their requests and reports

Residents can open a My Powys account [here](#).

The pathway is via the 'Log in/Register' function at the top right of the county council's homepage, [here](#).

All residents, with or without a My Powys account, can contact the council by any of the following means:

Contacting the county council online

- Use the online live Chat function on the website's Contact Us page, [here](#).

The pathway is via the 'Contact Us' function at the top right of the council's homepage.

- Identify the email address for the service required and contact the service direct (on the same Contact Us page, scroll down to the grid of different services at the base of the page)

Contacting the county council by phone

General Enquiries: 01597 827 460

Enquiries for a specific person whom the resident can name: 01597 826 000

Contacting the county council in person

Several transactions with the council can be undertaken at local libraries, Monday to Friday.

Library staff can signpost residents to the council services required and put them in touch with the appropriate council staff member/s for their enquiry.

Information about all Powys local libraries is available [here](#).

The pathway from the county council's [website](#) is:

Homepage > Services > Libraries (page 2 of the Services section).

Reporting an issue online

Residents can report a range of service-related issues directly via the council's website, [here](#).

Pathway: From the county council's [homepage](#), scroll to the first row of options below the search bar. 'Report' is second on the left. The function enables the uploading of photographs, also.

Complaining and commenting about a service online

Residents can submit complaints and comments about any council service directly via the 'Contact Us' page of the county council's website, [here](#).

Scroll down to the grid of options at the base of the page. The complaints and comments function is the first option in the second row in the grid. There is a separate function (second grid on the second row) specifically for complaints and comments about Social Services.

Complaining formally in this way ensures that the complaint is logged and can be tracked by the resident making the complaint.

The direct link to the general complaints page is [here](#).

All of the functions outlined above can be performed via a resident's My Powys account, and 'as a guest' for anyone without an account.

2. Council Information

Budget 2026/27

The balanced budget for 2026-27 proposed by Cabinet and officers was approved by Full Council at the meeting of Council on 26th February. The budget balances the protection of frontline services, support for vulnerable residents, investment in key priorities and the management of sustained financial pressures.

Cabinet committed to keeping the Council Tax rise to a minimum, increasing investment in education, and providing additional funding to tackle homelessness.

The budget includes a 4.9% Council Tax increase, which is lower than many expected in the current financial climate.

Schools will receive a 5.7% uplift in delegated budgets. This will provide an additional £5.56m to meet rising costs and support school improvement. An additional £1.76m investment will support wider education services.

Demand for housing support, particularly temporary accommodation, continues to rise sharply.

The budget allocates additional funding of £499,000 to strengthen homelessness services.

To budget adds £600,000 to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme's budget of £13 million, to support low-income households. More than 53% of Powys households receive financial support via discounts, exemptions or the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The 2026/27 settlement from Welsh Government does not cover the full scale of pressures faced by the council. Delivering a resilient and sustainable Powys means continuing to transform how the council works, delivering services more efficiently and focusing resources where they are needed most. The budget contains £12 million in savings through service remodelling, digital transformation, income generation and efficiency measures. These have been designed to minimise the impact on frontline services, with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable.

The full budget papers are available on the corporate calendar page for the Full Council meeting on 26th February. The pathway to the page is: Powys.gov.uk > select My Council (top menu bar) > select either Calendar or Meetings (left hand menu column).

A direct link to the page is [here](#).

Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Full Council meetings

Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Full Council meetings are all open to the public and are live-streamed and recorded for public view. The links to the live-streaming and the webcasts, the

Minutes, and all documents discussed, are available on the PCC website.

The pathway to access the material for all Cabinet, Full Council and Committee meetings is:

PCC homepage > My Council (top menu bar)

From the My Council page, all public meetings can be accessed from the left-hand menu, via **Calendar** or via **Meetings**.

Public participation at Full Council meetings

Members of the public are invited to submit questions to Full Council. Questions are submitted and responded to in writing in advance of the meeting. Questioners are able to submit one supplementary question each and also to attend Full Council to ask their supplementary questions. They are not required to give advance notice either of their intention to ask a supplementary question or of the question itself.

Further information about public participation at council meetings is available [here](#).

It can be reached via the following pathway:

Powys home page > Contact Us (top right) > Consultations (bottom left) > Get Involved (bottom right) > Document Public Participation (bottom right)

The Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee met on 11th and 18th February

The meeting on 11th February focused on the county council's proposed Route Map to Net Zero.

The council's Monitoring Officer had initially proposed that the meeting should be held in confidential session, owing to its containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of the local authority. Committee members pointed out that such information was contained only in a small number of the papers, and not within the substantive item, the Route Map, itself, and proposed that the meeting should be held in public session until such time as a committee member wished to raise confidential matters. The meeting was duly held in public session, and did not move to confidential session at any point.

The minutes of the meeting have not yet been approved and published, owing to constraints on staff resource combined with an exceptionally busy period generated by the impending pre-election constraints on a range of council business. In the meantime, those papers not containing confidential information and the webcast of the meeting are available on the calendar page for the scrutiny meeting via the pathway:

Homepage Powys.gov.uk > My Council > Left hand menu: Calendar or Meetings.

A direct link to the calendar page is [here](#).

Items discussed on **18th February** included:

- The Quarter 3 service improvement report on the council's economic development and growth
- The Housing Revenue Account 30-year business plan

The minutes of the meeting are not yet approved and published, but the papers and webcast are available on the calendar page for the scrutiny meeting via the pathway outlined above. A direct link to the calendar page is [here](#).

Cabinet met on 24th February

Items discussed included:

- Report on the statutory objection period for the proposals for Ysgol Calon Cymru and Builth Wells C.P. School, and the objections received.
- Report on the public consultation on the proposal to reduce the capacity of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan by closing the school's Cradoc campus from 31st August 2026.
- Report proposing to change the language category of Sennybridge C.P. School from dual stream to Welsh-medium.
- The Treasury Management Quarter 3 Report.
- Report on the GROW Powys Economic Strategy

The papers, minutes and webcast are available on the calendar page for the Cabinet meeting via the pathway outlined above. A direct link to the calendar page is [here](#).

Full Council

Full Council met on 26th February.

Items discussed included:

- The draft county council Budget for 2026/27, draft Medium Term Financial Plan for 2026-31 and the draft Capital programme for 2026-31.
- The annual update to the county council's Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan

The minutes are not available at the time of writing. The papers, voting results and webcast are available on the corporate calendar page via the pathway outlined above.

A direct link to the page is [here](#).

The next meeting of Full Council is on Thursday 5th March.

Items to be discussed include:

- A public question about the county council's expression of interest in the UK asylum dispersal scheme.
- A public question about the relationship between the council's street light strategy and the Dark Skies designation scheme.
- The Council Tax resolution for 2026/27, including approving the Council tax rise agreed at Full Council on 26th February
- A report on the revised Inter Authority Agreement for the Wales Pension Partnership Local Government Pension Scheme, to allow implementation of the WPP's business case approved by Full Council in July 2025
- The annual report 2024/25 of the Governance and Audit Committee
- A motion calling for the reintegration of the Statement of Common Ground (Ministry of Defence Safeguarding Agreement) into the Powys Local Development Plan
- A motion calling for a strengthening of suicide prevention activity
- A motion calling for a public declaration of a health crisis emergency in Powys

The agenda, papers and live stream are available on the calendar page of the county council website via the pathway outlined above. A direct link to the calendar page is [here](#).

Sian Cox, Councillor for Llangors with Bwlch

4th March 2026

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