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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

Proposed next steps for post-14 education

A set of proposed next steps for transforming post-14 education in Powys was considered and agreed by the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on 19th March and by the Cabinet on 24th March. No decision on potential delivery models was being sought at this stage. The proposals are informed by the findings of the post-16 engagement exercise to date, and sought approval to continue engagement with learners, families, schools, colleges and employers over the next 12 months. The final recommendations will be informed by its complete findings.

The proposed programme of work includes:

- Continuing to strengthen the existing Chweched Powys Sixth model for current learners.
- Establishing a new Future Pathways Board, to include Further Education, Higher Education, employers and the Regional Skills Partnership.
- Creating a governor steering group and an ALN post-16 working group to shape improved pathways for learners.
- Engagement with primary schools and employers later in 2026 to ensure future pathways reflect local needs and the county's future economy.

The county council has published the findings from the independent engagement programme delivered by Opinion Research Services (ORS). The responses provide a detailed insight into what young people and families need from future post-16 education.

Learners said they value strong relationships with staff, supportive school environments and being able to study close to home. However, they also highlighted challenges such as restricted subject choice, limited vocational opportunities, variation in facilities, digital reliability and the disruption caused by travelling between school sites during the school day.

Many emphasised the importance of clearer pathways into apprenticeships, higher education and employment, particularly in areas linked to Powys' future economic growth. Strengthening Welsh-medium continuity and improving routes for learners with Additional Learning Needs also featured strongly in the feedback.

These findings build on work already underway to strengthen the current post-16 offer, expand 14+ vocational pathways and design a more integrated 14+ system involving schools, Further Education, Higher Education, employers and training providers.

The work will continue throughout 2026–27, with long-term 14+ options brought forward for further consideration in summer 2027, followed by wider engagement in autumn 2027. Any formal proposal would be considered in 2028, with implementation expected between 2029 and 2031.

The county council's Strategy for Transforming Education 2020-2032 and details of the Transforming Education Programme - Wave 2 (2022 – 2027) can be viewed on the county council's website, at: powys.gov.uk/transformingeducation

New cemetery management software system

The county council's Environmental Protection Service is in the process of implementing a new cemetery management software system. The project will include the digitisation of the cemetery plans. To facilitate this, drone footage will be taken of the county council's cemeteries. This will take place in April or May, depending on weather conditions.

Prior to the footage being taken, signs to inform the public will be erected on cemetery gates.

Further information is available from the lead officer from the Environmental Protection team, as follows:

Telephone: 01938 551300

Email: carwyn.jones@powys.gov.uk

Update on waste and recycling collections

Recycling and waste route optimisation is carried out periodically to ensure that the county council is making efficient and effective use of its vehicles, crews, and bulking locations. The 2026 optimisation review took place six years after the last one, since when routes have been affected by new housing developments, updates to the fleet and vehicle types, different bulking locations and shifts in residents' waste and recycling habits. Increased recycling participation means residual waste vehicles are filling more slowly, while recycling vehicles are filling more quickly. The mix of recyclable materials has also changed, with higher volumes of plastics and cans, and less glass. These factors influence how routes should be structured for maximum effectiveness.

Residents on some routes have experienced missed or late collections in the weeks since the revised routes were implemented. The service has assured residents that this is a temporary situation while crews adjust to the changes and become familiar with the new routes, and that the collection process will settle down and become more efficient.

In the meantime, the service is taking steps to resolve issues as quickly as possible, including:

- Reviewing daily reports from crews and residents
- Providing additional support to areas experiencing delays
- Making adjustments to routes where needed
- Ensuring missed collections are returned to promptly

County councillors are supporting the process by sharing accurate, timely feedback from residents. Residents are encouraged to report any issues, either directly using the Report function on the

website – Powys.gov.uk – or via their county councillor.

Further information, including FAQs, collection days and dates, and details of arrangements for missed collections, is available at: www.powys.gov.uk/binday

Powys online health protection resource

Powys ProtectNet is a new online health protection resource developed in partnership by Powys Teaching Health Board and the county council Health Protection Team to support health and social care staff, partner organisations, unpaid carers and the social care sector across Powys.

ProtectNet provides a centralised hub for reliable, practical health protection information, national guidance, local resources, tools and training opportunities.

The resource includes:

- Health Protection Guidance – curated guidance from organisations including Welsh Government, the UK Health Security Agency, Public Health Wales and the NHS.
- Health Protection Resource Folder – 18 infection prevention and control topics with practical tools, templates and downloadable materials.
- Health Protection Training – free e-learning and training opportunities to strengthen knowledge and confidence in practice.
- Health Protection Bulletins – seasonal updates and key reminders for providers.
- Health Protection Contacts and Support – key local contacts for advice and outbreak support.

Powys ProtectNet can be accessed at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/20226/Powys-ProtectNet>

The resource will be continuously updated with the latest guidance and information for the social care sector. The partnership welcomes feedback, suggestions for improvement, and suggested content, to support ProtectNet to be relevant and responsive to the needs of care providers in Powys. The partnership is able to provide suggested wording for newsletters or social media to organisations and individuals seeking to publicise the resource through their networks.

The team can be contacted by email at: healthprotection@powys.gov.uk

Additional £2.5m grant funding for Highways

Powys County Council has been granted an additional £2.5 million of general capital investment by the Welsh Government and has elected to use the funding to accelerate Highways improvements, strengthen road resilience, and deliver long lasting repairs across the county's road network.

The 5,500km county road network faces ongoing and growing pressure from severe weather, historic underinvestment, rising material costs and unresolved drainage issues.

Earlier this year, the county council allocated an additional £1.2 million in revenue funding for 2025/26 to restart essential recurring drainage works. Since the start of the financial year, Highways

teams have delivered:

- 149,508 metres of ditching opened and cleared to improve drainage
- 152,593 metres of siding cut back to restore full carriageway width
- 9,457 grips reinstated to help water drain safely off the road
- 8,853 gullies emptied, inspected and repaired where needed

These early works have improved drainage performance, increased network resilience and reduced the risk of water-related deterioration. The new £2.5m allocation will enable the council to scale up structural maintenance, including purchasing specialist machinery designed to cut, crop and clean defects in the road surface efficiently, enabling more durable road repairs.

High-quality patching, resurfacing and effective drainage will reduce carbon impacts by reducing repeat repairs and making maintenance more efficient. Improving key transport routes and reducing repeat repairs will strengthen rural connectivity and deliver a safer, more reliable and sustainable road network.

Digital Strategy 2026-2030

Powys County Council has approved its Digital Strategy 2026–2030. The updated plan keeps pace with digital change and focuses on making services more accessible and user-focused. It sets out a corporate approach to digital transformation, led across the organisation.

The strategy sets out five core themes to support digital transformation over the next four years:

- Digital Anytime – the expansion of self-service digital tools, to enable residents to find information, submit requests and complete tasks online 24/7.
- Innovative Technology - continuous exploration of AI capabilities to enhance services and lead digital innovation for future generations.
- Data and Insights – the use of data to design services and make informed decisions based on evidence, to better understand developments and imperatives in communities, identify trends and plan services proactively.
- Digital Infrastructure and Cyber Security – a focus on ensuring systems are modern, secure, reliable and able to support safe innovation across the council.
- Digital Futures – a focus on helping residents, staff, businesses and community organisations to build the digital skills they need to thrive and reduce digital exclusion.

The full Digital Strategy 2026–2030 can be viewed on the county council’s website at:
powys.gov.uk/digitalstrategy

Investment programme for social housing

A £270m programme to build new council homes and upgrade existing ones has been approved. *At Home in Powys – Housing Business Plan* sets out the county council’s five year investment plans for

its housing stock and confirms continued investment in new, energy-efficient homes and ensuring current council homes continue to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.

More than 350 new council homes will be built by 2030/31 as part of an investment of £195m, and £46m will be spent over the same period to maintain and improve existing homes. Several targeted programmes will support this work, including:

- Compliance One Hundred – £10.5m to ensure council homes and related assets meet all relevant
- Green Powys – £9.9m to improve energy efficiency, reduce fuel poverty, cut carbon emissions and support greener, more sustainable estates.
- Fit for Life – £4.3m to adapt homes for older residents and people with mobility-related health needs.
- Love Where You Live – £6.7m to enhance estates and improve wellbeing across communities.

The Business Plan commits the county council to continued investment in its existing housing stock, to maintain the Welsh Housing Quality Standard, and puts in place the funding needed to make homes more energy efficient for tenants, to help reduce fuel poverty and reduce the county's carbon emissions.

Silver and Gold Kite Awards

The Silver and Gold Kite Awards recognise and honour volunteers, public servants, cultural leaders, charity fundraisers and long-serving carers who have each made an exceptional contribution to their communities, or to life in Powys. Nominations are submitted throughout the year by county councillors and awarded at the discretion of the Chair of the county council.

The recipients recognised in 2026 are:

- Andrew Bufton (Posthumous Gold Kite Award) – honoured posthumously for his lifelong service to Brecknockshire YFC by supporting rallies, competitions and drama festivals for decades. His family collected the award. Nominated by Cllr Gareth Ratcliffe.
- Bryan Davies and Katrina Davies – for more than 60 years of combined service at Talgarth Fire Station, inspiring new recruits, supporting Black Mountains communities and contributing to local events and fundraising. Nominated by Cllr Tom Colbert.
- Brenda Claridge – for her charity fundraising and mental-health advocacy, raising more than £21,000 for MIND, the DPJ Foundation and many local causes through inclusive community events. Nominated by Cllr Jeremy Pugh.
- Ydwena Jones – for her lifelong contribution to the Welsh language, culture and heritage, her work with Papur Bro Y Fan a'r Lle, and her dedication to preserving the memory of the Mynydd Epynt clearances. Nominated by Cllr Raiff Devlin.
- Nigel Devlin and Caroline Frampton – for more than 25 years of fostering, providing safe, caring homes to more than 70 children and continuing to support many into adulthood. Nominated by Sharon Powell, Head of Children's services.

Powys estate energy efficiency improvement programme

A major programme of clean energy and energy efficiency improvements across the county council's property estate has been completed. The programme was funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and has delivered a range of upgrades across council buildings, including solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, battery storage, LED lighting, enhanced energy monitoring and electric vehicle charging points.

In total, solar PV systems have been installed at 17 sites, providing a combined capacity of 694 kWp, alongside 573 kWh of battery storage. Together, these measures are projected to save approximately 600,000 kWh of energy every year and reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 170 tCO₂e annually.

The investments support the county council to reduce carbon emissions and running costs, meet existing and future energy needs, enhance the resilience of the council's public buildings, and help to protect essential services from energy instability and cost turbulence.

Update on in-house housing repairs service

The county council's Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service returned to in-house provision in 2022. The council has rebuilt the service and built a skilled in-house workforce, developing 31 tradespeople in 2022 to more than 70 by 2025, which has significantly increased the team's capacity to carry out repairs quickly and to a consistently high standard.

Local area-based teams now work directly within communities, bringing local knowledge, closer communication and faster decision-making. Tenants are experiencing fewer delays, better coordination and more repairs completed first-time.

The works period on empty properties fell to as low as 37 days at some points during 2023/24. Overall end-to-end times and the number of voids held have also improved.

This means more homes are available sooner for people waiting for housing, rent loss has fallen below expected levels, and tenants are moving into homes that meet a clear Quality of Accommodation Standard.

Tenants are reporting improvements in call-handling, clearer communication and stronger customer service and rising satisfaction levels, and compliments to the repairs and call-handling teams have risen.

The Tenant Scrutiny Panel has praised the transformation and highlighted the professionalism, reliability and courtesy of council staff.

A county-wide stock condition survey, the first of its kind in Powys, is now underway. This will help ensure homes remain energy-efficient, safe and future-ready, supporting the Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2023.

The county council is investing in apprenticeships and training to build a long-term, sustainable workforce with the skills needed to maintain homes for years to come.

Work to identify under-claiming of Pension Credit

The county council has written to 160 Powys residents to encourage them to check whether they are eligible to receive Pension Credit.

The UK Government benefit is worth over £10,000 per year for a single person, and more if claimed by a couple. In Powys that amounts to an estimated £1.6 million which might be going unclaimed by people who are eligible.

Those who think they may be eligible can claim online or by telephone.

Online at: <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim>

Phone on: 0800 99 1234.

Those who cannot hear or speak on the phone can enter 18001 before the phone number above, to communicate through Relay UK, the national speech relay service for people with hearing and speech difficulties.

A British Sign Language (BSL) video relay service is available. For those using a computer, [here](#). For those using a mobile or tablet, [here](#).

Powys County Council's Money Advice Team can also help with the application process. It can support this over the phone, or in person at one of its offices, at a place convenient for the applicant in their community, or in their own home where required.

The MAS is available by:

Phone: 01597 826618

E-mail: moneyadvice@powys.gov.uk

Website: powys.gov.uk/moneyadvice

These details can also be used to request free and confidential money advice at any time.

People eligible for Pension Credit might also be eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment, Cold Weather Payments and a free TV licence if over 75 years of age.

People eligible for the Guarantee Credit part of Pension Credit may also qualify for extra help with rent costs, paying Council Tax, health costs such as dental and optical treatment, and transport to and from hospital appointments.

Older residents with long-term health, disability or care needs may also be eligible for Attendance Allowance, which can be used to cover the cost of personal assistance or employing someone to complete tasks for them around the home.

More information on Attendance Allowance is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance>

For a year Powys County Council has invested in intelligent data analytics software LIFT (Low Income Family Tracker), to help it to identify and contact people who may need financial help. This free and

confidential help is still available to anyone who has been contacted, or anyone else in Powys who is facing financial difficulties.

Council tenants can contact the county council's bespoke council tenant money support service by:

Phone: 01597 827464

Email: fsogroup@powys.gov.uk

Website: powys.gov.uk/Financial-Support-Officers-Information

All other households can contact the Money Advice Service, at:

Phone: 01597 826618

E-mail: moneyadvice@powys.gov.uk

Website: powys.gov.uk/moneyadvic

Library resources to support young people with bereavement

A new collection of bereavement books which provide age-appropriate support for children and young people navigating grief and loss is available across county libraries. Four full sets of the books are held at Y Lanfa (Welshpool), Newtown, Llandrindod Wells and Y Gaer (Brecon), but the books are available to borrow through any Powys library.

The collection has been funded by Welsh Government.

Carers, schools and professionals are encouraged to make full use of the books.

A full list of available titles, and further information on bereavement support services, can be accessed by scanning the QR code on posters in libraries or by visiting powys.gov.uk/article/14339/Bereavement-Support

Books can be browsed and reserved via the online library catalogue, [here](#).

Library staff are available to offer guidance and help families choose the most suitable resources.

Expansion of low-emission Highways fleet

The county council has expanded its low-emission fleet with three new Toyota Proace electric vans, which will be used to support the Waste Awareness Team's activity to promote recycling, tackle littering, and help prevent fly-tipping. The new vans will also support officers in their enforcement duties. Each van has a 210-mile range.

The vehicles were purchased from the local Toyota dealership in Builth Wells with funding from Welsh Government.

The county council continues to explore opportunities to replace more of its fleet with ultra-low-emission vehicles in line with the recently adopted Sustainable Resource Strategy (Waste and Recycling) and its wider environmental ambitions of becoming a net zero council by 2030. Further electric vehicles for recycling collections and street-cleaning operations have been ordered and are expected to arrive soon.

Engagement of young people to inform Powys developments

Young people from across Powys participated during the February half-term in a countywide engagement event organised by Powys County Council with Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations, as part of the wider *Speak Truth to Powys* project.

The discussions were driven by themes identified directly by young people in more than 270 responses to a countywide survey organised by PAVO. Participants' priorities included feeling a stronger sense of belonging, safer communities, affordable and reliable transport, better access to health and mental-health support, and more opportunities to take part in activities designed for their age group. Their ideas for how services and opportunities could be improved included more youth-friendly communication, clearer information about activities and jobs, safer transport options, reduced leisure centre fees and better support for young carers.

The young people made clear that they want to be heard, involved and part of shaping solutions.

The county council and PAVO will now work directly with young people to develop immediate actions and longer-term improvements based on their ideas and priorities.

Update on Powys transformation programmes

Transformation work across Powys in 2025 has been evidenced in specific measured impacts, which include:

- More families moving into stable, long-term homes and fewer people stuck in emergency accommodation
- 32 new build energy-efficient flats in Newtown being completed ahead of schedule.
- 14 former right-to-buy homes brought back into council ownership.
- £10,000 in additional benefits secured through targeted money advice campaigns.
- 11 more children placed with in-house Powys foster carers, keeping them closer to their schools, friends and support networks.
- £1.6 million in cost avoidance through the county council's new Fostering Framework.
- Adults with support needs accessing personalised, community-based day opportunities, helping them build confidence, friendships and independence.
- Major school developments progressing, with projects at Sennybridge, Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and Ysgol Calon Cymru reaching key approval stages.
- Welsh-medium immersion being expanded in both North and South Powys.

- Solar and LED upgrades being installed across public buildings, reducing carbon emissions and cutting future energy costs by tens of thousands of pounds.
- Nine Local Places for Nature projects strengthening community green spaces.
- Digital improvements making services quicker and easier to access, including clearer highways reporting, tools that speed up consultation analysis, and the rollout of Magic Notes, an AI tool which reduces social care staff paperwork.

Powys County Council edie Sustainability Award for 'Warm Powys' partnership

The 'Warm Powys' project delivered by Powys County Council and partners since 2022 won the Projects & Innovations – Partnership & Collaboration: Clean Energy Pathways category at the 2026 edie Sustainability Awards. It was short listed against eight other projects from around the UK.

The edie Awards are the UK's largest corporate sustainability awards, showcasing measurable impact and innovation across 23 categories.

The edie judges' said that: "This thoughtful collaboration provides a replicable model for rural domestic energy efficiency retrofit, with continuous improvement. It is a great showcase of partnerships benefitting the local authority and community."

The project has:

- Utilised ECO Flex (Energy Company Obligation) funding to upgrade low energy-performing homes. (ECO4 was a £4 billion UK-wide programme which ran in Powys from November 2022 until November 2025.)
- Delivered 8,100+ measures across 1,000+ private sector properties.
- Pioneered several UK firsts with measures/actions outside the scope of ordinary ECO, including: Domestic battery storage. Energy Advocacy home visits to optimise equipment. 12-year servicing, unlimited warranty and remote monitoring of heat pumps. Completion of EPCs. Removal of redundant oil and LPG tanks. Independent customer satisfaction surveys.
- Secured £35m+ outside investment into Powys.
- Overall the project has improved housing quality and resident health, reduced fuel poverty, and contributed to net zero targets. Details include:
 - Raising most properties' EPC ratings from G, F, E to a high B or low A.
 - 93% Customer satisfaction rates.
 - Ranked #1 in the UK by UK Government for delivery of ECO-Flex.

The Warm Powys Webpage can be viewed at: powys.gov.uk/warmpowys

The edie Awards webpage is at: event.edie.net/awards

The 2026 finalists for the Projects & Innovations – Partnership & Collaboration: Clean Energy Pathways category were:

- Amey, Grid Edge and BMSI in partnership with National Highways - E60+ Energy Management System

- EfficiencyIT and Wellcome Sanger Institute - Powering Genomic Data Centres
- Enviromena and The University of Manchester - Medebridge Solar Farm
- Good Energy and Kraken Technologies - Sustainable Partnership in Action
- Kimberly-Clark UK & Ireland, Carlton Power and HYRO (Octopus Energy Generation & RES) - Green Hydrogen
- Paratus and Low Carbon - World-first partnership for renewable revenue stability
- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council / Vital Energi - The Coed Ely Solar Farm
- Severn Wye Energy Agency & NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board, with Gloucestershire County Council -Warmth on Prescription / NHS Retrofit

The county council's partners in Warm Powys are Warm Wales, Robert Owen Community Banking Fund, Severn Wye Energy Agency, Age Cymru Powys, Care and Repair Powys, and ECO Flex.

Partner updates

New funding for Growing Mid Wales programmes

Growing Mid Wales has secured further funding of £11.857m from the UK and Welsh Governments through the Mid Wales Growth Deal to support regional progress as a number of projects move through business case development and approval processes towards delivery.

The Growth Deal is focused on creating long-term economic opportunities for the region, supporting jobs, improving infrastructure and enabling sustainable growth. It forms part of the wider Growing Mid Wales mission to drive sustainable economic growth across the region. It is supported by a combined commitment of £110m from the UK and Welsh Governments, and aims to leverage further public and private investment of over £300 million.

Mid Wales Regional Transport Plan

The Mid Wales Regional Transport Plan has been developed by Growing Mid Wales, in a partnership between Ceredigion and Powys County Councils via the region's Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), and has been approved by the Welsh Government. As a result, £13 million of funding has been allocated to improve transport across Mid Wales, as the region moves from strategic planning towards practical, on-the-ground improvements.

The majority of the funding is capital investment and will be spent on physical improvements focused on delivering transport infrastructure that improves everyday journeys. This includes investment in active travel, bus infrastructure, electric vehicle charging and targeted improvements to key routes and places across the region.

The funding builds directly on the priorities and evidence set out in the Mid Wales Regional Transport Plan, which aims to improve regional connectivity, support sustainable travel choices, and improve access to employment, services and communities in a predominantly rural region. It also reflects

continued collaboration between Mid Wales local authorities through the CJC to deliver strategic transport improvements at a regional level.

The Regional Transport Plan has been shaped by engagement with communities, businesses and stakeholders across Mid Wales. A public consultation on the draft plan took place in early 2025, inviting people to share their experiences of travelling in the region and highlight priorities for improvement. Feedback highlighted the importance of safer walking and cycling routes, better public transport, improved rural connectivity and transport solutions that reflect the geography and character of Mid Wales, and this has directly informed the final plan and the schemes now being progressed.

Schemes being progressed include:

- Phase 1 of Newtown Riverside active travel works
- Phase 1 of Brecon to Groesffordd active travel improvements
- Phase 1 of Brecon High Street transformation
- Improvements to bus infrastructure across both local authorities
- Expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across both local authorities
- Completion of Waunfawr to IBERS footway improvements
- Phase 1 of Ridgeway Roundabout improvements

The Regional Transport Plan sets out the region's long-term transport vision, priorities and proposed interventions, providing a strategic framework to guide future transport investment, planning and delivery across Mid Wales.

As work progresses towards implementation, people and organisations across Mid Wales are encouraged to stay informed and engaged. Sign up to the Growing Mid Wales newsletter to keep up to date with the latest developments as the Regional Transport Plan is implemented and moves into delivery: www.growingmid.wales/Newsletters

The Plan, and further information, are available on the Growing Mid Wales website [here](#).

Marches Forward Partnership resilience and green growth planning

Businesses, infrastructure providers and local authorities participated in a workshop organised by the Marches Forward Partnership (MFP) to discuss resilience and green growth opportunities and explore joint action to strengthen the region's response to environmental and economic pressures, with a focus on shared barriers and the practical steps organisations can take forward together.

There was unanimous support from participants for being part of the Marches Business Resilience Coalition and for continuing to work collaboratively through the MFP. Discussions highlighted a clear need to help bridge existing skills gaps across the region, alongside recognition that current regulatory frameworks can act as a blocker to innovation if not addressed in a co-ordinated way.

Participants also emphasised the importance of more joined-up planning and thinking behind work pipelines, including improved data sharing between organisations, to ensure investment

opportunities can be developed and delivered at scale.

The Marches Forward Partnership is led by Powys and Shropshire county councils and the workshop sits within the MFP's wider programme of work to support green growth and long-term resilience across the region, which includes:

- The Marches Environmental Investment Platform (MEIP): A platform 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 (EDV): A proposed governance model to bring together communities, buyers, investors, policy makers and delivery partners.
- The Severn Valley Water Management Scheme (SVWMS): A pilot project led by the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Powys and Shropshire Councils to explore large-scale water infrastructure solutions.

The workshop contributed to the green growth programme's aim of developing a regional model for long-term environmental investment, supported by the Marches Business Resilience Coalition.

Insights from the session will shape the next phase of MFP programmes, including work on long-term investment, MEIP development and more co-ordinated cross-border collaboration, including delivery of the SVWMS.

[Growing Mid Wales newsletter](#)

The March newsletter includes articles on.

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

[WAST newsletter](#)

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

The March 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

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 12th March

The substantive focus of the meeting was the review of the new household recycling centre booking system and DIY waste charging system.

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 March.

Items discussed included:

- An update on the review of post-16 education and the engagement process
- The review of the household recycling centre booking and DIY charging systems
- The tree risk management and care policy
- The Housing Revenue Account 30-year business plan 2026/27
- A report on the Local Growth Fund
- The Digital Strategy 2026 – 2030
- The Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan Quarter 3 performance report
- A report recommending a discretionary Council Tax discount for self-catering holiday businesses
- A report on the food and drink hospitality rates relief scheme 2026/27 2020
- Reports on the financial and capital forecasts for the year ending March 2026
- A report recommending the writing-off of a debt related to the Town Centre Capital Grant Scheme 2020

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 5th March.

Questions from members of the public comprised:

- A public question about the asylum dispersal scheme
- A public question about street lighting and the dark skies status scheme

Items discussed included:

- The Council Tax resolution for 2026/27
- A report seeking approval to revise the Inter Authority Agreement for the Wales Pension Partnership to enable the incorporation of the partnership into a new investment management company in line with the Welsh Government's Fit for the Future pension fund management arrangements
- The Governance and Audit Committee annual report
- A report on the Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27

Motions discussed by council comprised:

- A motion to reinstate the Ministry of Defence Statement of Common Ground in the Powys Local Development Plan
- A call for the county council to declare a Powys health emergency crisis
- A motion calling for further focus on suicide prevention measures

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](#).

Sian Cox, Councillor for Llangors with Bwlch

1st April 2026

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