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1. Community Information

Go Safe and Dyfed-Powys Police speed enforcing

Speed enforcement is carried out not just by Go Safe (which is a partnership of the four Welsh police forces, the 22 local authorities and Welsh Government) but also by individual police forces, acting outside Go Safe.

Dyfed Powys Police Roads Policing Unit carry out several different operations, including Op Apex, which aims to reduce fatal and serious motorcycle collisions, and Op Spotlight, focusing on speeding, seatbelts, mobile phones and drink/drug driving. RPU officers carry out regular patrols and work closely with DPP's Neighbourhood Policing Teams. RPU officers also work with Go Safe to carry out Go Safe operations to improve road safety, such as the recent Op Atal on the A40 in Bwlch.

Go Safe are looking to carry out another enforcement operation in Bwlch in June. Some residents have observed that the time of the last one, which was between 9.54am and 10.30am, is not one when speeding is typically at its worst. Go Safe have told me that they recorded only one speeding vehicle while they were there that day, which does not align with the speeding intensity recorded across several community speed watch sessions last year, and I have asked Go Safe if they schedule enforcement activity around times of day when speeding is known or likely to be higher, such as the commute (07.30-09.30), and noted that outside of commute periods, high-speeding vehicles are likely to be either fewer or less frequent.

Go Safe run three Op Atal teams in Wales, which cover the three Fire Service areas. The team operating in Powys therefore also covers Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Neath/Port Talbot.

DPP has a new interactive system, Dyfed Powys Connects, which residents can use to check a range of relevant activity in their areas. DPP's Roads Policing Sergeants and Neighbourhood Policing Teams are using it to communicate with their local communities, and residents who sign up can use the platform to reply to their updates.

More information about Connects is available here: <https://www.dyfed-powysconnects.co.uk/>

I've signed up and will share updates with residents.

Draft electric vehicle charging infrastructure strategy

The draft electric vehicle charging infrastructure strategy sets out the plan for developing a fair, accessible and reliable network of charge points across the county and is currently out for consultation with residents, businesses and visitors.

Rural counties face specific challenges, including limited infrastructure and the cost of operating vehicles across long distances. The consultation invites local people to share their insights and experiences, and help identify where future charging provision is needed.

Businesses, community organisations and residents are all encouraged to take part, and to share the

consultation via their own networks and social media (please see optional posters attached).

The online survey is available [here](#).

Paper copies are available at Powys libraries

Charter for the rights of the River Wye

The county council's Cabinet has approved the adoption of the Charter, which recognises the intrinsic rights of the River Wye as:

- The right to flow and perform natural functions
- The right to biodiversity
- The right to be free from pollution
- The right to be supported by a healthy catchment
- The right to regenerate
- The right to representation

The charter also establishes a framework for action to improve the river's ecological condition.

The River Wye is designated as a Special Area of Conservation and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, but remains in a degraded condition due to pressures including pollution, nutrient overload and climate change. Adopting the charter supports the county council to embed its principles into key policies and decision-making processes, including planning and land management, and to ensure the river's health is considered across its work.

The charter has been developed collaboratively by the Wye Catchment Partnership and Nutrient Management Board, bringing together expertise from local authorities, environmental organisations and communities to create a shared framework for action across the river catchment.

The work was initiated by Herefordshire County Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture and Environment, Cllr Alicia Swinglehurst, who is the Chair of the Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board. Cllr Swinglehurst worked closely with Tom Johnstone, Director of the We Are Nature Based CIC, who has worked for several years on bringing the rights of rivers into strategic decision-making processes. The work on the Wye has been led by a team of four which includes Cllr Jackie Charlton, Cabinet Member with responsibility for climate and nature in Powys County Council, also a member of the Wye NMB; Cllr Catrin Mably, Cabinet Member for Climate and the Environment on Monmouthshire County Council; and Liz Bickerton, Deputy Chair of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority. In Powys, Cllr Charlton wrote and presented a paper to Cabinet proposing recognition of the rights of the river and adoption of the Charter, and this was approved by Cabinet on 19th May (see Cabinet item on page 16 for the link to the papers).

One aspect of the early work across Herefordshire, Monmouthshire and Powys was an agreement by the Nutrient Management Board formally to appoint a 'Voice of the River Wye' onto the board, so that the river is represented and has a vote in NMB decisions. A post with job description was

created and formally recruited to. Ecologist Dr Louise Bodnar was appointed in April 2025, following an interview in which she impressed panellists by answering every question put to her as the river (not as herself speaking about the river). Further information about Dr Bodnar's work as the voice of the river is available from Friends of the River Wye at: friendsoftheriverwye.org.uk/voice-of-the-wye

A BBC article about the adoption of the Rights of the River Wye Charter in Powys is available [here](#).

Research study on water resources management skills gap

Water resources management (WRM) plays a key role in supporting nature, managing risks such as flooding and drought and keeping communities safe.

A new report has highlighted a growing skills gap in WRM across Shropshire and Powys. The research was conducted by the University of Chester, via the Centre for Living with Climate Change (CLiCC) demonstrator project, which is managed by Shropshire Council on behalf of the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme.

The report recognises that the region is facing increasing pressure from climate change, population growth and an ageing workforce. It explores training, career pathways and skills development on the ground across the water sector, identifying skills gaps and what is needed to strengthen the workforce for the future.

Skills required for WRM include specialist technical expertise in areas such as hydrology, engineering, ecology, data analysis and mapping, and strong problem solving, communication, community engagement and project management skills. The report identifies a mismatch between education and practice. It finds that specialist courses such as degree-level hydrogeology are in decline, awareness of WRM careers is low in schools and colleges, and there are few clear vocational or entry level pathways into the sector. Also, while many courses provide a good theoretical foundation, they often offer limited opportunities to develop applied, real-world skills. This places a burden on employers to provide on the job training, which can be particularly challenging for smaller organisations with limited capacity.

The report sets out practical steps to help address these challenges locally. These include developing a regional water resources management skills and competency framework and establishing clearer career pathways for young people and career switchers, including both degree and non-degree routes.

It also recommends creating a CLiCC skills space to coordinate applied training, mentoring and shared learning across organisations, to make it easier for people to build and maintain skills without leaving the region

In recognition of the challenges and imperatives, the Marches Forward Partnership is fast-tracking strategic investment in people and training that will enable WRM innovation, supported by a skilled, locally rooted workforce.

The full report is available [here](#).

Transformation of Powys bus network

Upgraded buses

The first of 15 vehicles to be comprehensively upgraded through funding provided by the Welsh Government, in partnership with Transport for Wales (TfW), have been delivered ready for use. The remaining refurbished buses will be delivered in phases between now and September 2026.

The refurbished buses bring a range of improvements for passengers, including:

- Modern audio-visual 'next stop' information
- Improved bilingual signage throughout
- More comfortable seating
- Newly installed CCTV systems to enhance safety
- USB ports for passengers to use during journeys
- Refurbished engines to improve reliability
- Euro 6 engines which produce significantly lower emissions than older vehicles

The refurbished buses will be deployed on routes in the north and mid of the county.

Demand-responsive (Fflecsi) buses

The fifteen refurbished buses are not destined for use in South Powys. However, the introduction of demand-responsive transport (DRT) is scheduled to begin across Powys in Summer 2026.

DRT is an initiative run by Transport for Wales (TfW) in partnership with local councils and bus operators. Fflecsi buses operate within a designated service area but instead of following fixed timetables and stops, they pick up and drop off passengers according to bookings made via an app or by phone to a bilingual call centre. The service uses technology to route buses dynamically in response to real-time passenger demand.

The fflecsi system is designed to replace or complement scheduled bus routes.

Further information is available at: <https://tfw.wales/fflecsi>

Other new buses

A batch of brand-new Powys branded buses will also be launched in Autumn 2026, and new electric buses in the Spring of 2027.

These initiatives represent steps in a wider transformation programme for bus services in Powys, being delivered by the county council in partnership with TfW. The programme will continue investment in buses and services across the county over the coming years and aims to create a more integrated and accessible network, with improved coordination of routes, fares and timetables.

Roundtable on collaborative private sector investment in resilience and nature

Representatives of the Marches Forward Partnership have taken part in a national policy roundtable

exploring how nature and economic growth can be delivered together.

The Roundtable on Collaborative Private Sector Investment in Resilience and Nature was led by the Environment Agency, Natural England and consultants 3Keel. The Marches Forward Partnership's initiative aiming to position the region as the Capital of Rural Britain was selected as the framing to shape the discussions.

The roundtable brought together government officials and partners to explore how local, place-based collaborations can bring businesses and public bodies together to manage land, water and infrastructure in a way that supports both environmental recovery and economic growth.

The work recognises that a strong and resilient regional economy depends on healthy natural systems and that by taking a whole-system approach to land, water and infrastructure, organisations working collaboratively can support growth while strengthening the natural environment. The work of the Partnership includes the development of new approaches to green growth, water resilience and long-term infrastructure planning. It aims to demonstrate that rural areas can deliver practical solutions that benefit both the economy and nature.

The Partnership is led by Powys County Council and Shropshire Council.

Transformation of long-term residential and nursing care in Powys

A long-term transformation of the twelve older people's care homes and one reablement facility owned by the county council, agreed by Cabinet in 2025, will now begin following the award of the 15-year delivery partner contract.

The transformation project redesigns care and nursing provision to meet changing demographics and the changing needs of the older population. It aligns with the parallel work to support people to live healthily at home for longer, and redesigns residential provision so that it focuses on the complex needs, including the wide variety of types of dementia, that people entering residential care much later in life are more likely to be living with.

The contract was awarded following an extensive competitive tender process. The delivery partner, Shaw Healthcare, is the county council's existing operator. Residents and staff should therefore experience no disruption to services as the new arrangements take effect (from 1st June 2026).

Under the new partnership arrangements, Shaw Healthcare will work with the council to deliver a substantial programme of care home modernisation over the next decade, creating high-quality, future-proofed environments that can support a wider range of needs, including increasingly complex care and dementia support.

The county council and Shaw Healthcare will also work closely with residents, families, staff and community stakeholders to shape services that meet current and future need.

Shaw Healthcare is an employee-owned organisation.

Youth Service renewal of Bronze Youth Work Quality Mark

The Bronze Youth Work Quality Mark recognises the high standard of support provided to young people and strong standards across all areas of practice, and safe, inclusive and impactful youth work for young people aged 11 to 25. The county council's Youth Service won the award three years ago and its has been renewed for another three years.

Assessors praised the service's clear vision, dedicated staff and strong partnerships, and the wide range of opportunities available to young people across youth clubs, outreach work and targeted support for those who need it most. Assessors particularly recognised the way in which young people's voices shape activities and services, and the positive impact of the county's youth work in building confidence, resilience and a sense of belonging in the young people it supports.

Powys Economy and Climate Team Bi-Monthly Newsletter

The county council's Economy and Climate Team now produces a bi-monthly newsletter. The latest edition includes news on the Regional Skills Business Survey; a project exploring how locally produced green hydrogen could replace diesel in forestry machinery; a funding scheme to support organisations to trial and implement low-cost Long Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) sensors and systems; and training and funding opportunities for businesses, projects and groups.

The newsletter is available to view and download [here](#).

Bipolar condition peer support groups

The Brecon Support Group for people living with Bipolar condition meets in person and also participates in online Wales Support Groups meetings:

Brecon Support Group:

2nd Thursday of March, June, September and December, 11 am - 12pm.

The venue is Brecon & District Mind, Ty Croeso, St David's House, 48 Free Street, Brecon LD3 7BN

The Wales Combined Support Groups:

First Thursday of every month, 5pm -6pm.

Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87622438874>

Powys private landlords' forum

The Landlords Forum was launched recently by the county council to offer practical support and reassurance to landlords at a time when the housing sector faces significant legislative and regulatory change, including new legal requirements around property standards, energy efficiency

and tenant management. It was created in response to concerns raised by local landlords. The Forum recognises that landlords are an essential part of Powys' housing system, particularly in rural communities, and aims to support those who provide good-quality homes by reducing confusion and uncertainty and offering clear, straightforward advice.

The forum will bring together housing specialists from the county council and Rent Smart Wales representatives, and will focus on:

- Changes to housing legislation and landlord responsibilities
- Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and property standards
- Registration, licensing and compliance
- Practical steps landlords can take now to prepare for future changes.

The Forum aims to strengthen relationships, improve standards, and help create a fairer, more stable housing market across the county, by working closely with landlords and listening to the issues they raise.

Private landlords are encouraged to register and submit questions by email to:

housing@powys.gov.uk.

Any questions submitted will allow the council to shape the agenda around the issues that matter most locally.

Where possible, responses will be provided ahead of the event so that the forum itself can focus on more detailed discussion.

The forum meets on 29th June, at 5pm, at County Hall in Llandrindod Wells.

Volunteer programme for the Tour de France

9,000 volunteers are being sought across Wales, England and Scotland to support the six stages of the Tour de France UK Grand Départ in 2027, including for the Powys stage on 4th July.

Volunteers will perform a range of roles to support event operations and enhance spectator experience, providing a link between the cycling and its fans and communities, and helping to ensure the races run seamlessly.

The minimum age for eligibility is 16, full training is provided and no prior volunteering experience is required.

Applications opened on 27th May and can be made at: www.letourgb.com/volunteer

Registration closes on 1st September 2026.

The volunteer programme is designed to be accessible to all, including first-time volunteers and people from underrepresented groups in volunteering.

Those aged 18 to 25 years will also be eligible to join the social impact programme's Readiness to

Work scheme. The scheme will provide a comprehensive package of employability skills training and career-focused mentoring across multiple sectors.

The volunteer programme and Readiness to Work scheme aim to create a collective of passionate and skilled volunteers as a legacy of the Grand Départ in communities across the country.

The Grand Départ GB social impact programme has been named JOY (a proper noun, not an acronym) and volunteers will be referred to as JOY Makers.

Stage three of the 2027 Tour de France will begin in Welshpool and finish in Cardiff on 4th July.

The peloton will travel from Welshpool up the Severn Valley to Newtown, south to Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells, across Mynydd Epynt to Brecon and across the Bannau Brycheiniog towards Merthyr and Cardiff.

Further information and updates about the 2027 Grand Départ will continue to be available at: letourgb.com

Competition to design Tour de France poster

The Grand Départ GB's social impact programme is hosting a competition for pupils and students to design the official 2027 Tour de France and Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift posters, which will be unveiled in Paris in October 2026.

The winning artwork will be used across the entire event, roadside and worldwide, in promotional materials published by race organisers the Amaury Sport Organisation (ASO).

The competition is for students enrolled on art, design, graphics and photography courses in sixth forms and further and higher education in all the areas hosting next year's Grand Départ in the UK.

An expert panel headed by award winning artist Lucy Pittaway will judge the submissions. Shortlists for both the Tour de France and Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift will be put forward by the panel to ASO, who will select the final winners for each race and then work with them to develop their designs ahead of the October reveal in Paris.

The winners will be invited to the French capital for the official unveiling of their artwork in October and will be awarded a hospitality experience at one of next year's UK stages.

Lucy Pittaway is a former graphic designer and teacher who has been recognised with awards including 'UK's Most Popular Published Artist' in 2018, 2019, and 2022 by the Fine Art Trade Guild.

The competition opened on 4th May and will close at 5pm on Friday 26th June 2026.

Further information is available at: letourgb.com/poster-competition

Information about the competition, other ways to get involved and the route that will be taken through Powys in 2027 is also available in a dedicated section of the county council's website [here](#).

The poster chosen to represent the 2026 race can be viewed at: letour.barcelona/en/poster

The Times newspaper accolade for Radnorshire Museum

Radnorshire Museum in Llandrindod Wells has been named as one of the UK's top museums by The Times, in an article by the paper's chief art critic listing her top nine.

Radnorshire Museum's collections tell the story of the historic county's cultural heritage and identity through archaeology, natural history, geology, social history and fine art and across thousands of years of local history. The museum is free to enter.

The Times article is available [here](#).

Further information about the museum is available [here](#).

Further funding approved to deliver Elan Valley Lakes project

The Growing Mid Wales Board has approved funding to enable the next stage of the Elan Valley Lakes project to begin.

In March 2025, the project received £565,500 of Growth Deal funding to support early delivery activity. This has enabled initial work to begin on key elements, including plans for the expansion of the Celtic rainforest and the design of a new visitor centre.

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water will now receive a further £3.81 million to progress delivery of the full project. The £4.37 million investment forms part of a wider package, and is matched with a 50% investment by Dŵr Cymru.

The project will create a flagship visitor destination for Mid Wales, to build on the area's natural, cultural and heritage assets. Planned improvements include expanded visitor facilities to address peak-time demand, a new exhibition space and 'planetarium', enhanced café and viewing areas, improved accessibility, and low-carbon infrastructure such as EV charging.

The project aims to create year-round tourism opportunities, increase visitor spend, support jobs and apprenticeships, and strengthen the regional economy, while also supporting Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water's journey towards net zero.

The investment marks a milestone for the Elan Valley, Mid Wales and Welsh Water. The project will help ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy and learn from the Elan Valley's special environment, provide a boost to the local economy, support sustainable tourism and growth and protect and celebrate the landscape of the 72-square-mile estate.

The Mid Wales Growth Deal sits within the broader Growing Mid Wales partnership and is a long-term investment providing capital funding to support regionally significant economic infrastructure which 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 aims to create long term jobs and increase productivity, and plays a key role in catalysing economic recovery and growth across the region.

The current visitor centre at Elan Valley offers a café, gift shop, adventure playground and bike hub. Bike hire is available daily. Throughout the summer school holidays, it offers behind-the-scenes dam open days, and a programme of nature trails and family-friendly craft activities.

The Growth Deal funding will be ringfenced for the approved capital project and subject to standard monitoring and reporting procedures.

Further information is available at: elan-valley.co.uk

Further information and monthly newsletters about Growing Mid Wales are available at: growingmid.wales/Newsletters

Celebrating refugees children's artwork exhibition

Venues in Brecon, Crickhowell and Hay-on-Wye will host an exhibition of work by local school pupils recognising and celebrating refugees, throughout June and July.

Schools were challenged by local sanctuary group Hay, Brecon and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees to work collaboratively to celebrate refugees in imaginative and creative ways. The opening event will be at Theatr Brycheiniog on Friday 12th June, from 4-5pm. Certificates will be presented to the schools which participated.

The exhibition received more than 30 entries from nine schools.

The exhibition will be at Theatr Brycheiniog until the end of June, then at Hay Castle from 1st to 15th July, and finally at Oriel CRIC Gallery in Crickhowell from 20th July until 1st August.

A poster for the event on 12th June is attached.

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 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.

Partner updates

Powys Nature Partnership

The Powys Nature Partnership (PNP) is a collaborative initiative between organisations and individuals focused on halting and reversing the decline of biodiversity across Powys. It is one of 25 Local Nature Partnerships across Wales which form part of a national Wales-wide nature recovery network.

The Powys partnership is hosted by Powys County Council and acts as the main coordinating body for nature recovery activity in the county. It coordinates, promotes and records nature recovery activity across Powys; provides a collective voice for nature in local decision-making; supports collaboration and funding opportunities between public bodies, charities, community groups and land managers; and embeds national biodiversity priorities into local action for Powys communities.

A central function of the partnership is delivering the Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan, which translates the Welsh Government's Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales into local priorities, identifies key habitats, species, threats and opportunities, guides projects, partnerships and funding bids across Powys and supports the development and effectiveness of ecological networks.

Membership is open and includes public bodies, environmental organisations and wildlife charities, community and voluntary groups, local experts, land managers and individual volunteers, and the Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and the Brecon Beacons (BIS).

In practice, the partnership supports and enables habitat restoration and creation (woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, pollinator sites); community-led nature projects through programmes such as Local Places for Nature; wildlife recording and citizen science; advice to communities, councils and organisations on biodiversity; and engagement with schools, businesses and residents to reconnect people with nature.

The partnership produces a monthly newsletter. May's edition is attached.

Growing Mid Wales newsletter

The May newsletter includes articles on the Elan Valley Lakes project, the adoption of Long Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) technology, a Mid Wales Business Innovation Exchange at Aberystwyth University, the #UKREIIF2026 conference on unlocking green growth across Wales, the Local Policy and Innovation Partnership (LPIP) Rural Business Survey and a feature about a female construction apprentice, among other stories.

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

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

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

Welsh Ambulance Service Trust newsletter

The WAST newsletter includes articles on the first anniversary of the WAST's wellbeing objectives and on the reflections of the UK's only two female ambulance chief executives; and news and updates about service performance, the work of staff and volunteers and events across Powys.

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

2. Council Information

County council year-end financial update

In the financial forecast for 2025/26 presented to Cabinet on 19th May, the county council's finance team documents its budget activity and its investments in schools, roads, housing and community facilities across the financial year and demonstrates that it remains on track to deliver within budget at the end of the year.

The report sets out the challenges of managing finances and maintaining a stable financial position and resilience in the context of rising costs, high demand for services and ongoing global uncertainty. The report shows that much of the investment is being supported by external Welsh Government and UK Government grant funding, which helps to limit borrowing and reduce the pressure on council taxpayers.

£80 million in long-term investment across schools, highways, council housing, leisure facilities and climate focused projects was planned for the financial year. Just over £40 million had been spent by the end of February 2026 (the period covered by the financial forecast), with the remaining investment scheduled to take place by the end of March, or moving into the 2026/27 year where projects are still in the process of being delivered.

Projects include:

- Repairs and upgrades to school
- Road resurfacing, bridges and flood protection
- Improvements to council housing and delivery of new homes
- Leisure centres, libraries and public toilets
- Electric vehicle charging points and local nature schemes

The report forecasts an underspend of 1.32% (£3.4 million) on its day-to-day budget for the year. This reflects tight spending controls, planned reprofiling of funds, careful use of grants and improved income in some areas, particularly Adult Social Care. Income in Adult Social Care has been higher than expected this year due to a greater number of jointly funded care packages. The one-off increase in income helped to manage pressures during the 2025/26 financial year, but it does not remove the longer-term challenges. These include the impact of current world events, already being experienced in the form of cost rises, particularly across travel and transport, and wider economic pressures are expected to persist. Any unspent funds will be used to strengthen reserves, to help manage continuing pressures such as inflation, fuel costs, severe weather events and growing demand for services.

Council leaders write jointly to King Charles

Leaders at Powys County Council and Shropshire Council have written to the King to highlight the work of the Marches Forward Partnership, a collaboration between Powys, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire and Shropshire councils to strengthen the rural economy across the England/ Wales border.

In a joint letter sent on 11th May 2026, Councillor Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council and Councillor Heather Kidd, Leader of Shropshire Council, noted the King's call in his address to the United States Congress to recognise the importance of protecting nature as a foundation for prosperity and long-term security.

The leaders noted that the King's message closely aligns with the Partnership's work alongside business and infrastructure partners to position the region as the 'Capital of Rural Britain' and to collaborate in a practical approach to putting rural needs, natural assets and infrastructure at the centre of economic decision-making.

They promoted the region for being rich in 'rural capital' such as land, water, food systems, energy and infrastructure, and stressed that these natural and built systems are not separate from the economy but form its foundation, underpinning national food security, water resilience and critical services.

Their letter also pointed to the growing challenges facing the region, including flooding, water stress and ecological decline, and the impact these pressures have on communities, supply chains and economic growth.

The letter also highlighted the opportunity to address these challenges through integrated, place-based approaches that protect and restore natural systems while supporting sustainable growth.

One such new approach is the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme, which explores how natural and engineered solutions can be embedded into long-term planning and investment decisions.

The letter concludes that safeguarding nature should not be seen as a barrier to growth, but as the foundation for a more secure, resilient and prosperous future.

Councillors Berriman and Kidd hope the Partnership's work will resonate with the King's longstanding commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

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)

Cabinet met on 19th May.

Items discussed included:

- A review of the county council's Risk Appetite Statement
- The financial and capital forecasts for the year ending 31st March 2026
- A report on the Statutory Notice Period objections to the a recommendation to the proposal to close the Cradoc campus of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan
- A proposal to adopt a Charter for the Rights of the River Wye
- A paper recommending approval and adoption of the Route Map to Net Zero
- An update report on the activity of the Corporate Safeguarding Board

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

The Economy Residents and Communities committee meets next on 10th June.

The agenda, papers and live stream link will be published in the week before the meeting on the

corporate calendar pages for the meetings via the pathway outlined above.

A direct link to the calendar page for the ERC scrutiny committee meeting is [here](#).

Information about other scrutiny committees (Learning and Skills, Health and Care and Finance Panel) is available via the calendar or meetings pages as set out above.

Full Council met on 14th May.

The agenda comprised:

- Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Assistant Vice-Chair of Council
- Election of council committee members
- Appointments to county council committees
- Appointment of chairs of scrutiny committees
- Appointments to outside bodies
- Appointments to county council working groups
- Consideration of county councillors' salaries, allowances and expenses

Cllr Geoff Morgan, county councillor for the Ithon Valley ward, was elected Chair, succeeding Cllr William Powell, who represents the Talgarth ward.

Cllr Danny Bebb, county councillor for Churchstoke was elected Vice-Chair.

Cllr Peter James, Llanwrtyd Wells, was elected Assistant Vice Chair.

The agenda, papers and webcast (recording) link are available on the calendar page for the meeting, via the pathway outlined above.

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

Sian Cox, Councillor for Llangors with Bwlch

2nd June 2026

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