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1. Community Information

[Public consultation on visitor levy](#)

The county council is seeking residents' views about whether it should consider introducing a Visitor Levy in the county in the future.

The Visitor Levy is a small charge on overnight stays in visitor accommodation. It has been

introduced as an option for local authorities by Welsh Government legislation and councils in Wales can decide whether to introduce it locally. Before making any decision, Powys County Council wants to understand local views about the possible effects on communities, businesses and visitors.

The county council is not proposing to introduce a levy at this stage. It is carrying out initial engagement to understand views from across the county. The feedback will be shared with Cabinet and county councillors to inform consideration of any future approach. Any decision on whether to introduce a Visitor Levy in Powys will be a matter for the next council administration to consider following the elections in May 2027.

Were Powys to introduce a Visitor Levy in the future, there would need to be a further formal consultation process. The earliest the levy could be introduced in Powys would be 2028.

The rates are set by Welsh Government for the whole of Wales. Current rates are 75p per person per night for campsites, pitches and hostels, and £1.30 per person per night for all other visitor accommodation types. Some stays would not be subject to the levy at all. These include longer stays of more than 31 days, stays at someone's sole or main residence, and certain emergency or temporary housing situations.

This initial engagement asks people what they think about the principle of a Visitor Levy, the possible impacts on communities and businesses, and how any income should be used if a levy was introduced in the future. Potential uses could include spending on visitor facilities, public toilets, footpaths, signage, environmental protection, visitor information, events and destination management.

Points residents might consider include balancing the importance of tourism to Powys in terms of supporting jobs, businesses and communities, with the pressures it can create on local infrastructure and services.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the survey to express their views about the idea, whether they support it or object to it, and set out any concerns, and also to learn more.

The survey opened on 24th August and closes on Wednesday 30th September 2026. It should take around 10 minutes to complete and is available in Welsh and English.

The survey is available to complete the online at
<https://www.haveyoursaypowys.wales/visitor-levy>

A direct link is [here](#).

Printed copies will also be available from Powys libraries.

Powys future budget priorities survey

Powys County Council is seeking to gather views from residents about future spending priorities and the services that matter most to them, for budgets over the coming five years.

The survey explains that each year the council must set a budget to fund essential services such as schools, social care, roads, waste and recycling, and that like most councils across Wales, Powys is facing significant financial pressures due to rising costs, increasing demand for services and ongoing economic challenges.

The survey explains the financial challenges facing the council, including the need for additional funding to meet rising costs and continued savings requirements. The survey asks residents for their views on:

- The services they consider most important
- Future investment priorities
- The balance between Council Tax and service provision
- Charging for services to generate additional income
- Long-term priorities for Powys

The feedback will help councillors and officers understand the issues that are most important to residents as work continues on developing the council's budget for 2027/28 and beyond.

Participation is welcomed from residents and community groups.

Paper copies of the survey are available from Powys libraries.

The survey opened on Tuesday 1st September and will close on Wednesday 30th September 2026.

The survey is available online on the Have your say Powys website at:
www.haveyoursaypowys.wales/budget-2026

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

Printed copies are also available from Powys libraries and can be returned to library staff or emailed once completed to: haveyoursay@powys.gov.uk

School admissions applications

The September 2027 admissions application process for Powys secondary schools will be open until 30th October 2026.

Primary school applications will be open from 1st October 2026 until 15th January 2027.

Key information for parents and carers:

- Applications must be made online.
- Applications must be submitted during the application window.
- Late applications can still be submitted, but they may be considered after applications received on time.
- On time applications are considered alongside all other on-time applications.

- Applicants are encouraged to avoid leaving applications until the deadline.
- Information and support will be available through the council's website and admissions team.
- Attending a nursery does not guarantee a primary school place. Parents and carers must apply for a primary school place.
- Year 6 pupils don't automatically transfer to secondary school. Parents and carers must apply for a secondary school place.

The exception to this is learners in Year 6 who attend one of the county's All-Through schools (Ysgol Bro Caereinion, Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Ysgol Llanfyllin, and the new Ysgol Bro Epynt). A secondary school application is not required in these cases, as pupils will automatically progress from Year 6 to Year 7 within their existing school.

However, if parents or carers of a child in an All-Through School wish their child to attend a different secondary school for Year 7, they will need to submit a secondary school application for their preferred school. These applications will be subject to the application process dates and deadlines above.

The online application process is available at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/1158/Applying-for-a-School-Place>

A direct link is [here](#).

New Brecon Play Pod

Play Pods are structured outdoor play environments designed to encourage sensory, creative and imaginative play and development. Three new play pods have been introduced across Powys following the success of the original Machynlleth Play Pod, developed by the Powys Together project. (Powys Together is a scheme funded by Powys Regional Partnership Board to deliver free activities in disadvantaged parts of the north of the county.)

The Machynlleth model showed how a simple community resource supported local play opportunities in the heart of a community, facilitated play that encouraged imagination and movement and helped develop confidence, and supported families and local groups to come together in community.

New play pods have now been placed in Brecon, Knighton and Ystradgynlais.

The play pods have been funded through a Welsh Government Children and Communities grant.

Brecon Play Pod is based at The Uplands. It has hosted play sessions through the Summer school holidays, been used by Brecon Youth Club and was also used for an event to celebrate National Play Day which was organised by Powys County Council's Flying Start team, Powys

Together and Brecon Youth Club.

Community groups are also encouraged to make use of the play pod resources. The pods are designed to be shared, helping local groups and organisations create more opportunities for children and young people to play, connect and be active.

More information about using the play pod resources, and about upcoming sessions, is available from Powys County Council's Flying Start team by email at: flyingstart@powys.gov.uk

Growth Grants for Powys businesses

Business Growth Grants worth between £2,500 and £25,000 are available to Powys businesses to help them invest, innovate and grow. The grants are being delivered by Powys County Council and funded by the UK Government through the Local Growth Fund.

The Powys Business Growth Grant aims to increase capital investment in businesses with high growth potential, to support productivity, innovation, competitiveness, business expansion, job creation and workforce development. The grants can also support businesses to accelerate their growth plans, reach new markets and strengthen their long-term resilience.

Projects eligible for the funding include:

- The purchase of new or second-hand equipment and machinery that will help develop the business.
- Improvements to commercial premises that support business growth.
- IT and digital hardware linked directly to the proposed project.
- Green factory vehicles used in industrial or manufacturing settings.
- Specialist revenue costs associated with capital investment, such as technical training, installation and commissioning of machinery, specialist software, delivery costs, and the development of websites and e-commerce platforms.

Each grant award will be based on 50% of eligible costs, up to £25,000. Businesses are required to provide match funding from private sector sources. Successful applicants must fund their project expenditure in full, and will receive the grant as a reimbursement.

Grants are awarded through a competitive process. Value for money, expected impact and growth potential are key components of the assessment.

The scheme is open to start-up businesses, micro businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 250 employees. Eligible businesses must have a registered address in Powys, and the investment they apply for must support business operations within the county.

Priority will be given to projects in advanced manufacturing and engineering, agriculture,

horticulture and forestry, construction, digital, energy, food and drink, retail, and tourism and leisure; but applications from businesses across all sectors will be considered.

EV Sales and Repairs is a small enterprise in Brecon. It received a Business Capital Grant through Powys County Council worth just over £10,000 last year, which it used towards new equipment to increase service capacity. The company reported that the purchase of the new equipment has enabled them to work much more quickly, carry out more battery upgrades – which represents a major part of their business, income, and future growth – and increase the throughput of the workshop.

All projects supported through the grant must be completed and claimed by 26th February 2027.

Businesses are strongly encouraged to seek support from a recognised business support provider when preparing their application. Free advice and guidance are available through Business Wales, at: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/>

Expressions of Interest opened on 3rd September and close on 28th September 2026.

Further information about the grants, and the submission process for EoIs, are available at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/Powys-Business-Growth-Grant>

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, at Powys.gov.uk

A direct link to the homepage is [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

Planning Aid Wales training for town and community councils and residents

Planning Aid Wales is offering another session of its online training for town and community councils, Planning with Communities: Making Your Voice Count.

The session is interactive and practical and is designed to equip community and town councils with the knowledge, tools, and inspiration to become powerful and effective voices in the planning process. The session is also open to interested residents.

The next training is on Wednesday 30th September 2026, from 6pm to 8pm

Further information, and the booking process, is available [here](#).

Information about the full collection of training through to March 2027 is available [here](#).

Welsh Government public consultation on planning and development

The Welsh Government has launched a public consultation as part of a major revision of the National Development Framework, which sets out how places, communities, infrastructure and natural resources should be planned and managed through the planning system in Wales.

The consultation invites people and organisations across Wales to have their say on the Statement of Public Participation, the National Conversation Engagement Plan, and an accompanying Call for Evidence.

The consultation runs from 19th August to 20th November 2026,

The consultation documents and information about how to take part are available at <https://www.gov.wales/national-development-framework>

A direct link is [here](#).

Neighbourhood Watch podcasts

Neighbourhood Watch has now released six episodes of its new podcast. The podcasts are hosted by comedian Alfie Moore, formerly a police officer. The series brings together broadcasters, journalists, authors and campaigners to talk about crime, community and the experiences that shape people's lives. Episodes explore a range of subjects including burglary, street crime, cyber fraud, romance scams and coercive control, feature personal stories from guests and offer practical advice to help keep people safe.

The podcast was given a place in the top 2% of podcasts globally during its launch week.

All the episodes are available on Acast, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Audible and Pocket Casts.

Further information, access to the podcasts and transcripts for each show are available on the show's webpages at: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/supporting-communities/neighbourhood-watch-podcast>

A direct link is [here](#).

Growing Mid Wales August newsletter

The August GMW newsletter includes an overview of the Shared prosperity Fund in mid Wales, and articles on the new Local growth Fund for Wales, and links to podcasts on the new Wales Regional Transport Plan and on digital infrastructure development in mid Wales.

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

Previous newsletters are available at: growingmid.wales/Newsletters

An accessible version of the newsletter is also available, via the 3 dots in the right-hand corner of the screen and the menu option 'Accessibility view'.

Anyone unable to access the Sway platform which hosts the newsletters can request a pdf version of the newsletter via email at: growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk.

2. Council Information

Political group leaders' public thanks to firefighters 19th August

The leaders of the different political groups in the county council came together on 19th August to thank everyone involved in the response to the summer wildfires across Powys and neighbouring areas.

Leaders acknowledged that the fires placed significant pressure on communities, emergency services and partner organisations and noted that individuals and organisations worked around the clock to help protect lives, property, livelihoods and the natural environment.

Leaders paid particular tribute to the dedication, professionalism, courage and determination of crews from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. They noted that many firefighters serve on a retained basis, balancing emergency duties with their day-to-day jobs. Leaders recognised the sacrifices they and their families made, and thanked the employers who supported staff to serve their communities during this period.

Leaders also thanked and praised the dedication, resilience and willingness to help others of

council staff, farmers, landowners, emergency service colleagues and the many residents who stepped forward to support affected communities and help tackle the fires, contributing specialist skills and equipment, supporting emergency operations, helping each other and keeping communities informed.

Leaders also thanked residents for their many messages of support and encouragement to those involved in the response and assured them that their gestures of appreciation meant a great deal to firefighters, staff, volunteers and everyone working on the frontline and behind the scenes.

Leaders expressed their deep gratitude to all involved.

Leader call to First Minister on resilience collaboration

The Leader of Powys County Council, Councillor Jake Berriman, wrote to the First Minister, Rhun ap Iorweth, on 13th September, seeking collaborative work to design a hill fire mitigation and adaptation strategy fit for the challenges of extreme weather brought about by global heating and climate breakdown.

Cllr Berriman noted the pressures frequent extreme weather events, and their variations across seasons, on homes, communities, places of work and natural landscapes we all love, and how recent events have demonstrated insufficient resilience to adapt to this new reality. He noted that protecting people, property and nature doesn't end when the flames go out, but is the start of a slow process of renewal, recovery, and building better resilience.

The leader offered to share learning from Powys' experiences and the help and support of the county council in devising shared strategies to better respond to present challenges and plan ahead to look after the needs of future generations. He expressed the county council's desire to act at scale to manage water and natural landscapes to improve capacity to hold water in the landscape, reduce flooding, drought and wildfire risk, and give communities and wildlife greater resilience to the extremes currently being experienced and projected to grow worse.

Cllr Berriman also noted a need to think differently about the changing demands on emergency services and to ensure that priorities are properly understood, managed and funded going forward.

He invited the First Minister and his colleagues to Powys to share ideas, and to co-facilitate, develop, and deliver a new national resilience response for Wales.

Leader call for fairer funding formula for Powys

Following an interview with BBC Radio Wales interview on the financial pressures facing councils, the Leader of Powys County Council, Cllr Jake Berriman, called for a change to the way

in which local government funding is allocated in Wales, and for the formula to better recognise the additional costs of delivering services in large rural counties.

Cllr Berriman noted that Powys faces many of the same challenges as other local authorities, including inflation, pay pressures, rising demand for social care and additional learning needs, but that these pressures are sharpened by the county's geography and demography, which make those pressures more acute. He gave examples such as the county council's services being spread much more thinly than those of urban councils, its staff often having to travel further between visits, and its having more roads and infrastructure to maintain.

[Powys is Wales' largest county, occupying a quarter of the country's landmass. Its relatively small population of 133,000 people is dispersed, often thinly, across this very large area. The percentage of its population that is over 65 years old is larger than most other counties, and it has a smaller working-age population and one of the largest local road networks, at 5,500 kilometres (not including trunk roads) in the country. These factors mean services such as social care, education, waste collection, transport and highways cost more to deliver than in more densely populated areas.

Cllr Berriman has made previous calls to the Welsh Government for the funding formula to be revised, with a readjustment in favour of rural areas to properly reflect the real cost of delivering services in very rural, dispersed areas with low population numbers.

In his recent statement he referenced the Sustainable Powys approach to addressing budget and service delivery challenges, using technology and focusing on prevention, but emphasised that fair funding was also required to protect services. He noted the county council's identified £9.708 million funding shortfall in 2027/28 and cumulative shortfall of £28.777 million to 2030/31, alongside the millions of pounds of annual savings achieved every year over recent years and the £12 million of savings built into the 2026/27 budget.

Cllr Berriman said the council would continue to work with Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association and other councils to highlight the additional costs of rural service delivery and seek fair, sustainable funding arrangements for local services.

His discussion on Radio Wales Breakfast on 20th August 2026 is available on BBC iPlayer. A direct link to the 20th August show is [here](#).

The discussion begins at 8.15am.

Powys county council recognised by the ICO for Transparency and Open Data

Powys County Council has been featured on website of the Information Commissioner's Office as one of its Freedom of Information case studies, highlighting the benefits of publishing information openly and transparently.

The case study recognises the work undertaken jointly by the Parking, Business Rates and Taxi

Licensing teams to make data relating to Penalty Charge Notices publicly available online. The proactive publication of this information enables residents and interested parties to access data directly without needing to submit Freedom of Information requests.

This approach reduces administrative time spent responding to routine information requests, thereby allowing staff more time to focus on delivering services. The information is available through the Council's Parking Policy, Annual Reports and Information webpages.

Further information on the benefits of proactive publication is available on the ICO's website at: <https://ico.org.uk/>

A direct link to the ICO Case Studies is [here](#).

A direct link to its segment on the Benefits of Proactive Publication 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)

To submit a question for the October full council meeting, email publicquestions@powys.gov.uk by 5pm on Tuesday 15 September.

Cabinet did not meet in August and meets next on 22nd September.

The agenda, papers and livestream webcast link will be available on the calendar page for 22nd September in the week before the meeting, via the pathway set out above.

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

The Economy Residents and Communities committee did not meet in August and meets next on 9th September.

Items to be considered include:

- A report on Cabinet and officer responses to the committee's recommendations made in meetings in March, June and July
- A report on progress to improve the county council's compliance with Food and Hygiene Standards
- Reports on the county council's Quarter 1 Revenue and Capital Forecasts

The agenda, papers and livestream webcast link are available on the calendar page for 9th September via the pathway set out above.

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

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

Full Council did not meet in July, and meets next on 8th October

The agenda, papers and livestream webcast link will be available on the calendar page for 8th October in the week before the meeting, via the pathway set out above.

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

Residents wishing to submit a question for the October full council meeting must email publicquestions@powys.gov.uk by 5pm on Tuesday 15th September.

Sian Cox, Councillor for Llangors with Bwlch

8th September 2026

Cllr.sian.cox@powys.gov.uk

0780 505 3786

[Facebook.com/SianCoxLlangorsBwlch](https://www.facebook.com/SianCoxLlangorsBwlch)