

## County Council Report for Community Councils – February 2024

### Powys County Council (PCC) Budget

- The draft budget can be found here: [Draft budget published - Powys County Council](#)
- The budget will be discussed by full council on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.
- The meeting can be viewed here: [Agenda for County Council on Thursday, 22nd February, 2024, 10.30 am Cyngor Sir Powys County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

### Appointment of Directors

- The council has recently appointed new directors to the following roles:
  - Director of Education: Dr Richard Jones
  - Chief Officer for Place: Matt Perry
  - Director of Social Services and Wellbeing: Nina Davies
  - Director of Economic Development and Growth: Diane Reynolds
  - Director of Corporate Services: Jane Thomas

### Town Liaison Officers

- Five town centre liaison officers, paid for by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Levelling Up), are now in post and supporting economic development across Powys. Each has been assigned to towns in either northwest, northeast, central, southwest or southeast Powys and have been tasked with advising and helping town councils, businesses, charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups with the planning, delivery and monitoring of economic development projects.
- Their roles have been funded by the UK Government up until the end of 2024, as part of its Levelling Up programme.
- The town centre liaison officers (TCLOs) are part of Powys County Council's Economic Development and Regeneration Team.
- Rhys Howells – Ystradgynlais, Brecon, Builth Wells and Llanwrtyd Wells. Contact: [regeneration@powys.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@powys.gov.uk).

### Opportunities to Learn and Share for Powys Event Organisers

- Commercial and community event organisers in Powys are being invited to get involved in a new project that can help them with training, networking and support. It will also provide an opportunity to find out more about plans for joint marketing campaigns and a new event to be held in the autumn, that will help promote what the county has to offer once the peak summer tourism season is over.
- The project is being delivered by Powys County Council's Economic Development and Regeneration Team, which is looking for interested event organisers to complete this online form, which can be used to explain what help and support would be most valuable to them: <https://formbuilder.evolutive.co.uk/formsite/form/95e746b2-638a-4051-bdaf-c1681a4f3684>
- The project was successful in securing a Shared Prosperity Fund (UK Government Levelling Up) grant worth £100,000 to help support this work.
- Three drop-in sessions for event organisers have been arranged, where they can discuss their plans and support needs, and the project, with members of the council's Economic Development and Regeneration Team:
  - Y Gaer, Brecon, LD3 7DW, Thursday 29 February, 9am – 3pm.

- For more information on the plans for a Powys event network, email: [events@powys.gov.uk](mailto:events@powys.gov.uk)

### Welsh Government Sustainable Farming Scheme

- The final Sustainable Farming Scheme consultation was published in December 2023 and will close on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- More information is available here: [Sustainable Farming Scheme | GOV.WALES](#)

### Welsh Government Council Tax Reform

- Welsh Government has recently ended the phase 2 consultation of its 'A Fairer Council Tax' initiative. The programme will see reform to the existing council tax system in a move to address the inequalities in property wealth.
- More information is available here: [Consultation on a Fairer Council Tax: phase 2 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund

- Projects have received UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Levelling Up) backed grants, totalling more than £2.8m, to help them support Powys communities.
- The successful projects are:
  - Early Intervention Youth Support, £575,000, to Powys County Council's Education Service, for assessment and help for young people facing problems, who are not accessing support at school.
  - Digital Volunteering Pathways Powys, £91,325, to Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations, to improve digital skills across the voluntary sector.
  - Development of Sustainable Land Management, £142,702, to Lantra Wales, for the creation of six accredited training modules for farmers and other land managers to access.
  - Skills for Sustainability, £104,702, to Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations, to employ advisors who will support trustee boards and others in the voluntary sector.
  - Bringing Theraplay Expertise to Child Care, £87,024, to The Family Place, for training in a therapeutic intervention for strengthening relationships, including towards a Foundation Therapy Level 3 qualification.
  - Increasing Access to Work through Beam and Rekindle, £98,026, to Beam Up, to provide training to 150 18-25-year-olds who are either seeking work or are in low-paid jobs.
  - Routes to Work, £261,753, to Powys County Council, to establish a training programme targeted at council occupations facing skills shortages and to provide opportunities that will develop skills.
  - Net Zero Business Skills Development, £103,465, to NPTC Group of Colleges, for a dedicated advisor who will provide information to employers on training opportunities that will help them cut their carbon emissions.
  - Newtown Fashion Technology Academy, £526,603, to NPTC Group of Colleges, to fund the use of technology that will allow designers to work with real-time 3D simulations and a fully equipped facility for garment production.
  - Growing Green Skills Capacity in Powys, £143,895, to Centre for Alternative Technology, for training at least 400 people in sustainable construction, retrofit, woodland management, renewable energy and ideas development.

- AnTir Powys, £161,412, to Tir Coed, to deliver woodland, nature-based, food growing and heritage skills courses and taster sessions, to unemployed, underemployed, isolated and disadvantaged people.
- AgriStart Pilot Project, £155,000, to Lantra Wales, for a scheme providing accredited courses in the agricultural and horticultural sector that will prepare participants for employment.
- Green Future Leaders, £62,332, to Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, to cover paid-internships, long-term work placements and youth groups that will improve the skills and nature knowledge of 10-25-year-olds.
- Digital Technology Learning Support Network, £133,741, to Cardiff Metropolitan University, for a series of bootcamps and workshops that will boost digital skills in Powys.
- Building Potential in Minds, £242,216, to Mid and North Powys Mind, to provide one-to-one mental health support and training to residents aged 11 and over.
- Numeracy Skills Funding
  - Numeracy in Health, £310,317, to NPTC Group of Colleges working in partnership with Powys Teaching Health Board, for a skills audit and to provide a range of maths-based courses to staff.
  - Moving Forward, £191,700, to Threshold DAS, to provide more than 28 accredited courses and qualifications in a wide range of numeracy related subjects, for people from disadvantaged backgrounds, the unemployed, socially isolated, offenders or those at risk of offending.
  - Expand Numeracy Skills for Employed Adults, £235,316, to Mid Wales Manufacturing Group, to provide a range of training opportunities, including to teaching assistants, in collaboration with Powys County Council.
  - Mid Wales Multiply Parents Programme, £235,495, to Equal Education Partners, to provide courses for parents who want to improve their maths skills so they can help their children or aid their own career prospects.
  - Money Mystery, £57,741, to The Family Place, for a practical course about money for care-experienced adults, plus a mystery trip.
  - Cooking Counts, £156,020, to Powys County Council, to run sessions in the county's most deprived areas, to promote healthy eating and discuss budgeting techniques.
  - Numeracy Matters: Developing Effective Numeracy, £105,031, to NPTC Group of colleges, to help employers develop the numeracy skills of their workforce through a range of courses.
  - Numeracy at Home – Empowering Parents, Carers and Guardians to Support Their Children's Learning, £242,418, to NPTC Group of Colleges, to run courses for adults that will include Basic Arithmetic, Everyday Maths and Financial Literacy.

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