

# Powys County Council's Improvement Plan

# SUMMARY

2003/04

**W**elcome to Powys County Council's annual improvement plan summary.

Inside the summary is an overview of the Authority's performance over the past 12 months as included within the Full Improvement Plan. It also sets out some of the key targets for future improvement and highlights some of the important initiatives undertaken by the County Council recently.

The year 2002/03 was an important year for the Authority with the first year of operation for the Council's new political decision making process and the new group directorate structure for its service departments.

Additionally, the Authority has undertaken a full assessment of its corporate and service arrangements, and established a baseline on which improvements can be focussed. Copies of the Authority's Improvement Plan may be viewed at all Council offices and libraries and via our website.

## Powys' Community Plan

An exciting project to find out the views of the people of Powys is under way.

Fifteen new community fora have been set up by the Community Strategy Partnership to find out local views and priorities and draw up a 15 year strategy for the county. All of the meetings for these fora are open to everyone.

The Partnership is made up of representatives of all walks of life in Powys — local government (including town and community councils), other governmental agencies, members of the public, the health service, police, the voluntary sector and the private sector. Together they will create the Powys Community Strategy by April of next year.

The 15 new groups — the Local Community Fora — have been set up based on the planning areas in the county (which are similar to the catchment areas for the county's secondary schools).

Each group's task is to discuss issues of importance to their community and let the Partnership know its findings.

These views will then shape the County's Strategy, which in turn will shape the services provided by public bodies in years to come. The LCF are (each one covers the named town and surrounding areas):

- Llanfyllin;
- Llanfair Caereinion;
- Hay/Talgarth ;
- Crickhowell ;
- Welshpool;
- Knighton;
- Ystradgynlais;
- Rhayader;
- Machynlleth;
- Llanidloes;
- Newtown;
- Presteigne;
- Llandrindod Wells;
- Builth Wells;
- Brecon.

Issues discussed to date include planning and housing, jobs (particularly for young people), other issues relating to young people, community safety and the environment. The development of the Strategy is being guided by a team of officers from Powys County Council, with the help of officers from the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations.

For further information on the times, venues and themes of meetings in your area, or to find out more about the Community Strategy in general, please call one of the following numbers:

In the North of the county (**Montgomeryshire**) please contact **Arwel Evans** on **01983 551239** or email [arwel@powys.gov.uk](mailto:arwel@powys.gov.uk). In the middle of the county (**Radnorshire**) please contact **Rebecca Richards** on **01597 827640** or email [rebeccar@powys.gov.uk](mailto:rebeccar@powys.gov.uk). In the South of the county (**Brecknockshire**) please contact **Delyth Kealy** on **01874 612412** or email [delythk@powys.gov.uk](mailto:delythk@powys.gov.uk).



A new chairman for Powys County Council has been elected. Councillor Col. Tim Van-Rees, replaces outgoing Chairman Councillor Gwilym Evans of Blaen Hafren, represents Llanwrtyd Wells. Councillor Brian Oakley has been elected as Vice Chairman and Councillor Ann Holloway is the new Assistant Vice Chairman.

## Powys Vital Statistics

<b>Total Area of Powys</b>	5196 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Population</b>	126,400
<b>Population Density</b>	24 persons per km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Number of Dwellings</b>	56,527
<b>Number of People economically active, of working age, in Employment</b>	59,000
<b>Length of Road maintained by the Council</b>	5451 km
<b>Number of Council Houses</b>	5,900
<b>Number of Schools</b>	125
<b>Leisure and Sports Centres</b>	16
<b>PCC Budget (Net Expenditure)</b>	£169,678,000

## A-Z of Council Services

A full listing of the services provided by Powys County Council is contained within the Council's A to Z Directory which details the services provided and whom you should contact for the relevant service information. Copies of the Directory can be obtained from local libraries, area offices or Leisure Centres, or by telephoning 01597 826307. Alternatively it may be accessed via our Webpage: [www.powys.gov.uk](http://www.powys.gov.uk) or by emailing [webmaster@powys.gov.uk](mailto:webmaster@powys.gov.uk)

*If you should wish to discuss any of the items included in this summary or any other Council matter, please contact Kate Tibbit in the first instance on 01597 826307.*

**Other contact details:**

**Daytime : 01597 826000**  
**Out of Hours: 01597 825275**

  
**www.powys.gov.uk**