## **Board and Scrutiny**

Councillor Michael Jones Chairman of the Board of the Council

The past 12 months has been a historic time for Powys County Council as it adopted new political and departmental structures.

> Subsequently each Board Member has been given a portfolio of areas of the Council's work. The Board Members will then take a particular interest in developing and supporting these roles, above and beyond their Membership of the Board.

Jacky Tonge

Chief Executive

During the year, the number of service directorates was reduced with fundamental changes in the way that services are provided. Support for Members is now provided through the new Scrutiny and Democratic Services Directorate and the Chief Executive s Unit, which includes Performance Management and ICT and will lead on the implementation of electronic government and ensure that the Council has systems to improve performance in line with Best Value.

The Authority's first Principal Scrutiny Committee was also elected during the same meeting, and this Committee is chaired by Councillor David Jones, of Guilsfield.

The reason for this reduction in the number of directorates was to build on

As well as the Board and the Scrutiny Committee, the other Committees under the new structure are:

initiatives which departments had undertaken to work across traditional service boundaries. Service users wanted effective and integrated services and the new structure has been de-

Shire Committees (The Shire committees take a lead in developing the County Council's Community Plan).

ever Chairman of the Board. The Vice-Chairman is Councillor Gwilym

• Housing Allocations, Transfers & Voids • Care Management

Cross-cutting Reviews:

• Meals on Wheels (Social Services).



signed to support this. The period has also seen the Council appoint its first ever Board as part of historic changes to the Authority s decision making process.

The new 15-strong Board replaced the traditional service

since it was created as a unitary Authority in 1996. Mem-

committee structure, which the County Council had operated

Children, Families and Lifelong Learning Committee

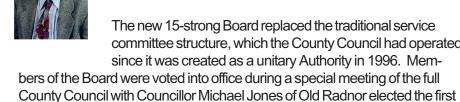
Community Services Committee.

- Economic and Community Regeneration Committee
- Highways and Local Services Committee.
- Corporate Support Services Committee

(These committees have the duty to review and develop policy. These policies, adopted by full County Council, will guide the way the Board makes its decisions.)

- Licensing Committee
- Rights of Way Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Standards Committee (this committee advises on probit and the new Code of Conduct for Members and has lay members on it, drawn from the community).

Councillor David Jones Chair Principial Scrutiny Committee



Vaughan.

## Whole Authority Analysis

Like all local Authorities in Wales, Powys County Council has undertaken a Whole Authority Analysis as part of the National Assembly s Wales Improvement Programme. This analysis focuses on the strategic and operational management of both corporate and service functions, through the examination and identification of current performance and our capacity to improve. The methodology adopted by the Authority in carrying out this analysis was a combination of two models. The first, a model which was developed by the Audit Commission in Wales was used to assess our Corporate arrangements, the second was based on a risk assessment of our services. We are confident that this combination of approaches has ensured a robust and complete evaluation of the Authority's health, in terms of managing and delivering services.

The key areas for the Authority in terms of improvement fall within the following themes, with key results from the Directorate Service Assessments detailed throughout the document

Area for improvement	Outcome
Communications — Internal and External	
Develop an effective communications strategy for internal and	Improve understanding of stakeholder priorities and expectations
external communication channels.	and ensure consistent application across the Authority.
	Improve access to services.
Strategic Decision Making	
Develop a Corporate Plan which provides strategic vision and guidance	Identified Corporate vision and strategic objectives supported by
and enhances inter-departmental co-operation.	SMART Targets.
Develop decision-making in the democratic process.	Improved strategic decision making process
Develop Risk Management processes.	Improved understanding of risks in service delivery.
Promote effective partnership working	Improved capacity for service provision across partners
Human Resource	
Develop Human Resource Planning	Improved recruitment and retention and reduced staff absence (NAW)
	1.10) and ill health retirements (NAWpi 1.12)
Performance Management	
Develop Performance Management techniques.	Facilitate continuous improvement in service delivery
	Improved strategic decision making process
Enhance the capacity for the Identification, collection, verification	Facilitate continuous improvement in service delivery.
and monitoring of performance information.	
Develop Corporate prioritisation of resource allocation.	Improved strategic decision making process and funding of
	improvement initiatives.
Develop Strategic Asset Management arrangements	Improved Access to Services and utilization of building assets
Procurement and Project Management	
Raise awareness of Procurement practices across the Authority.	Facilitate continuous improvement in service delivery.
Develop Project Management across the Authority to improve	Facilitate continuous improvement in service delivery.
management of change implementation.	

The Audit Commission in Wales in April confirmed that the Council's findings were broadly reflective of the risk assessment undertaken by the Council's Regulators.

• The Learning Environment (2004 — 05)• Early Years Education • Adult Education • Housing Tenancy & Housing Estate Management