

# Economic and Community Regeneration

Councillor Gwyn Gwillim



Councillor Gareth Morgan



Councillor John Thompson



## Portfolio Holders

The Directorate determined in its assessment of services that generally more meaningful performance measures, including stakeholder satisfaction, were required. It also recognised the importance of the Community Strategy process and integration of sustainable development principles to all services.

Specific improvements include:

- Achieve ISO 9001 — 2000 for Building Control Services.
- Develop and implement sustainable tourism strategy.
- Develop Arts and Museums strategies.

### POWYS Unitary Development Plan

Preparations for the Authority's new planning policy for the County took a step forward in March 2003 when the Council published for public consultation its first draft of the Powys Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

The UDP is important to everyone who lives or works in Powys as it will set out the Authority's planning policies and proposals for development and use of land in the County - excluding Brecon Beacons National Park - up to 2016. In due course the single unitary Plan will replace the existing system of structure and local plans.

Between March and early May 2003 a seven-week public consultation period and a series of public exhibitions were held on the Draft Plan. All representations made during that period will be considered by the Authority with any amendments incorporated into a Deposit Draft Plan. This amended Plan is likely to be published in Autumn 2004 when further comments and views will be invited.

The Plan is underpinned by sustainable development principles which aim to strike a balance between meeting economic, housing and social needs of Powys communities at the same time as protecting the qualities and features unique to the County, such as its natural and built environments and Welsh language and culture.

It also seeks to improve opportunities for local people by facilitating the provision of employment facilities and range of new dwellings to meet all peoples needs.

As well as setting out strategic countywide planning policies, the Plan provides specific policies for various types of development ranging from the environment right through to minerals and waste. The Plan contains over 200 plans of towns and villages showing where future development may take place.

If you would like further information on the Plan, please contact one of the following Planning Officers: **Mike Lloyd (01938) 551244** [michael@powys.gov.uk](mailto:michael@powys.gov.uk), **Peter Morris (01874) 612283** [petemorr@powys.gov.uk](mailto:petemorr@powys.gov.uk), **Aled Richards (01597) 827288** [aledr@powys.gov.uk](mailto:aledr@powys.gov.uk), **Nick Smith (01938) 551238** [nicks@powys.gov.uk](mailto:nicks@powys.gov.uk).

Graham Davey  
Group Director



### Best Value Reviews

The Directorate has completed three Best Value Reviews since the inception of Best Value, those being:

REVIEW	OUTCOME
Local Agenda 21 (Sustainability)	Green Dragon Environmental Audit and Management System purchased
Workspace Management (Business Workshops)	Additional capital resources had been secured for ongoing maintenance of workshop units
Development Control	The introduction of Public Speaking rights at Planning Committees and extended Officer delegation. Despite there being an increase in applications received, there has been an improvement in the number of applications which are determined within eight weeks.

### Fresh Start - Healthy Heart

A successful fitness programme will go from strength to strength after the Authority obtained funding to develop the programme.

The funding, from the Welsh Assembly Government's Inequalities in Health Fund, will allow the Council to set up and run a community based rehabilitation activity programme for the people of Powys for three years.

This programme, which has been developed after successful classes at Brecon Leisure Centre, will run for 36 weeks with participants being asked to attend two sessions each week. The programme is free-of-charge during the first 12 weeks, with sessions costing £1.75 thereafter.

Participants will benefit from four fitness assessments during the programme and an instructor qualified to standards set by the British Association for Cardiac Rehabilitation (BACR) leads all activity sessions. Health education sessions are also provided free-of-charge during the first 12 weeks.

The programme, which has already started at Brecon and Rhayader Leisure Centres, will be extended to three other venues, with anticipated launches at Ystradgynlais on 7th July and Machynlleth and Welshpool on 11th August.

If you wish to enrol on the programme then speak with your local General Practitioner or hospital-based Cardiac Nurse Specialist. If you would like further information contact Jon Anderson (Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme Manager) on 01874 612277 or Shelley Jackson (Cardiac Rehabilitation Co-ordinating Officer) 01938 554000.

### Development Control

Indicator Description	Actual 2000/01	Actual 2001/02	Target 2002/03	Best Estimate 2002/03	Target 2003/04
The number of advertised departures from the adopted development plan approved by the Authority as a percentage of total permissions granted.	1.30%	1.9%	1%	1.50%	<2%
The majority of Departure applications are for new dwellings in the countryside including farm worker dwellings, local needs dwellings and conversion of redundant buildings to form new dwellings. Powys advertises all such applications as Departures upon receipt of application; some of these applications following detailed examination are subsequently approved in line with policy but nevertheless still need to be recorded in Welsh Assembly statistical returns. The returns may not therefore be totally representative of actual performance.					
Percentage of total applications determined within 8 weeks.	71.10%	61%	71%	69.20%	70.00%
There has been an increase of over 6% in the number of applications from the last year. This increase in workload coincided with both restructuring and a major Best Value Review of development control. In addition, the Service failed to recruit staff and vacancies continue to place pressure on resources. Notwithstanding, the Council has agreed to increase the scope of officer delegation in line with Government recommendations, which is anticipated will achieve improvements in the speed of application determination.					