

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
30th April 2014**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Barry Thomas, Leader

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor David Jones

Will the Leader give details of any ongoing negotiations towards implementing the Living Wage for Powys County Council employees?

Members will recall a Motion being put to Council on 25th October 2012 asking that Council adopts a Living Wage Policy for its employees, Following a lengthy debate it was

“RESOLVED that this Council welcomes the motion to full Council from Councillor M.J. Dorrance and Councillor S.L. Williams and in principle supports the introduction of a living wage. This Council requests that an in depth investigation into the costs and impact upon the Council and its employees is carried out and proposals are presented to the Cabinet by April 2013 prior to reporting to full Council.”

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 26th March 2013 stated that “a report on the living wage would be brought to Council in April”. The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24th April 2013, record that it was “expected a report on the Living Wage to come to the Cabinet in May”. Neither of these reports was presented and, after I was elected Leader, I made enquiries as to what had happened to progress this report. It appears that the matter had not progressed. I therefore asked that work start on the investigations as agreed by Council and, on 6th April 2014, I received an initial “scoping” report, providing information regarding the living wage and outlining the implications for the Council. Since that time I have made further informal enquiries about taking the matter forward. No negotiations with employees have taken place as the adoption of the Policy, as resolved, needs to go to Cabinet and full Council for approval or otherwise. It is my intention to bring a report in the Autumn in order that any decision by Council can be taken into account in the budget process.