

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**County Council  
22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Portfolio Holder  
for Regeneration and Planning**

**SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor David Price**

**Planning Liaison meetings between the County Planning Service and Town and Community Councils have been traditionally held twice yearly in both the North and South of the County and were greatly valued by all concerned. However there has been no Planning Liaison Meetings since April 2012, despite requests from T & C Councils for them to be held. Could the Portfolio Holder please give the reasons as to why these greatly valued meetings have not been held since April 2012 and if she is planning to reinstate them, and if so, when?**

The liaison meetings between the planning service and Town and Community Councils ceased some two years ago. Since that time the planning service has undergone a significant performance improvement process which has resulted in swifter consideration and determination of planning applications. At the same time, the service has contributed to the Council's overall aim of making savings to its budget and has succeeded in achieving greater output with fewer officers, thus increasing its overall productivity. Throughout this process of change, the organisation and administration of a general liaison meeting with Town and Community Councils has not been identified as an activity that will result in a productivity gain. The service receives representations on a very regular basis from Town and Community Councils. We are still looking for greater efficiency gains within the service overall and we hope to move to sending documents to them based on electronic methods in the future. On that basis I am not intending to reinstate the general liaison meetings.