

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
6th March 2015**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Wynne Jones, Portfolio Holder for Highways

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Russell George

Will the cabinet member provide an update on the state of Roads in Powys that are the responsibility of Powys County Council?

The scope of the question is quite general, so my response will be in a similar vein but if a more specific issue is raised, I will gladly respond accordingly. The quick answer to the question is that our county road network is in a state of deterioration, but that it continues to be maintained safely.

Given the current minimal level of budget which we are able to allocate towards the maintenance of our county road network, the emphasis of effort is directed at attending promptly to safety issues and undertaking as much of the fundamental basic maintenance as possible.

Over the last 3 years we have had the benefit of the LGBI (Local Government Borrowing Initiative) scheme which has amounted to an investment of over £15M primarily targeted at bringing some of our non-principal county roads back into repair. This has made some improvement to the overall condition of the county roads, but to put this into perspective, the current balance of identified county road structural repair schemes still stands at approximately £30M, with the current annual maintenance budget roughly at one third of that required to maintain the roads in a 'steady state' (neither improving nor deteriorating).

Without the added capital investment brought by the grant scheme which finishes this year, the challenge to maintain our network over the coming years will be a drastically increasing one, and new methods and innovation will be necessary if we are to allay the potential of an accelerating decline of the state of our road network.