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QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Question From:	County Councillor Iain McIntosh
Subject:	Internet Connectivity in Powys
Question To:	County Councillor Graham Breeze Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance and Engagement

Question:

During the pandemic period, many people have had to start working from home and during this time, Welsh residents have had to rely on their internet connection to be able to carry out their work commitments. Many have unfortunately fallen behind due to poor connectivity with some unable to work from home at all. This continues to isolate residents in rural areas, stifle business growth and prevent economic development.

It has been reported today that UK Government ministers are calling on councils to help deliver digital connectivity ambitions across the UK. - https://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/articles/councils-have-play-vital-role-superfast-broadband-and-5g-rollout?utm_source=Public%20Sector%20Executive&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11781755_Newsletter%20Aug%2027th%202020&dm_i=IJU,70IUZ,RIR0BG,S9Y1K,1 – I have written to the Welsh Government today asking them whether or not they will be doing the same, by calling upon Welsh local authorities to help too.

Can you confirm if Powys County Council will, with or without the guidance of the Welsh Government, help to accelerate the roll out of improved gigabit (1000Mbps) internet connectivity and 5G coverage throughout Powys?

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