



Neuadd y Sir / County Hall, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5LG

## **QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

<b>Question From:</b>	County Councillor Iain McIntosh
<b>Subject:</b>	Education
<b>Question To:</b>	County Councillor Phyl Davies Portfolio Holder for Education and Property

### **Question:**

During an Education member development session on 19<sup>th</sup> January, a representative from Ysgol Llanfyllin revealed that some schools may be willing to explore community classrooms to save schools that are at risk of closure. Furthermore, the school representative claimed that to include all clusters under one umbrella would improve provision and the stability of provision.

I don't believe this option was presented to decision making Cabinet members when asked to determine the future of Llanbedr, Dolau and Cradoc primary schools.

Other options presented to education officers and the Cabinet member for education, Cllr Phyl Davies, by myself, governors and residents within the Yscir ward, regarding the proposed closure of Cradoc Primary School, were also **not** presented to decision making cabinet members during the Cabinet meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> December, where a decision to close that school was made. One of the options, amongst others, was based upon the building of a new primary school in Cradoc.

Within Powys County Council's constitution, under the 'Principles of decision making', it states the following at 13.2.4 – **All decisions of the council will be made in accordance with the following principle: The consideration of any alternative options.**

As decision making about the future of primary schools in Powys is made by **all** Cabinet members, can you reveal why, during meetings where school closure decisions have been made, some alternative options have **not** been presented to all Cabinet members, or considered, as per 13.2,4 of our own constitution?

As elected County Councillors, we are elected to deliver commitments we make to residents within our wards and the rest of Powys during elections. We are also elected to make decisions on policy and service delivery, based upon what we believe to be best for Powys residents, our ethic and principles, political or otherwise. . Prior to my resignation from Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> December and, prior to any Cabinet decision around the future of Cradoc Primary School, I met with education officers. During that meeting I was told 'Look, you're not going to get a new school in Cradoc.'. Therefore, can the portfolio holder for education also please confirm who really makes decisions around schools and the delivery of education in Powys please? If officers within this authority are making decisions about schools, or indeed **any** services, why are we here as elected members?

Does the portfolio holder agree with me, that in light of unexplored options around the education provision for children in Powys, and the threat to rural schools, all current school transformation proposals, to include decisions made around the future of Dolau, Llanbedr and Cradoc Schools, should be paused, to make sure any decisions made about the future of these schools, consider all options?