



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

QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Question From:	County Councillor Jake Berriman
Subject:	Long term empty Council-owned dwellings
Question To:	County Councillor Phyl Davies - Portfolio Holder for Education and Property, County Councillor Aled Davies - Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transport

Question:

In a recent briefing on Housing Services, Members were advised that Powys Council currently has 345 live homelessness cases and appraised of the difficulties and complexities faced by residents in housing need to find suitable, affordable accommodation where they live. We heard of ongoing plans to build new homes and to work with the private sector to bring vacant, long-term void properties back into residential use through an Empty Property Action Plan.

It was disappointing, therefore, to find that this excludes Council owned property, especially as in a recent Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee, when looking through details of schools' assets, I noticed a large number of residential properties, owned and managed by PCC that were empty, and I am advised many of which have been languishing unoccupied your years.

Can the Portfolio Holders please advise on the number of residential properties owned by Powys Council (excluding those managed through the HRA), how many of these have been vacant for more than 12 months, and how long in total, and what the loss of Council Tax revenue is annually, on average, as a result of this regime of managing these residential properties? If, on the other hand, the Council Tax Premium applies to these empty residential properties, can I be advised who pays and where the money goes?