



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

QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Question From:	County Councillor Ian Harrison
Subject:	Powys Library Van redeployment - "Earth Lab in a Van"
Question To:	County Councillor Pete Roberts Cabinet Member for a Learning Powys and County Councillor David Selby Cabinet Member for a Prosperous Powys

Question:

The Institute of Physics has, for a number of years, run a 'Lab in a Lorry' campaign around UK secondary schools, to enable students to gain 'hands-on' experience of a small number of key physics experiments and to meet with STEM Ambassadors with direct experience of science based careers. This initiative was actively supported by Wrexham University for Wales.

During a recent visit to the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Corris, one of the challenges explained by their resident environmental experts is to reach out to younger students, preferably at Primary School level and to support teachers with additional learning opportunities.

I believe we have an opportunity to create a travelling 'Earth Lab in a Van' which could be deployed throughout Mid-Wales, utilising the existing Powys Library Van which I understand is no longer utilised. The van could be reconfigured internally to deliver our Environmental Curriculum to Primary Schools and even converted to an alternative power train (hydrogen or battery). We could also invite STEM Ambassadors and CAT experts to help explain features of the travelling Lab. There are emerging businesses in Powys with this capability, one which I believe should be promoted because of the employment opportunities it would introduce for local hi-tech skills development.

Does Cabinet support the proposal to evaluate redeployment of the Powys Library Van as a mobile 'Earth Lab' demonstrator for Powys Primary School students, in collaboration with the Centre for Alternative Technology?