



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

QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Question From:	County Councillor Iain McIntosh
Subject:	Streaming Council meetings
Question To:	County Councillor James Gibson-Watt Leader and Cabinet Member for an Open and Transparent Powys

Question:

In July this year, the Council Leader Cllr James Gibson Watt made a claim publicly through the press that many Council meetings were not being streamed live due to insufficient funds within the Council budget. This was reported here - <https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/20279478.powys-council-leader-not-enough-money-stream-meetings/>. Cllr Gibson-Watt went on to blame the cuts on the previous administration, that he did not know about this until people started complaining and, that he was trying to sort the issue out as quickly as he can.

Today (1st September 2022) the press has reported that, following a freedom of information (FOI) request costing considerable council taxpayer money, the claims made by the Leader were in fact not true. <https://nation.cymru/news/decision-to-stop-streaming-most-powys-committee-meetings-live-online-made-by-senior-council-staff-foi-reveals/>.

According to the FOI request, the decision to stop broadcasting certain Council meetings was not made until May 26th 2022, **after** the Council elections, when the new Liberal Democrat and Labour administration were controlling the authority. Therefore, no such decision was ever made by the previous administration. Furthermore, no proposals were ever put forward as part of the budget to reduce costs set aside to deliver live broadcasts of Council meetings, and the decision to stop live streaming was in fact made by executive management team members.

Can the leader therefore please;

1. Publicly apologise to all Powys residents, Councillors and previous administration members, for making a deliberately misleading statement?
2. Confirm whether or not he, his Liberal Democrat colleagues and Labour coalition members are in control of this authority, or are Council officers going to continue to make decisions on behalf of elected members?
3. Commit to being an open and transparent administration by immediately enabling the live broadcasting of **all** Council meetings that used to be made available to the public pre-covid?