



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

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

Response by the Cabinet Member:

You will be aware that I relaunched the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys at this year's Royal Welsh Show. The Strategy includes a Vision for education in Powys, a set of Guiding Principles, along with 4 strategic aims which are intended to improve learner entitlement and experience across a number of areas. As part of the Wave 2 Work Programme (2022 – 2027), I am expecting officers to bring forward proposals that meet that Vision, the Guiding Principles and that deliver those Strategic Aims.

As I have already proposed a very different approach to Transformation than that which was carried out by the previous administration, I am expecting officers to review schools on a catchment area basis, where local factors can be considered early on, along with with earlier engagement with school communities. As each catchment area is unique, it is not possible to pre-determine the outcome of any review.

Regarding the Presumption Against the Closure of Rural Schools outlined within the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018, the Cabinet is fully aware that there are additional steps to be taken when a rural school is being reviewed – this process is clearly specified in the Code and, in fact, the courts have confirmed that the approach taken by Powys is fully compliant with the requirements of the Code.