



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

QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Question From:	County Councillor Karl Lewis
Subject:	Cost savings in Powys schools through utilising technology
Question To:	County Councillor Pete Roberts Cabinet Member for a Learning Powys

Question:

With the recent announcement from Powys County Council that they are looking at all options to save on costs and that one way could be looking to teach children remotely at home for one day in every school week. Has the portfolio holder taken into account the lack of internet connectivity we have in many parts of Powys. Not to mention parents having to find child care for that particular day, but also child care cost would be impossible to meet for many households. Understandably this idea has not been welcomed by parents and I understand that this is just one of many ideas the coalition is currently looking at.

With ideas in mind could the portfolio holder or holders answer the following please:

1. Has the portfolio holder looked into zoning the heating systems in our schools into smaller zones than we currently have at the moment in school buildings throughout Powys, so we are not heating classrooms that are not being used at certain times of the day?
2. Every school in Powys has a LoRaWAN gateway installed. Currently LoRaWAN is used to monitor CO2 and humidity in classrooms which has been necessary granted, but it is a bit of a waste of the capability of LoRaWAN, especially as the majority of schools have their own dedicated gateway which are seriously underutilised. Has the portfolio holder looked at the LoRaWAN network as a way to save money by controlling the heating systems in Powys schools?
3. Has the portfolio holder looked at solar battery storage for schools? Also some electricity providers pay very attractive rates for solar battery systems to export their load onto the grid at peak times. Has the portfolio holder looked into this as a possible revenue stream for schools over the weekends and a way of cutting electricity cost during the school week?
4. Has the portfolio holder looked at installing air or ground source heat pumps alongside the current heating systems at school properties? Air source heat pumps work at a ratio of every 1 KW of electricity you put in, you get 3KW of heat out. Throughout the day the electricity input could be offset by solar battery storage.

Ysgol Llandinam would be an excellent school to pilot many of the technologies I have highlighted.