

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council

7th March 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Wynne Jones, Portfolio Holder for Finance

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor William Powell

Will the Cabinet Member please confirm how regularly Powys County Council reviews its consultation methodology? In particular, how does the Authority ensure that it harnesses fully the network of Town and Community Councils, in engaging the maximum numbers of residents, in any given consultation?

Answer from the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Communications

As a County Council we work to the National Principles around Public Engagement for Wales. These principles act as our guiding methodology whenever looking to engage and consult on council business whether this is a new policy or a proposed service change. Whenever a service wishes or needs to engage residents on a particular issue they are advised to consider carefully who their key stakeholders are and to ensure they invite them to have their say on the issue at hand. Town and community councils are often either contacted directly by the service to give their views or pro-actively contribute their views when they see publicity about an issue which affects their community. However, this isn't always the case and there is scope to better harness the network of Town and Community Councils to ensure we reach a wider audience. We would welcome a conversation on how we can improve engagement across the county.