

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
18th October 2018**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Leader

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor William Powell

It is a matter of public record that the town of Talgarth and its economy experienced considerable turbulence in the years leading up to and following the closure of the former Mid Wales Hospital from 1995-2000. In the last decade, the opening of the A479 Talgarth Relief Road, a renewed civic pride, enterprise and purpose and earlier this year the establishment of Ysgol y Mynydd Du have all served to signal fresh confidence in the town's future.

However, the sheer scale of Powys County Council owned sites in the town centre, currently or soon to be declared surplus, combined with the consultation on the Development Brief on the former Mid Wales Hospital site and other allocated sites once again see the town at a cross roads.

Given her understanding of the cross portfolio challenges and opportunities that Talgarth faces, what assessment has the Leader made of the merits of a Strategic Development Plan for Talgarth? With the County Council working in renewed partnership with Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Talgarth Town Council and by harnessing the energy and vision of local people, such a plan would promote holistic, sustainable development of the town at a time of unprecedented growth. To this end, will the Leader please commit to convening an early meeting to establish the groundwork for such a plan?

Response

Officers from Powys County Council have supported many initiatives in the Talgarth area and are currently supporting the Black Mountains College proposal.

The Brecon Beacons National Park being the Planning Authority in the Talgarth area, are actively encouraging communities to develop a Place Plan. I understand that National Park are already progressing the development of a community led plan in Talgarth. Powys County Council will assist the process through our Regeneration Team as required.

As owners of most of the development sites, we cannot wait for a "place plan". I have already spoken with Property & Housing and we are arranging an initial meeting with Head of Housing, Lead Professional – Property, Local Member, Portfolio Holders and me.

Further discussion can then take place with others who will need to be involved.