

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
23 September 2021**

REPORT AUTHOR: Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Economic Regeneration

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor William Powell

Will the Portfolio Holder for Housing please update Council on the latest proposals for reorganisation of the Powys County Council Housing Service, currently subject to consultation?

At a time of intense housing pressure - and given the renewed emphasis by Welsh Government Climate Change Minister, Julie James MS, on the importance of the timely reinstatement of Empty Properties, can the Portfolio Holder please reassure Members that the prize winning Private Sector Housing Team will not be disbanded or eroded in any way?

Response

Housing Services is being restructured with the aim to improve the Council's ability to respond to a changing housing market in which supply and demand need to be better aligned, and to the expectations and aspirations of households to have more opportunities to enjoy a secure, well-maintained home.

A proposal for a new approach to Housing Services, to meet these outcomes, was agreed this summer by Cabinet. The Business Case setting out a proposal for the future of Housing Services, was shared with colleagues on August 3rd. The proposal includes a strong emphasis on local accountability, a tenure blind approach to improving the way the housing market provides and improves homes, and a clear focus on high quality services.

A six-week consultation period on the proposal ended on September 10th. During this time, all colleagues were able to have a 1-2-1 with the Professional Lead for Housing and team meetings and group discussions took place. Now that the consultation period has ended, a final Business Case is being drawn up, taking into consideration the contributions and feedback received since August 3rd. We cannot comment further on the proposals at this stage while the final Business Case is being completed.

With the work still in progress in terms of the Management of Change process, it is not possible to outline the impact on the Private Sector Housing team at this stage.

However, the work being undertaken by the team remains a priority and if there are changes it will be in order to build capacity in these key areas.

The redesign is planned to be introduced on January 1st, 2022.