

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
10th October 2019**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Karen Laurie-Parry

Powys County Council being such a large rural area, has a large expenditure on Contracted Coach costs, be it public transport or school transport.

I understand that a former Director did ask Cabinet, for All Coach Transport Costs, be it public or school, to be reviewed to ascertain where any savings could be made and I too, did highlight concerns I had, regarding empty coaches operating at certain times of the day. There are probably logical reasons, but as we are expecting a further squeeze on budgets, do you consider that the former Director's professional request should be undertaken?

Whilst realising that again this is a sensitive area, could the Portfolio Holder explain and confirm, whether or not such a Full Public and School Transportation Cost Review has taken place or will be undertaken?

Response

The Council undertook a review of transport in July 2018 when we tendered new home to school and local bus service contracts. The review saw a total of 33 dedicated school transport vehicles being withdrawn. Learners who travelled on those vehicles which were withdrawn have been redistributed to other contracted school or local bus services.

We continue to monitor transport spend on a month by month basis, but we have to continue to meet our statutory obligations by transporting nearly 5500 learners to school on a daily basis and ensure that the 1.1m passengers that use our public transport network of buses annually receive a value for money service.