

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 Gareth Ratcliffe

Over the last couple of years Powys County Council has looked to remove services and place them in control of the communities. Hay Swimming pool was taken over by a dedicated group of volunteers and presently provide the service to over 450 people. This service would have been lost and is vital to the community as without it the local school would not be able to support the level of provision and would result in a minimum of lessons each year just to meet the national curriculum. This comes at a cost to the local community who are working hard to keep the service going but at times there are large maintenance bills or development that are needed to bring them to a legal and safe standard. For example Hay swimming pool is having to renew its pool lining at a cost in the region of £18k inc VAT. The community have raised with support from residents and local community organisations just over £11k.

With this in light will the portfolio holder look at forming a budget to allow community groups that have taken over service to apply for loans to support the service within their community that have been adopted?

Response

The Council is under significant financial pressure, we are having to prioritise our limited resources on core council services. To introduce a loans scheme would require additional resource that we do not have. Community groups are able to access other sources of funding and we can assist in signposting groups to potential funding streams.