

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
22nd October 2014**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phil Pritchard, Portfolio Holder for Democratic Services

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Gareth Morgan

Can the Portfolio Holder please provide me with the following information relating to the cost of Democratic Services for each individual Shire Committee, namely Montgomeryshire, Brecknockshire and Radnorshire:-

- (a) the total revenue expenditure for 2013/14 and the budgetary provision for 2014/15 in respect of the provision of Democratic Services and support for each Shire to include the cost of calling meetings, officers' support, representation by senior officers at meetings, the cost of Members attending meetings and, if available, the travelling expenses of Cabinet members attending meetings outside their own Shires;**
- (b) capital expenditure for each individual Shire Committee for the aforementioned years for maintain the accommodation to a satisfactory standard;**
- (c) specify the Executive powers which each Shire Committee enjoys stating how often these powers are used;**
- (d) what expenditure has been incurred for the provision of refreshments at Shire meetings?**

(a) The revenue budgets for Members and Democratic Services are not broken down by Shires. The total budget expenditure for Members in 2013/14 was £3,655,080. The budget for 2014/15 is £3,349,060. The total expenditure for Democratic Services in 2013/14 was £88,162. The budget for 2014/15 is £99,620.

In the time available it has not been possible to apportion the cost of officer support or to work out the cost of meetings.

The cost of Members' travel is as follows:

Montgomeryshire	£2,510.20 in 2013/14	£674.10 in 2014/15 (April to June)
Brecknockshire	£ 832.05 in 2013/14	£ 71.55 (One meeting)

Radnorshire £1,116.45 in 2013/14 £352.35 in 2014/15
(April to June)

The cost of Cabinet members from other Shires attending Montgomeryshire was £346.45 in 2013/14 and £72.00 in 2014/15 (April to June).

The cost of Cabinet members from other Shires attending Brecknockshire was £184.05 in 2013/14 and £142.65 in 2014/15 (April to June).

The cost of Cabinet members from other Shires attending Radnorshire was £635.50 in 2013/14 and £158.40 in 2014/15 (April to June).

(b) There has been no capital expenditure.

(c) The following Executive functions have been delegated:

Highways Functions -

Within a framework agreed by the Executive, and within an annual budget to be allocated by the Executive, and subject to an individual project limit of £50,000 :-

1. All decisions in relation to highway maintenance within the overall plans determined by the Executive relating to :
 - (a) Local Improvement Programmes;
 - (b) The general Highway Maintenance Programme;
 - (c) Non-structural Bridge Maintenance.
2. The making of Traffic Regulation Orders (with certain limited exceptions which have been delegated to Cabinet).
3. Promoting and developing local road safety initiatives.
4. Provision, operation and maintenance of on-street and off-street car parking, including charging.
5. All matters relating to Municipal Services, namely :
 - (a) street cleaning and litter;
 - (b) verge maintenance;
 - (c) markets (livestock, produce and street), other than regulatory aspects;
 - (d) land drainage;
 - (e) allotments;
 - (f) other minor miscellaneous municipal services

Local Grants -

1. the determination of local community grants in accordance with policy and budget set by the Executive. (Current Limit £2000)
2. the determination of Built Heritage Grants funded from the town specific allocations of Local Regeneration Fund and Basic Credit Approval in accordance with policy and budget set by the Executive.

Montgomeryshire took decisions relating to Highways, parking and road safety matters at 3 meetings in 2013/14 and at 4 meetings to date in 2014/15. There were 6 meetings of the Montgomeryshire Built Heritage Grants Sub Committee in 2013/14, none so far in 2014/15.

Brecknockshire took decisions relating to Highways, parking and road safety matters at 5 meetings in 2013/14 and at 3 meetings to date in 2014/15.

Radnorshire took decisions relating to Highways, parking and road safety matters at 3 meetings in 2013/14 and at 1 meeting to date in 2014/15.

- (d) Refreshments have not been provided at Montgomeryshire meetings for some years. There is a vending machine in the foyer used by members and staff which together with a second machine in Neuadd Maldwyn cost £1,597.96 rental in 2013/14.

The cost of providing refreshments for Brecknockshire meetings was £185.56 in 2013/14.

The cost of providing refreshments for Radnorshire was £224.60 in 2013/14.

The Council meeting on 30th April 2014 decided to end the provision of refreshments at meetings.