

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**County Council  
16<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Barry Thomas, Leader**

**SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Peter Lewis**

**Through the Llanfyllin representative on the Montgomery Forum on our town council I have learned that Powys are attempting to devolve responsibility for some services to 'clusters' of community councils. What services are involved and why has a matter as fundamental as this not been put before full council for debate?**

The need to find savings of £40m over the next three years plus a further estimated £30m from 2017 to 2020 means that the Council needs to consider how services can be remodelled so as to protect them rather than cut them.

One option that needs to be explored is alternative methods of service delivery, including working with Town and Community Councils. This was the subject of the seminar arranged for Members on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The meeting heard from participants in a number of successful partnerships including social care and leisure projects.

Copies of the presentations and notes from the day are available for any member who missed the event on the council's website at

<http://intranet.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=5911&L=0>

These themes will be explored further at a series of summer and autumn community engagement events. The involvement and support of elected Members in these events will be key in helping to shape community delivery.

In addition, the Cabinet has recently approved a charter between the County Council and Welshpool Town Council. The Charter sets out the principles by which both authorities can work together, but no decisions have been taken on delegating responsibility for services at this stage.