

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
23rd February 2017**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Tony Thomas, Portfolio Holder for
Regeneration and Planning**

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Matthew Dorrance

The Welsh Labour Government has announced that as part of the third phase of the Vibrant and Viable Places Town Centre Loans Fund a loan of £1,000,000 for proposed activities in Brecon, Llandrindod Wells and Newtown has been offered to the Council.

Will the Cabinet provide details to Council on how it will use the funding, what projects in Brecon will be supported and how it will engage with local members to identify priorities?

Answer from County Councillor Tony Thomas, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning

The Council already administers a Town Centre Loan scheme through the Vibrant and Viable Places Scheme. This scheme is funded by the Welsh Government. The loans are used by private businesses based in town centres to improve the properties that they own and so aid the regeneration of the three town centres. This new announcement is to “top up” an existing initiative which has proved to be very successful. The loans are administered by the Council’s Housing Department.

This scheme was originally only available for businesses in Llandrindod Wells and Newtown, but the Welsh Government have now extended it to Brecon which is good news for the County and is welcomed. In addition, this latest funding allows property within the ownership of the local authority to be targeted, giving us greater overall flexibility. There will be a number of schemes in Brecon where this loan scheme can be used to enhance the town’s regeneration.