

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
19th October 2017**

REPORT AUTHOR: Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Roger Williams

Question

What assessment has the Council made of the Aarhus Convention?

Answer

Thank you for the question. I have been advised by the Council's Principal Solicitor that he is not aware of a legal duty on local authorities to assess the Aarhus Convention. This is a United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) document adopted in 1998 which establishes principles on: access to environmental information; public participation in environmental decision-making; and access to justice. <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/treatytext.html>

It was adopted by the EU including the UK and its principles are embedded in regulations. The Council complies with the regulations concerning access to and public participation on environmental matters and court rules on cost limits in judicial review claims concerning environmental matters such as wind turbines.