

## **CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**County Council  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport**

**SUBJECT: Question from Gemma Lewis**

**Could you please confirm how much Powys County Council pay for school transport for children from the Brecon catchment area to attend Welsh education in Calon Cymru or Ystalyfera when their closest provision is the new school in Brecon?**

**The children access a service bus where passengers have not been DBS checked and there have been instances where the buses are full and children stand for the duration of the journey.**

**If this transport was no longer funded by the council, I suspect that the numbers would increase in Brecon and therefore the subject provision and standards.**

### **Response**

The Council's Home to School Transport Policy states that we will provide free transport to learners to their nearest suitable or catchment school if they meet the eligible criteria. For learners living in the Brecon area, the nearest Welsh-medium secondary provision is at Brecon High School. However, in accordance with the Policy, parents are able to appeal decisions where transport has been refused. This is the case with learners currently being transported to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera and Ysgol Calon Cymru.

Currently, the Council spends £132,575 per annum to transport learners from the Brecon High School catchment area to Welsh Medium education in Ystalyfera and Ysgol Calon Cymru in Builth Wells. It is the Councils' policy to convey entitled learners to school on public transport wherever possible. There are around 1200 learners who are currently taken to school by public transport on a daily basis.

The Council is committed to improving the provision of Welsh-medium education across the whole county. A new vision for education is currently being developed and Welsh-medium education is a key part of the new vision. We will be engaging with all stakeholders in February to develop this vision into reality.