CYNGOR TREF **LLANIDLOES** TOWN COUNCIL

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For the attention of **Dr Carl Cooper, Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood, Ronnie Alexander, Steve Elliot, Mick Giannasi, Jennifer Owen-Adams, Cathie Poynton, Ian Thomas, Simon Wright, Hayley Thomas, Pete Hopgood, Mererid Bowley, Nicola Johnson, Elaine Lorton, Claire Madsen, Paul Hooton, Debra Wood-Lawson, Kate Wright, Hywel Pullen, and Helen Bushell at Powys Teaching Health Board, and Rt Hon Rhun ap Iorwerth MS, Mabon ap Gwynfor MS, Nerys Evans MS, and Delyth Jewell MS, of Welsh Government, and Alyson Thomas, Professor Medwin Hughes, Mair Gwynant, Bamidele Adenipekun, Karen Lewis, Jack Evershed and Mwoyo Makuto of LLAIS, and Future Generations Commissioner for Wales Derek Walker.**

RE: Formal Notification of a **Vote of No Confidence** in Powys Teaching Health Board regarding the *Better Together* Consultation Proposals and Process, and call for intervention

1st November 2026

I write on behalf of Llanidloes Town Council to formally communicate that this Council has passed a unanimous vote of No Confidence in the leadership, governance, and strategic direction of Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB). This decision follows the launch of the Health Board's *Better Together* consultation. This council, echoing the profound distress of the residents of Llanidloes, objects to both the deeply flawed consultation process and the catastrophic wider impact these proposals will bring to rural healthcare across Montgomeryshire and Powys.

1. Objections to the *Better Together* Proposals

The proposed removal of physical health inpatient beds from Llanidloes War Memorial Hospital, alongside similar swingeing cuts at Machynlleth and Welshpool, is both unfathomable and unacceptable. Concentrating north Powys' inpatient care exclusively into Newtown represents a dangerous centralisation of services.

By slashing community beds county-wide, the Health Board is actively designing a healthcare desert. Under these numbers, Powys will be left with just one bed for every 2,250 patients. This is in a vast rural county, almost a quarter of Wales, which lacks any general hospital or dedicated hospice facility. Removing inpatient care is, in the eyes of our community, an unacctable downgrade of Llanidloes Hospital at a time when the future suggests more care will be needed.

2. Concerns over the Consultation Process

Llanidloes Town Council has No Confidence in the legitimacy of the ongoing public consultation, which runs until January 2027. The presentation of the information appears heavily predetermined and deeply disingenuous.

While the Health Board publicly insists that no decisions have been made, previous under-the-radar decisions, such as instructing local GPs to bypass available beds in Llanidloes, demonstrate that the Board has been actively engineering service reductions.

Rather than consulting on a genuine spectrum of options that champion rural healthcare, the Health Board is forcing communities into a corner by presenting a narrow set of damaging, cost-cutting scenarios.

3. Wider Impact on Healthcare

The structural failure of these proposals will be felt far beyond our town's boundaries.

• The Domino Effect on Acute Hospitals: Stripping Llanidloes of its step-down and rehabilitative inpatient beds will severely exacerbate bed-blocking. Our local GPs and health professionals have already warned that this shifts an untenable burden onto neighboring acute hospitals, including Bronglais Hospital in Aberystwyth.

• Unviable Travel and Rural Isolation: Forcing frail, elderly, or acutely ill patients to criss-cross Powys for admission separates them from vital support networks. In an area with limited public transport infrastructure, requiring families to travel extensive distances to visit loved ones creates an unacceptable and inequitable barrier to care.

• Disregard for Professional Expertise: The Health Board has systematically ignored the vocal and expert opposition of current and former local GPs, nurses, and clinical staff who know this terrain and understand that these plans are fundamentally unsafe.

In Summary

Whilst the financial pressures facing PTHB are acknowledged, closing local beds to resolve structural deficits is short-sighted and dangerous. For too long, Powys residents have been expected to tolerate an ongoing cycle of downgrades and diminishing services.

We demand a complete halt to the *Better Together* proposals, and call upon the Welsh Government and our regional political representatives to urgently intervene, reject this managed decline, and commit to funding a resilient, safety-first model for rural healthcare.

Llanidloes Town Council stands in absolute solidarity with the many hundreds of local residents and healthcare staff who have taken to our streets. We have lost all confidence in Powys Teaching Health Board's ability to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Town Clerk, On behalf of Llanidloes Town Council