

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ECONOMY, RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT BY ZOOM ON MONDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2021**

PRESENT: County Councillor M J Dorrance (Chair)  
County Councillors D Selby, G Jones, K W Curry, J Pugh, J Wilkinson, J Charlton,  
S L Williams, D Jones-Poston and K M Roberts-Jones

In attendance: County Councillor J Jones and Ellie Harwood (Child Poverty Action Group).

Cabinet Portfolio Holders In Attendance: County Councillors R Harris (Leader), R Powell (Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture), H Hulme (Portfolio Holder for Environment), B Baynham (Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, Engagement and Regulatory Services), A Davies (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transport), I McIntosh (Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Planning and Housing).

Officers: Dr Caroline Turner (Chief Executive), Matt Perry (Head of Highways, Transport and Recycling), Nigel Brinn (Corporate Director - Environment and Economy), Paul Bradshaw (Head of Workforce and OD), Nina Davies (Head of Housing and Community Development), Emma Palmer (Head of Transformation and Communications), Wyn Richards (Scrutiny Manager and Head of Democratic Services), Ashley Collins (Senior Manager - Waste & Recycling Services), Lynne Griffin (Professional Lead Organisational Design and Development), Catherine James (Deputy Head of Transformation and Communications), Lynette Lovell (Interim Chief Education Officer) and Sarah Quibell (Professional Lead for Education Support Services)

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors D Evans and L Corfield.

<b>2.</b>	<b>DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST</b>
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County Councillor J Pugh declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in item 4 (Child Poverty in Powys) as one of his businesses related to property letting.

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIPS</b>
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The Committee did not receive any disclosures of prohibited party whips which a Member has been given in relation to the meeting in accordance with Section 78(3) of the Local Government Measure 2011.

<b>4.</b>	<b>CHILD POVERTY IN POWYS</b>
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**Documents Considered:**

- Poverty – Children and Young People in Powys – Report by the business Analytics and Research Unit.
- Presentation – Addressing Child Poverty in Powys – Ellie Harwood, Child Poverty Action Group.
- Child Poverty in Powys – Council Survey conducted between 12 to 30 August 2021.

**Issues Discussed:**

- Latest version of the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) endorsed by Council and covers all the services delivered by the Council. The Council is delivering on all sections of the plan, but the Committee may consider that elements could be delivered faster and to a greater extent.
- There is evidence from the UK Coalition to end child poverty that once housing costs taken into account there is increasing child poverty in Powys. There are measures in the Corporate Improvement Plan and the question for scrutiny is whether the Council is doing enough or could be doing something differently.
- There are other determinants of poverty which link to other agencies which the Council works with through the Public Service Board.

**Presentation - Ellie Harwood – Child Poverty Action Group.**

- The Group is the leading charity campaigning to end child poverty in the UK. The Group is also part of the UK Coalition, which is committed to ending child poverty.
- The presentation is around defining and measuring Poverty, causes of poverty and how people can get out of poverty, child poverty trends and forecasting, and best practice examples.
- The standard technical definition for poverty used by governments is based on the distribution of all incomes across the UK, and identifying the median (half way point) of all incomes. The poverty line (after housing costs) is 60% below the median line. This means that 14m people in the UK live in households below the poverty line. For Wales this is 23% of the Welsh population, that is 700,000 people of which 195,000 are children.
- A minimum income standard is also used which identifies the minimum amount of money each type of household needs to participate in society, each a healthy diet, afford to heat homes properly, travel to work and basic costs of living. When a minimum income standard is used it sets a slightly higher line than the technical poverty line.
- Whichever method is used there are a significant number of people in Wales living below the poverty line and children are the group in the Welsh population that are most at risk. The poverty line also moves depending on the type of household as differing compositions of households require a different level of minimum income to achieve a standard of living.
- Child Poverty is relative, dynamic, scarring, often hidden, and possible to solve. It is also not static as in a given year one third of people leave poverty and another third enter into poverty. The nature of poverty and approaches to solving it have also changed over the last ten years.

- Mitigating policy decisions for elderly people has meant that lesser numbers of older people are now living in poverty.
- Common events pulling people into poverty (2019/20) – fall in benefit income; fall in earned income; fall in number of full time workers in household; change in household type.
- What helps people escape poverty – rise in benefit income; rise in household earnings; rise in numbers of workers in household; change in household type.
- 31% of children in Wales were living in poverty as the pandemic began, with the relative child poverty rate for Wales increasing by 3% between 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- In Powys 7224 children are living in poverty, 34.1% of all children and young people in the county (after the costs of housing have been taken out of the household budget).
- Free School Meals (FSM) is used as a proxy for poverty but not all children in poverty can access FSM.
- Child poverty is widespread in Powys even in the more affluent areas. There are few wards in Powys below 20% child poverty. The in-work poverty rate for Powys is significantly higher than the Welsh average.
- In terms of child food poverty, the Trussell Trust reported that between April 2020 and March 2021 the number of three day emergency food parcels given to children in Powys increased by 197% by comparison to 2019-20. The average rise across Wales was 7%.
- 42% of children below the poverty line do not qualify for FSM in Wales as their families are affected by in-work poverty and not eligible for other forms of support.
- Another concern is the £20 per week reduction in universal credit. The expectation is that one third of households with children in Wales will lose £1040 per year. 2800 people in Wales who were still furloughed in June 2021 will need to move onto universal credit if they cannot return to their jobs when furlough ends. In Powys 6678 households receive universal credit to help top up their incomes. A further 9672 households rely on old-style legacy benefits.
- What can local authorities do? – proactive engagement with affected communities by raising incomes and lowering costs. Examples of good practice were highlighted from Scotland to tackle child poverty at a local level.
- The responses to the Council survey indicated that there is an issue with child poverty, the situation is and will get worse due to the pandemic. Respondents also indicated that the Council's plans may not be effectively dealing with the challenges.

• Questions:

Given the Council's report and the presentation, how did the Council decide the measures in the current Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) to address poverty.	The vision was drawn up in 2017 and relates to that time. However, the Council can and has amended the plan on an annual basis. Poverty in Powys is not just about food and clothes, but also access to services e.g. Health services and specialised
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	<p>services, access to after school activities especially holiday type activities, there is fuel poverty in Powys and poverty of access to transport, as well as digital access. The Council is working on all of these but it does take time. The Mid Wales Growth Deal is seeking to improve digital access, improve jobs by providing better and higher paid jobs such as through the Global Centre for Rail Excellence.</p>
These issues have been in existence since 2015.	The Council is still working on the CIP and working with partners. This piece of work can feed into next Corporate Plan.
<p>All Members should be made aware of the presentation. In relation to Free School Meals it is alarming that 42% of children do not qualify. Of the 58% that do qualify, how many are actually taking up Free School Meals. Is this better now due to parent pay?</p> <p>Does the Council need to publicise parent pay more to encourage families who might not wish to do so to take up free school meals.</p>	<p>16% of children who are eligible for free school meals are not taking them up.</p> <p>Work started in 2016, with education and catering and cleaning staff working proactively together and a number who were eligible did take up the service. This is an exercise which could be undertaken again.</p> <p>During July 2021, 100 families contacted Children's service. In relation to the issue over stigma, many people do not realise that they are in poverty. The Front door service for children's services links with education and early years (flying start). Children and young people need to have a say into what the Council can do, and the question is how the Council can access these young people to understand what they need to support them.</p>
As the Council's Poverty Champion, what is your assessment of CIP measures. If the measures are not effective what should be changed.	<p>There is very little help currently. There are measures which will help some of the poverty issues but is does not get to those people who are really struggling such as those that are working. We can get to those who are on benefits. Officers need to speak to those who deal with poverty and groups who work on the ground, look at individual communities and put things in place which will deal</p>

	with things faster, not just in the long term.
Could the Council do more to target financial resources to tackle the causes of child poverty.	We can always do more but resources dictate what can be provided. We do provide discounts for single person households etc – over £30m annually. Affordability of Council Tax is a key aspect. However, there is a need to measure this against the delivery of essential services.
We can only raise Council tax so much and it is about priorities. What are your thoughts about what more we could do.	A key to child poverty is the strength of the economy. Much of the Powys economy is made up with self employed people and we need to support these businesses and infrastructure is key to that. Accessibility to work in an affordable way is essential as well through public transport and Powys has to work with other agencies and partners. It is essential to raise people out of poverty, but the presentation also made clear that people move in and out of poverty.
The CIP is long term planning. Powys worked successfully during the covid crisis. Covid has emphasised the issues such as the numbers claiming universal credit and the impact of a fall in universal credit. We can focus on emergency issues. Why do we do not have a Cabinet Member for this and a working group of officers looking at this working with voluntary sector.	<p>Early Years is a focus with families. And an opportunity to offer support and then the transition to education where some of the support can be stepped back. Health have a large part to play in this and also public health. This is around the Council working with others and providing an universal wrap around process, and opening doors in all organisations to support families.</p> <p>The determinants of poverty do not solely fall into the Council remit. In relation to a portfolio holder for Poverty, it is not appropriate as it is such a cross cutting issue and affects all portfolios. The CIP is the long term vision for the Council. Should there be a seminar for Members looking at what Council is currently doing in relation to poverty such as the money advice service and other forms of assistance. Members can then identify where the</p>

	<p>Council needs to do more. The review of CIP will not happen until July 2022 so a seminar could start things quicker. More could be done through the Public Service Board as well.</p>
<p>Could the information from the presentation be used as part of the wellbeing plan and population assessment.</p>	<p>The Council is currently collating the updated information to inform the preparation of the wellbeing plan and population assessment. The information from today will be included in the assessment. The Council will engage extensively with stakeholders and the public, and how the Council engages with children needs to be built into the consultation process. The findings of the assessment will inform the next CIP. In the interim there could be an opportunity to look at some quick wins, and what could be amended now.</p>
<p>The Poverty Champion spoke about housing costs and quality in the private rented sector. The Council also has issues and could do more to retro fit Council properties to reduce costs. What work is housing doing to tackle this.</p>	<p>The Council is well on the way to build 250 new houses and have an ambition to build more. The Council is also working with other housing partners as well.</p> <p>The new properties which the Council are high specification using technology to reduce utility and heating costs. The Council is also looking to retro fit existing properties to reduce costs as well as working to bring more empty private sector properties back into use. The Housing Service is embedding poverty across the service to see what can be done.</p>
<p>How is this work going to be scrutinised on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Can we look at bringing the information from food banks as well into the assessment.</p>	<p>This report will feed into the wellbeing and population assessment, the results of which Members will be consulted on this autumn.</p> <p>There is also an opportunity for a Seminar with Members as well as bringing the presentation to the</p>

	attention of Members.
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• **Comments:**

- Access to affordable childcare was raised in the responses to the survey
- Pleased the presentation highlighted Lanarkshire and the work being done there by the Council shows what can be done in Powys. Poverty in Powys is huge but tends to be working families, who cannot claim council tax rebates, access free school meals, free school uniforms.
- Children not eligible for free school meals and parental income means they cannot afford school meals. Furlough will also cause issues as there will be instances when furlough ends that there will not be a job to return to.
- Foodbank statistics only shows a part of the picture.
- This is also not just about food - what about Christmas presents, period poverty, digital poverty - children accessing school work.
- Need for a closer alignment between the Corporate Improvement Plan and the work of the Poverty Champion and a more targetted resources to deal with the causes of poverty.
- Many families with children are living around the poverty line in Powys. As a Council we are proactive and are one of the few Councils with money advice officers who cross reference with schools. The Council also tries to reach those families that are struggling. The Corporate Improvement Plan is driven by data. The Council presented Welsh Government with a report about the financial issues facing the Council, but may not have included enough on child poverty in that report that rural areas face. It is accessibility to key services which are important as well. Unsure of the threshold to be able to access free school meals in terms of parental income.
- There is a strong awareness of the issues in Powys. Consulting with communities is important. This is not only thinking about parents but also what poverty feels like for children and there are methods such as poverty proofing. This specifically looks at schools and looking at systems to reduce stigma and poverty by directly speaking to children about where those problems come from, for example using focus groups, and speak to affected communities and then develop ways of delivering services that reduce the pain of poverty. This might not lead to more money in people's pockets, but could help people feel less stigmatised and therefore make them more likely to access entitlements.
- Wales has the tightest means testing for eligibility for free school meals in the UK.
- Powys has not focussed on this before as unemployment is low. However, GVA (Gross Value Added) in Powys is lowest in UK. This is a hidden problem in Powys and stigma is an issue here. It can be seen from figures from food banks that we are in crisis in relation to poverty as a whole, not just child poverty, in Powys. The question is how can we keep the Cabinet tackling this issue.

- This is a cross cutting but as it's everyone's issue, no-one is focussing on it on a day to day basis. The Leader was asked to reflect on this make this one person's responsibility.
- Working with children and young people – much work still needs to happen. Their voices are important. Youth Service have been working during pandemic, but many youth clubs are no longer there which young people can access. These were places young people could attend where they could not go to more expensive venues, and these clubs assist other services as well. In dealing with poverty we look at people in our system not those who are hidden, and it is the hidden people that the Council does not access. However, this is not just child poverty but poverty as a whole.
- There is a need for better signposting about what help is available, and a better understanding of what poverty is.
- There is a need to look at the criteria for free school meals.
- The seminar needs a much wider audience such as with other agencies i.e. a conference. Members and Cabinet need to look at how we get the funding to do something about this. Could there be assistance from Welsh Government?
- Does the Council need to reprioritise its resources to tackle poverty and this will mean that we will need to work with other agencies.
- Level of funding available - one of the issues for Powys is that the funding allocation for poverty focusses on FSM as a proxy for child poverty, which is not a great measure for families who are in work (no FSM if income over £7400 a year in Wales) which is a disproportionate number in Powys. Welsh Government is considering the eligibility criteria for FSM and whether these should be expanded.
- As well as spending money such as building houses and providing free transport, there are cost neutral actions which can be undertaken in the way that services are delivered, so that services are made more accessible to people in poverty which do not cost the Council and therefore should not be a barrier to the Council taking action.
- Issues being addressed in housing will only address a few people in poverty.
- An example of a Council action could be that it ensures that every school is adhering to statutory Welsh Government guidance about school uniform affordability.
- Adhering to the poverty proofing principle could affect the way schools for example undertake fundraising exercises so that it removes any stigma for those who cannot afford to contribute e.g. anonymous contributions online. These are small changes which can impact on people.
- Links to third sector providers and available support– there is a good example in Swansea with local area co-ordinators with staff in communities acting as a one stop shop for support and can direct people to specialist support services.
- The Council has a lot of assets e.g. Schools, which families will already use, and it needs to think how it can maximise these existing assets and links with families rather than setting up new

things. This is about using assets effectively and also about preventative work for other services e.g. Social care, health.

- This will be an ongoing piece of work. Household issues is a long term issue, although there are things which the Council can do in the short term. The Council has taken action and will continue to do so but this is also not solely a Powys issue but an UK economy issue.

**Outcomes:**

- **Ask the Council to convene a tackling poverty summit in conjunction with external partners and others.**
- **Ask the Council to produce a co-ordinated child poverty strategy.**
- **Ask that the future CIP has measures specifically on tackling child poverty.**
- **Ask the Leader to consider tasking a Cabinet Member to have responsibility for child poverty / poverty**
- **The Council to lobby Welsh Government about reviewing the eligibility criteria for FSM.**
- **The Council needs to have a conversation about access poverty**
- **How can the Council use community buildings and schools to provide more services.**
- **The Council to seek assurances that schools adhering to the statutory Welsh Government regulations about school uniform.**
- **That the Committee receives a progress update report in 6 months.**

<b>5.</b>	<b>LEADERSHIP AND APPRENTICESHIPS</b>
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**Documents Considered:**

- Presentation.

**Issues Discussed:**

- A large range of Apprenticeships and Leadership opportunities are offered by the Council.
- Existing members of staff can undertake apprenticeships.
- Apprenticeships are at no cost to the learner or the Council, with funding provided to the Council for the cost of the training provided for the apprentice.
- Since January 2020, 18 apprenticeship positions were advertised with 6 in the past month. There are currently 15 apprentices and 15 career graded apprentices in post. 162 staff are currently undertaking apprenticeship training programmes to allow upskilling and personal development.
- Kickstart placements have not progressed as much as hoped at present. This is a new government initiative specifically for people on universal credit and between the ages of 16 and 24. The Council is working with other bodies such as the Health Board to provide more opportunities. The Council has 19 places available and currently only had one referral from the DWP (Department for Work and Pensions).
- The majority of fixed term apprenticeships do lead to permanent appointments with the Council.
- The target is that by March 2024 the Council will have appointed an additional 27 apprentices as part of a new programme commencing in

- 2021-22. The 2021-22 target is ten and the Quarter 1 target is 2.5. Six new apprentices have been appointed in Quarter 1.
- The Council is aiming to encourage 40 learners to start the programmes this year. The annual target is 40 learners. The progress in Quarter 1 is 3 learners.
- Questions:

<p>Upskilling existing staff is not an apprenticeship, its about training new people. When we require contractors to establish apprenticeship schemes, who monitors these to ensure that they are delivered.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government schemes provide funding for apprentices which are for new people, but also provides funding for upskilling staff which are also referred to as apprenticeships. The Council gets significant funding for this.</p>
<p>Can we have details of what apprentices are being appointed for various contracts.</p>	<p>The Council has to contract with Welsh Government approved training providers. Once an apprentice has been appointed and signed up to a programme there is a meeting between the line manager, the training provider and apprentice every 60 to 90 days so there is monitoring of the process. The Council also monitors the delivery of the training and if there are issues they are raised with the provider.</p> <p>Welsh Government definition of local is Wales, so if a construction company comes into Powys as part of the procurement process, and they bring apprentices with them then they tick the box.</p> <p>The Procurement Service can be asked to provide information on what is included in contracts and how many apprentices should be employed for Powys contracts.</p> <p>The Council does differentiate between those people appointed as apprentices and staff who are following apprenticeship programmes but are upskilling. Because the Council pays the apprenticeship levy it shows what the Council can claim back what it paid out in the levy.</p>

	<p>The Council does report 15 apprentices each on two government programmes and the remaining staff on internal training programmes funded by Welsh Government</p>
<p>Monitoring and recording of apprenticeships - apprenticeships are often seen as gender specific roles e.g. skills. Apprenticeships cover a huge array of different skills. Where could figures on the gender split for apprentices be found. What are the measures for those coming into apprenticeships who have a disability. The employment statistics do not currently measure people with disabilities, but will this be measured.</p> <p>This is important as the Council is supposed to be increasing the amount of people directly employed who have a disability. However, how do we know how we're meeting our objectives if we're not measuring it. Can the Council look proactive at apprenticeships to see if we're encouraging people with disabilities.</p> <p>If a person undertakes an apprenticeship does the Council have a contract with them, so at the end of the contract they remain as an employee or do they have to pay back for any funding and support if they go elsewhere as time and resource has been invested in them.</p>	<p>The Portfolio Holder agreed to advise the Committee of the gender split for apprentices.</p> <p>The Council recruits apprentices in same way as for normal staff. If applicants do not disclose a disability the Council will not know. This can be checked.</p> <p>In relation to contracts, it depends which scheme a person is on. There is no guarantee of a job at the end of an apprenticeship scheme. Hopefully, a person could take up a post with the Council. There is no payback at the end of an apprenticeship scheme. It is slightly different with degree schemes and those for staff.</p> <p>The Council has no restrictions requiring the pay back of any funding or support at the end of the scheme. The Service will look at the information regarding gender balance and disabilities.</p> <p>Only 50% of staff complete equalities data when they begin working for the Council despite regular requests to update this information.</p>
<p>In relation to the underperformance in the Kick Start scheme, what more can we do to promote this. Are we using social media to advertise these vacancies.</p>	<p>The vacancies are advertised in Job Centre +. One of the issues is that young people need to be claiming universal credit and students having just left college may not be claiming this. This is something the Council needs to overcome. The Council does advertise vacancies through the Kickstart scheme with the DWP and could look at working with Workways and the Regeneration team and identify people ourselves. Further discussions with DWP could</p>

	also be undertaken. Social Media advertising can also be undertaken.
How closely aligned are leadership and apprenticeships opportunities being aligned to succession planning and horizon scanning.	<p>Through the higher leadership courses (ILM5 and 7) the Council is enabling middle and senior managers to move forward into more senior positions. Work is being undertaken with the Executive Management Team to develop a programme for the Senior Leadership Team. This will see members of staff progress in future.</p> <p>The Leadership Programme has changed this year to be more flexible for individuals and better suited for individual needs.</p>
Recognised Trade Unions are a good place to offer training and development. How is the Council working with the recognised trade unions to ensure that the development opportunities they are offering are aligned with the Council's programmes.	<p>There has not been a distinct discussion in the last year due to the pandemic, but the unions can draw down funding nationally to support skills based training for staff. The Unions would then offer subsidised opportunities for training to the Council which the Council has taken up in the past.</p> <p>Prior to the pandemic the Council drew down the WULF (Wales Union Learning Fund) funding for upskilling staff with digital skills. Conversations had also commenced about wider training but these were not progressed due to the pandemic and can be taken up with the Unions again.</p>
Are there any joint apprenticeship appointments e.g. with the Health Board.	The Council is working closely with PTHB (Powys Teaching Health Board) around the health academy. Health and social care qualification are totally different. There was a discussion about a combined qualification but that could not be progressed. However, there may be elements of the courses which are similar which could provide opportunities for joint training at the academy. The Council is also working with PTHB on the Arwain project to encourage new entrants

	<p>into the sector, and are looking to set up a joint health and social care hub located in the health and care academy.</p> <p>The Council is looking at its own social care staff to try and identify individuals who could be developed to become social workers. The Council is also working with PTHB on shared posts.</p>
<p>The wage rates paid to apprentices are very low. Could the Council pay a living wage to apprentices. Why has it opted to pay the lower rate.</p> <p>Also how are Heads of Service challenged about the opportunities they create for apprenticeships.</p>	<p>The Portfolio Holder agreed to advise the Committee on the numbers of apprentices receiving the minimum wage and those being paid a higher wage, and how Heads of Service are challenged on apprenticeship opportunities.</p>
<p>When the Council employs a main contractor, they can then appoint sub-contractors who may appoint their own apprentices. Does the Council record that information as well.</p>	<p>It is uncertain if the Council is drilling down far enough to obtain this information. It is not recorded by Workforce and Organisational Development but should be recorded by the Procurement Service. The Service agreed to find this information and update the Committee.</p>

- **Comments**

- The Professional Lead was asked to obtain information on construction programmes with a break down by postcodes to identify how many apprentices are Powys based and how many are Wales based.
- If procurement do not ask for this information perhaps they should be requesting it from contractors in future.
- The Portfolio Holder agreed to advise the Committee of the gender split for apprentices
- Could the Committee be advised how many pupils are going out of Powys for post 16 education and those leaving Powys which reduces pool of possible apprentices

**Outcomes:**

- The Professional Lead to obtain information on construction programmes with a break down by postcodes to identify how many apprentices are Powys based and how many are Wales based.
- The Committee requested how many pupils are going out of Powys for post 16 education and those leaving Powys which reduces pool of possible apprentices

- The Portfolio Holder agreed to provide the following information to the Committee:
  - advise the Committee on the numbers of apprentices receiving the minimum wage and those being paid a higher wage, and how Heads of Service are challenged on apprenticeship opportunities.
  - whether the Council records the numbers of apprentices employed by sub-contractors used by the Council's main contractors, and the numbers employed.
  - the Portfolio Holder agreed to advise the Committee of the gender split for apprentices

<b>6.</b>	<b>RECYCLING</b>
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**Documents Considered:**

- Presentation

**Issues Discussed:**

- The presentation shows the data collected to monitor progress towards achieving the statutory Welsh Government recycling targets. When data is compiled, projections are made on a worst case scenario so that the Council does not become complacent in term of target rates. The monthly recycling rate can fluctuate considerably due to the levels of recycling which the Council has collected during a month.
- The recycling statistics are reported to Natural Resources Wales. There was a reporting error in 2019/20 which meant that the Council did not achieve its target of 64% but procedures are now in place to ensure that such an error does not occur again.

- Questions:

The Council has been successful with getting the recycling rate to where it is so far. Where do we go from here, and how do we increase recycling rates. Are the team looking at other ways of increasing recycling rates. Of particular concern are communal sites for recycling on estates which are not suitable for the purpose.

Although the Council needs to work positively with people the system which has been designed does not work well in some areas such as on estates. There is a need to look at better solutions.

The Council does have bigger challenges ahead to get to a 70% recycling rate by 2024 / 25. The Council is looking at taking more out of residual waste such as plastics, tetra packs, AHPs and moving gradually towards the 70%.

In terms of estates, there will also need to be more awareness raising and enforcement and working with housing, other housing associations and community groups to improve recycling rates.

Recycling is always an issue on housing estates. There are communal bins in flats but it is hard to monitor what goes into these. The Council does have an active awareness enforcement team which does work with communities on estates to find

	solutions.
<p>Does the Service work with planning when developing new estates to incorporate recycling facilities, and if not should we be. What about the fire risk at transfer stations as there was a recent incident in another county. What is the Council doing about this. What happens to medical waste, does it go to landfill or otherwise dealt with.</p>	<p>There have been several fires reported recently at waste sites. However, these are larger facilities that we have with a greater concentration of materials stored there. In relation to the Abermule site, prior to receiving an NRW permit, the Council has been required to submit a fire risk management plan which details how the Council would prevent and deal with a fire.</p> <p>With regard to clinical waste, infectious waste is the responsibility of the Health Board and they provide collections for this. Sharps i.e. needles, there is a take back scheme where these can be taken to local pharmacies which are then collected and sent for incineration. Non infectious materials can be collected by the Council as part of non residual waste. The Council can provide individuals with provide additional capacity but only where appropriate. Some of this will go with residual waste to landfill and some is incinerated as energy from waste.</p>
<p>In relation to community sites, what is the cost of these sites to the Council. Is the amount of fly tipping increasing or decreasing and what is the cost to the Council and does the Council undertake enforcement.</p> <p>Electric waste vehicle - the Council only seems to be measuring the fuel cost for the vehicle. What is the carbon emission saving.</p>	<p>There are about 40 community sites around the county. The budgeted net expenditure this year is £180,000 for staff and vehicles and community groups looking after the sites. There is a small amount of income generated from these sites, around £10,000.</p> <p>Fly tipping – the Council has not had the issues that other local authorities have had, and there has been some increase in incidents during lockdown but this has since decreased. Powys third in Wales in term of issuing fixed penalty notices. The estimated cost to the Council is around £41,000 for 2020/21.</p> <p>RCV (Refuse Collection Vehicle), the fuel costs for a diesel vehicle is around £20800 per year, and the fuel costs for an electric vehicle around</p>

	<p>£7800 per year, thus a saving of £13,000 per year. The data for carbon emissions have not been calculated as yet but it is anticipated that it would be a 60% to 80% reduction in CO2 emissions by comparison to a diesel vehicle.</p> <p>The Service will be reviewing the vehicle fleet in Powys and will bring information back to the Committee on what the Council needs to do to move to an electrical fleet in the next few years. Whilst the running costs of electric vehicles is much less, the purchase costs are much higher which it is hoped will reduce over time.</p>
<p>Of the 30% that is not being recycled currently, this is probably made up of things the Council are not collecting currently and residents not sorting things at source. What proportion is attributable to these elements.</p> <p>Education - people are not aware about why they should recycle. When did the Council undertake the last awareness campaign and should it be undertaken again.</p> <p>Tetra packs – what is the current position with this.</p>	<p>With regard to the 30% not recycled, the Council is working behind the scenes to reduce residual waste and move more into kerbside collections and have this processed by companies. The Council is looking to include tetra packs as items collected at the kerbside.</p> <p>There was an intention to undertake a recycling roadshow prior to the pandemic and it is still the intention to do this when possible.</p>
<p>Provision of information to the public - roadshows are not always well attended by the public. Could information be supplied to households</p> <p>Can ash waste from fires be recycled.</p>	<p>Communications is undertaken through the awareness team and using social media. The Council is working with Welsh Government on their Be Mighty campaign. In terms of achieving the 70% recycling target, the Council is looking at energy from waste and also looking at other ways that recycling can be increased.</p> <p>The Council is leaving leaflets in boxes when there is contamination, looking at reorganising routes to make efficiencies as well as communicating on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Composting woodburner ash is</p>

	probably the best to do with it, otherwise it should go into residual waste.
What does it cost the Council to run the garden waste service and how much income do we get.	Income has increased on the garden waste service due to an increase in customers. The Council makes a slight loss of around £140k. There has been a reduction in cost by removing the bring sites. Income is around £440k, and the cost of running the service is around £600k.
The focus is on recycling as that's how the Council is measured. What are we doing across Wales about reusing and reducing.	<p>Welsh Government is considering a deposit return schemes and extended supplier responsibility which will put responsibility on manufacturers.</p> <p>The Council is improving reuse throughout the county, working with organisations such as Phoenix to divert away from bulky waste which counts towards the Council's targets. It is also working with Open Newtown and an initiative in Llandrindod is being supported. Funding has been received to put shops on other of the Council's sites such as Brecon and the recently completed facility at Ystradgynlais.</p> <p>Welsh Government in looking at future recycling targets is moving away from recycling and looking at carbon metrics.</p>

- **Comments:**
- Could the Committee receive an update on changes to kerbside collections e.g. tetra packs and the awareness raising campaigns.
- **Outcomes:**
- Information to be provided to the Committee:
  - Update on changes to kerbside collections and the awareness raising campaign.
  - Reuse and reduce - how is the Council influencing this.
  - Figures for running the garden waste service and income.

<b>7.</b>	<b>SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME</b>
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The Committee noted the dates of forthcoming meetings and that a separate meeting was to be held to consider future work programming.

**County Councillor M J Dorrance (Chair)**