



*Neuadd y Sir / County Hall, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5LG*

## **QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

Response by the Portfolio Holder:

We tender the collection and processing of all kerbside materials to ensure a stable and responsible outlet and best value for all materials. By tendering materials for a year at a time, we are able to attract large national companies that have proven track records in diligently and responsibly processing waste materials within the UK. All necessary checks are made against these companies' claims during the tender process, and these checks are maintained through robust reporting throughout the life of the contract. The records are checked for validity, including cross-checking against the statutory waste returns that all licensed waste facilities must submit to their respective regulator (Natural Resources Wales or in England, the Environment Agency). All accreditation for meeting end-of-waste criteria is also checked to ensure that they are genuine and up-to-date.

For Powys' plastics, the contract is with a well established plastics reprocessor with several facilities across England. As well as sorting plastics, this company also manufactures new plastic products from both virgin and recycled plastics. This means that the majority of our collected plastics are processed and recycled into new products, or at least turned back into the raw material (flake and pellets) for new products to be made, directly at this company's own facilities. For any material that the reprocessor is unable to process, they have contracts in place to ensure that any reject is used as fuel by facilities such as cement manufacturers, meaning that all material, whether recycled or recovered for energy, stays within the UK.

The destinations for all materials collected by the Council are available on our website at the following link,

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/7725/What-happens-to-my-recycling-and-residual-waste-once-collected-from-the-kerbside>

Whilst investigative reports such as the one that Greenpeace has carried out do reveal some shocking results, it is a shame that these are reported in a way that would suggest all Councils are carrying out this kind of activity. This has the effect of undermining the hard work that authorities carry out, particularly in Wales, getting residents to recycle their waste.