



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

QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Response by the Cabinet Member:

Thank you for your question regarding the removal of the recycling banks from Community Recycling (Bring) Sites. Firstly, please can I clarify that the cardboard banks are not being removed and there is no intention to do so. These are very well used and this has particularly been the case since Covid and the increase in online shopping. The banks that have been removed are the glass and paper banks as these are materials that are recycled at the kerbside. Glass is one of the materials that is actually put out less often at the kerbside and this is the case across the authority whether or not there have been locally available glass banks. Many residents actually say that they don't put out their glass every week due to the small quantities they produce.

We do appreciate that there have been considerable issues in the north due to the difficulty of recruiting staff. From discussions with colleagues in other authorities, this is common across Wales and particularly among the Councils in the north. We do have a rolling recruitment process with which we have had some success and will be taking on additional staff shortly, including drivers. This should alleviate the problems, but we are not being complacent and will continue to monitor the situation.

Leaving the glass banks on site or even reinstating them would actually compound the problem as we then need drivers to empty them which are better used on the kerbside rounds. Furthermore, the specialist vehicles used have gone beyond their effective life and are causing significant issues (and cost) in terms of maintaining them. As you will be aware the budget pressures are more acute than ever, so we do need to continue to remove these banks.