

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
19th October 2016**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor John Powell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor William Powell

What efforts is Powys County Council making to draw upon good practice amongst other principle local authorities in Wales for the efficient delivery of Waste and Recycling services? In particular, has any consideration been given to a pilot project for chargeable green waste collection, as is currently the case in Monmouthshire? Also, given the benefits for elderly and vulnerable service users, and those with constrained storage space, will the portfolio holder consider piloting a scheme for trolleys, suitable for stacking recycling trays between collections? Such a scheme has proved both popular and effective in both Wrexham and Blaenau Gwent.

Officers from Powys regularly liaise with their counterparts in other authorities to share best practice on waste and recycling collection methods. The Welsh Government are also regularly in attendance at these forums.

Powys follows the Welsh Government's preferred 'blueprint' collection method of kerbside sort using boxes. Whilst we do not provide a trolley, these boxes are stackable and hence should not take up too much space in people's homes. The trolley system that other authorities use is an integral system with box and trolley and could not be retrofitted to our existing system. As the capital cost of using the trolley system is over twice as much as the existing box arrangements, with the current budgetary constraints facing the Council, the capital investment in trolleys would be hard to justify. In terms of elderly and vulnerable residents, we do offer an assisted collection service where the operatives will collect from the door of properties to save residents carrying their boxes.

Residents can currently take their green waste either to Household Waste Recycling Centres or alternatively to one of the Community Recycling Sites. We are currently looking into the feasibility of a chargeable green waste collection service. The rural nature of Powys will make any such scheme a challenge as it is important that it is financially viable as the Council would not be able to operate this service at a loss.