

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 Gwilym Williams

The Welsh Assembly Government have several sites within Powys that have been partly developed for industrial use, one of the sites is in Abermule where the road and infrastructure has been put in several years ago.

I now understand that this site is going to be developed further in the near future for recycling, can the portfolio holder confirm if this is correct, also can the portfolio holder inform me and the Council when this is likely to be completed, and what type of recycling will take place there?

Abermule Business Park was part of the Severn Valley Regeneration initiative, a joint initiative between Powys County Council and Welsh Government, which was launched on 22nd October 2009. Part of plan related to the development of two Welsh Government owned sites, using European Funding, to develop site infrastructure, the Abermule site, to which you refer, being one of the two sites.

The site at Abermule is suitable for small units and therefore its development and management long term would probably be best suited to be undertaken by the County Council, and therefore as you will already be aware, capital funding was included in the Councils forward Capital budget (agreed by Council on 25th February) to enable the Council to purchase the site from Welsh Government and also to fund the first phase of development on the site. Negotiations to purchase the site is currently ongoing with Welsh Government.

At the same time the HTR service are currently looking at suitable sites for a variety of functions across Powys, including North Powys. It would appear that the Abermule site could provide an ideal site for our waste recycling service in the North, as it has direct access straight off the trunk road and is situated well away from residential communities thus alleviating any disturbance that can occur with a working site that is required to operate long hours etc. We therefore feel that there may be an opportunity to successfully co-locate this part of the service onto Abermule site by locating the unit at the back of the site and still allowing the site to be still substantially developed with business units, which remains the main ambition for this important site.

However, I must be clear that at this stage there has been no decisions made on this matter, and obviously cannot be made whilst negotiations are ongoing with Welsh Government regarding the ownership of the site.