

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council
11th July 2019

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Recycling and Assets

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Bryn Davies

In view of the recent publicity regarding plastic and other waste being shipped to Asia, can we have confirmation where such waste from Powys goes, and an assurance that none is 'dumped' on other countries?

Response

Following the various media coverage around plastics, notably David Attenborough's Blue Planet series and more recently Hugh and Anita's War On Plastic documentary, we have received many enquiries on this issue. Whilst this may have suddenly become a hot topic, it is nothing new for those of us familiar with the workings of the waste and recycling industry. Indeed we have already provided the information requested by Cllr Huw Williams in the same question to Council on October 18th 2018. We are of course happy to provide this information again with the attached document giving some detail regarding what happens to the material collected at the kerbside.

We are required by law to account for all the material we collect including all end destinations and this information is publicly available on the NRW/Defra website www.wastedataflow.org. Whilst this does not in itself guarantee the most ethical or sustainable outcome for the material, the contracts for our recyclable materials have been procured through WRAP who work on behalf of the Welsh Government, which adds an additional layer of scrutiny.

When we collect plastics at the kerbside we only collect material that recycling processors actually want. This is why we stopped collecting plastic film several years back as it is very difficult to find a market for this material. We take our recycling responsibilities very seriously which includes developing our own infrastructure to ensure that we have a sustainable solution to bulk up and transport recyclable material generated by residents of Powys. We can assure residents of Powys that the material they put out at the kerbside is recycled and helps us to achieve a recycling rate in excess of 60%.