

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
25th January 2018**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for
Property and Waste**

SUBJECT: Question from Francesca Garman

Given the restricted options for the disposal of plastics in particular in this part of Powys and the fact local authorities can no longer legally dump their general waste on China, where does Powys general waste go and what investment is planned to deal with recycling?

Answer

The issue of China introducing stringent restrictions on the quality of material that it accepts for recycling is a problem for the whole of the UK. The reason that Powys is only able to collect pots, tubs and trays and not plastic film is so that we have a quality product to sell to the market. Currently all of our plastic material collected at the kerbside is processed in the UK, which does mean that we will be less affected by the situation in China, although inevitably there will be a knock on effect on market prices.

A weekly recycling collection is provided in Powys which if used correctly will leave a much reduced amount of general waste. This is why we are able to collect general or residual waste every three weeks. This is then currently taken for landfill, but as part of the existing waste disposal contract, from 2021 this material will be processed through an Energy From Waste plant. No general waste is sent to China.

In terms of investment for recycling, the Council has strategic bulking facilities in Brecon and Rhayader and is currently purchasing a site in Montgomeryshire with help from the Welsh Government. Recyclables collected at the kerbside are bulked at these sites for onward transport to re-processors, maximising the efficiency of the collection rounds.