

Appendix 3 – Main Issues raised at Full Council 3rd May 2019

Issues/Question raised * <i>Questions and comments have been paraphrased and are not direct quotes</i>	Summary of response
Questions on the Presentation	
1. Shed is too large for the volume of material handled.	There is a requirement to be able to store sufficient quantities of different materials and safely load articulated vehicles within the building. The site is designed to take recyclable materials from kerbside collections, and this needs to increase to meet the WG targets. The figures have been provided to the community for the volume of materials processed (bulked and loaded): Brecon 9202 Tonnes: Rhayader 7000 Tonnes: North Powys currently is 9527 Tonnes
2. Will the facility be used for residual waste?	There are no current plans to use the facility for residual waste. As recycling rates increase and residual waste is removed, the quantity of residual will decrease and hence the requirement to bulk it. Furthermore, the composition of this material will be essentially clean non-recyclables and hence will be of no greater concern than the recyclables in terms of bulking.
3. Will the site be used to bale materials?	There are no plans to bale material at this site as this currently takes place at Brecon
4. Will the depot be used as a full highways depot?	There are no plans to use the site as a Highways Depot.
5. What is the business plan for relocating to Abermule?	Whilst there will be savings through economies of operating out of one facility in the north, the principal driver is to secure the sustainability of the service. Recyclables are currently bulked at a site at Newtown, which is not of sufficient capacity, and a third party site in Welshpool.
6. What is the progress with the business units?	We do have interested parties in all business units and they are aware of the timescales we are working to
7. There are 525 members in the ACT group, representing a whole community.	<i>Note following meeting – this is a reference to the number of members of the Public Facebook page for ACT and does not necessarily denote support.</i>
8. People are more important than targets.	Targets are statutory and set by Welsh Government. Wales is ahead of all other UK nations in its efforts to increase recycling and reduce the carbon footprint for our residents and future generations. Other Local Authorities have now been fined for not achieving targets
9. Where is the technical data on site options?	The report provides an overview assessment of other sites considered to explain why they are not an option.
10. Is funding for the site from the Severn valley regeneration programme?	A combined proposal for the site was considered acceptable by WG
11. Have all FOI Requests been responded to?	There is a process for FOI requests, which includes timelines for responding. Any outstanding ones will be chased for a response.
12. Has the proposal been scrutinised?	There has been considerable discussion at a number of Council meetings as well as going through the planning and budget setting process.

13. We do have responsibility to meet targets set for the Council. Concerns if we do not comply with these targets we may end up in a similar position to Childrens Services, with associated costs.	No response given
14. How did the process to obtain planning permission for the Abermule site compare to the Brecon and Rhayader sites?	The process followed for Abermule has been more extensive, due to the sensitive nature of this site.
15. Has there been an Equality Impact Assessment on all sites	Generally we don't carry out EIP on property projects, only when changes are affecting Council services.
16. Is there an option for Abermule to be used as a Highways Depot and Kirhamsfield as a bulking facility?	Kirkhamsfield Depot has been considered for this facility but with the current operations on site, there would not be sufficient space. Moving the whole Highways depot would not be a financially viable solution.
17. Have there been discussions with the owner of the G&T Evans Site?	Yes, the site is not formally for sale, and it is not available at a viable price for PCC.
Questions on the Report	
18. Are Project Alpha documents being withheld? There is an outstanding FOI regarding this.	The title "Project Alpha" was used for one report, to maintain commercial confidentiality for the purchase of the Abermule site. The outstanding FOI was due to the requirement to redact information regarding lease costs. <i>Note following meeting – this has now been released.</i>
19. Review of the requirement of the facility for North Powys	This information is included in the presentation, the report, and in the data provided regarding the current Tonnage of recycling
20. How long would it take to identify and obtain permission and licenses on an alternative site?	A new site identification including planning, surveys etc. on an alternative site, would likely take approximate 18 months- 2 years, plus the construction period
21. The site was zoned for this use, and has been subject to a planning application. It has been designed sympathetically to Abermule, as per other sites in the County, and is likely to pose few issues once in place. Has every objection been considered and addressed in the report?	Numerous representations have been made. Formal representations regarding planning are included in the link in the report, and were considered by the Planning Committee