

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
25th February 2016**

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

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe

- 1. Can the portfolio holder please provide the number of households still on purple sacks collection and provide a rationale in coming to the decision on costs of replacement purple sacks?**
- 2. Could the portfolio holder provide the costs for other councils on the sack system?**

1. There are currently 13,700 properties that receive a collection of their residual waste in purple sacks. These are properties that are considered unsuitable for a wheeled bin which is the preferred option where they can be accommodated. Each property receives an annual allocation of free purple sacks (3 rolls of 26 bags) which is the equivalent of a full standard 180 litre wheeled bin collected every three weeks. This means that all properties, regardless of whether they are on purple sacks or wheeled bins, have the same capacity for their residual waste over a twelve month period. If any resident requires extra capacity they are required to purchase additional purple sacks.

The cost of the additional sacks at £51.88 per roll of 26 is to cover the costs of collection and disposal and also to encourage residents to increase the amount they recycle and hence reduce any need for additional residual capacity. There is no limit to the amount of recycling containers that households can have and put out.

2. Authorities across Wales offer a number of different systems for the collection of residual waste which does make a comparison of the cost of bags difficult. Cardiff City Council does have a similar system with a charge for additional capacity at a cost of £10 for the first five bags and £1.85 per bag thereafter, a charge that is similar to Powys.