

**CYNGOR GWLEDIG LLANELLI**  
Adeiladau Vauxhall, Vauxhall, Llanelli, SA15 3BD  
Ffôn: 01554 774103

**PWYLLGOR POLISI AC ADNODDAU**

I'w cynnal yn Siambr y Cyngor a thrwy bresenoldeb o bell ar,  
ddydd Mercher, 19 Chwefror, 2025, am 4.45 y.p.

  
CLERC y CYNGOR

13 Chwefror, 2025.

**AGENDA**

1. Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.
2. Derbyn Datganiad o Fuddiannau gan Aelodau mewn perthynas â'r busnes i'w drafod.
3. Cynllun Dychwelyd Ernes (DRS) – Ffederasiwn Bwyd a Diod Cymru – i ystyried gohebiaeth gan Bennaeth Ffederasiwn Bwyd a Diod Cymru ac i gytuno ar ymateb y cyngor.
4. Deddf Cyrff Cyhoeddus (Mynediad i Gyfarfodydd), 1960 – ystyried eithrio aelodau'r cyhoedd pan ystyrir y materion canlynol oherwydd natur gyfrinachol y busnes a drafodir.
5. Adroddiad Dynol - Materion Staffio - i dderbyn adroddiad y Dirprwy Glerc

**Aelodau'r Pwyllgor:**

**Cyng.** R. E. Evans (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor), N. Evans (Is-Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor),  
M. V. Davies (Cadeirydd y Cyngor), S. R. Bowen, D. M. Cundy, A. Evans, S. M. T.  
Ford, J. P. Hart, S. N. Lewis, W. E. Skinner a A. G. Stephens.

**LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL**  
Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli. SA15 3BD  
Tel: 01554 774103

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
To be hosted at the Council Chamber and via remote attendance on  
Wednesday, 19 February, 2025, at 4.45 p.m.



CLERK to the COUNCIL

13 February, 2025.

**AGENDA**

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To receive Members Declarations of Interest in respect of the business to be transacted.
3. Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) - Food and Drink Federation Cymru – to consider correspondence from the Head of Food and Drink Federation Cymru and to agree the council's response.
4. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 – to consider excluding members of the public during consideration of the following matter owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
5. Human Resources - Staffing Matters - to receive the report of the Deputy Clerk.

**Members of the Committee:**

**Cllrs.** R. E. Evans (Chairman of Committee), N. Evans (Vice Chairman of Committee)  
M. V. Davies (Chairman of Council), S. R. Bowen, D. M. Cundy, A. Evans, S. M. T.  
Ford, J. P. Hart, S. N. Lewis, W. E. Skinner and A. G. Stephens.

**Alexandra Einon**

**From:** David Harries <David.Harries@fdfcymru.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 February 2025 16:25  
**To:** enquiries  
**Subject:** Deposit Return Scheme (DRS): Letter - Llanelli Rural Council  
**Attachments:** Letter.Llanelli Rural Council.pdf

Dear Llanelli Rural Council,

May I introduce myself as the Head of the FDF-Cymru, which is part of the British Food & Drink Federation (FDF). We represent the largest manufacturing sector in the United Kingdom.

I am attaching a letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> February which explains the impact on littering in Wales following the Welsh Government's decision to withdraw from a UK-wide Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in November last year. DRS is an environmental policy where consumers pay a deposit when purchasing a drink in a container, such as a plastic bottle or metal can. This deposit is then fully refunded to the consumer when the container is returned to a collection point for recycling. The primary goals of a DRS are to increase recycling rates, promote a circular economy, and to reduce litter which, as we know, is a real problem in Wales.

We applaud the Welsh Government for its high ambition and the acceleration of recycling and acknowledge that mandatory recycling targets have been instrumental in achieving world-leading recycling rates. Wales can be rightly proud of its recycling record and leads the way in the UK in developing a truly circular economy. As the rest of the three nation's look to develop their circular economy strategies, there is much they could all learn from Wales.

A scope-aligned and interoperable DRS will help to reduce litter due to the financial incentives around recovering deposits. The Welsh Government's own litter composition analysis showed plastic containers and cans sitting at 3.4% and 5.6% of littered items respectively. The analysis also stated that plastic bottles littered 13.6% of our streets. Focusing consumer behavioural change on these items would therefore have a major impact on reducing litter in Wales. By rewarding responsible disposal through DRS littering will be reduced, resulting in cleaner public spaces for all, benefiting both our urban and rural environments.

Our industry has been preparing to invest billions in a nationwide DRS for some years and has long supported the introduction of a well-designed system which is complimentary to kerbside collection schemes and other proposed packaging reforms. The Welsh Government's decision to step away from DRS was therefore was a huge surprise and disappointment which we, and other stakeholders, have communicated to them. The announcement also increased uncertainty for the scheme due to be implemented in 2027. I would be interested to hear the Llanelli Rural Council's views on Welsh Government's decision and what, if any, representations you have made on this matter and whether you intend to do so.

Should you wish to discuss the above further, I would be delighted to set-up a Teams call with my colleagues.

Thank you.

*David*

**David Harries**  
 Head of FDF Cymru  
**Food and Drink Federation Cymru**  
 T: 07592 588 296

**fdf Cymru** | Food and Drink Powers our Nation | Bwyd a Diod yn Pweru ein  
[www.fdf.org.uk/wales](http://www.fdf.org.uk/wales) | [@Foodanddrinkfed](https://twitter.com/Foodanddrinkfed) | [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/fdf-cymru/)

<b>LLANELLI RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	05 FEB 2025
<b>FILE REF.</b>	
<b>PASSED TO</b> Cenedl	P+R

Llanelli Rural Council  
Vauxhall Buildings  
Vauxhall  
Llanelli  
Sir Gar  
SA15 3BD

4<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Llanelli Rural Council,

May I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Head of the Food & Drink Federation in Wales (FDF-Cymru). For over 100 years, the FDF has successfully contributed to policy making and legislative development. We bring together business, government, and stakeholders to ensure our manufacturers have the right conditions to grow, invest and employ.

Food and drink is the most significant manufacturing sector in Wales employing over 18% of the Welsh manufacturing workforce. From farm to fork, Wales needs a strong, resilient, sustainable food and drink sector. It underpins our food security, as well as providing thousands of jobs and forward-looking science and innovation. The Welsh Food and drink industry is a great success story.

One of FDF's key focus area is packaging. We strongly support the collection and packaging reforms (CPR), and the introduction of well-designed, industry-led Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Deposit Return Schemes (DRS), as key tools for delivering a circular economy across the UK. Our industry uses plastics and other packaging materials primarily to protect products across the supply chain and ensure they reach the consumer in a safe and optimal condition. Packaging also plays an important role in preventing food waste and contributing to the sustainability of the whole supply chain.

The collection and packaging reforms have the potential to build a truly circular economy in Wales enabling food and drink manufacturers to turn recyclable, food-grade packaging back into new packaging. This will be essential if manufacturers and government are to meet our stretching sustainability targets and consumer demand. Our industry knows the important role we must play in meeting ambitious climate and wider environmental goals. That is why we have set the ambition of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2040. We are committed to playing a leading role in delivering an efficient circular economy in plastic packaging to improve recycling rates.

Wales has a genuinely world class recycling scheme and is at the forefront in the UK. However, the decision by the Welsh Government on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to step away from the four-nation approach to the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), was extremely disappointing and will not, in our view, tackle the ongoing litter problem in Wales.

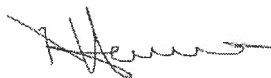
As producers, we want to be able to ensure that the packaging we place on the market can be recycled back into high grade recycled material. A truly efficient circular economy, and the reduction of litter, will be a vital part of this goal. We will work to encourage behavioural changes and to end our 'throwaway society'. The Republic of Ireland, which introduced DRS in February last year, has improved recycling habits as well as driving a cultural shift in how people view their waste. The introduction of DRS has had an instant impact with almost a billion containers already been returned, with surveys reporting huge falls in drinks litter and containers ending up in landfill.

What we have consistently stressed to the Welsh government is the importance of a UK-wide aligned and interoperable DRS, underpinned by effective and well-defined regulations. By rewarding consumers through DRS, littering will be reduced, resulting in cleaner public spaces for all, benefiting both our urban and rural environments. We are concerned, however, that the Welsh Government's decision to step away from DRS will not tackle this problem. In our view, DRS is the answer to getting plastic drinks bottles and aluminium cans out of our parks, off our streets and away from our wildlife, rivers, and seas.

I would be interested to know what Llanelli Rural Council's position is on DRS and to learn what, if any, correspondence you have had with the Welsh Government on this matter. Should you wish to discuss the above with myself my colleagues, I would be delighted to set up a Teams meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With regards & best wishes.



David Harries OBE  
Head, FDF-Cymru  
Food & Drink Federation Cymru