

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions asked at Council  
5 December 2024**

1	<p><b>Councillor Peter Black</b></p> <p><b>In relation to Minute 73 - Councillor Questions (Q4).</b></p> <p>What is the current take up of Pension Credits in Swansea and can you provide an estimate number of those entitled to it but not receiving Pension Credits. What more can the Council do to ensure those that should be receiving it, actually do receive it.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>The most recent national figures published by the Department for Work and Pension which is responsible for the administration of Pension Credit and maximising take up of that payment amongst eligible citizens, show that applications increase by 145% in the 16 weeks from 29 July to 11 November 2024 compared to the 16 weeks before. 29th July was when it was announced that entitlement to the Winter Fuel payment was to be linked to Pension Credit entitlement. No other official figures have been published as far as the authority is aware, although some organisations report their own unofficial estimates and analysis in any case we do not believe the DWP would split what figures they do collect by local authority area as these do not always match their administrative areas.</p> <p>As explained, the authority has already undertaken significant unfunded take up work to support the DWP but we do not have access to any more detailed official data to illustrate how successful those joint efforts have been across our area. Citizens we have prompted to apply for Pension Credit by our take up work will have applied without involving the authority further in most cases. Where they did contact us for specific advice or assistance, we can provide individual examples of successful applications as indications of success as follows form Welfare Rights team.</p> <p>The Welfare Rights Team have undertaken talks at community events as requested by some Councillors to highlight the importance of claiming benefits that they identified. From these events, the team were able to provide information about Pension Credit and identify claims for Attendance Allowance. Follow up home visits have been arranged for benefit checks and support to claim the relevant benefits.</p> <p>The Welfare Rights Team have undertaken several take up campaigns around Pension Credit resulting in awards of Pension Credit and entitlement to disability benefits. This included a take-up campaign around mixed aged couples, working collaboratively with Neath Port Talbot Welfare Rights Team; Care and Repair, Carers Centre and Citizen's Advice Bureau.</p> <p>The team are currently working with SCIF and Adult Services Common Access Point and offering benefit checks and undertaking relevant welfare rights work identified for those receiving or waiting assessment for care packages.</p> <p>Ongoing, we will of course continue to make people aware of the availability of Pension Credit wherever appropriate and wherever we can, but in the absence of any funding from the DWP for wider activities, our Welfare Rights and Benefits</p>
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	<p>teams which are already working at full capacity, if not more, in the current cost of living crisis will be unable to undertake large scale programmes of pension credit take up activities. Responsibility for which does, of course, still lie with the DWP.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Councillor Stuart Rice</b></p> <p><b>In relation to Minute 73 - Councillor Questions (Q5).</b></p> <p>How much has the empty Debenhams building cost since the Council took it on.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>The response is taking longer than expected to compile. A written response will be provided as soon as possible and incorporated into the agenda pack for the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 6 March 2025.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Councillor Peter May</b></p> <p><b>In relation to Minute 73 - Councillor Questions (Q8).</b></p> <p>When did the Council last an awareness raising campaign relating to fly tipping.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)</b></p> <p>We have an ongoing fly tipping campaign, highlighting the penalties of fly tipping and passing waste on to illegal waste carriers under the Householder Duty of Care legislation, this will continue to be a priority in 2025. Two fixed penalty notices for fly tipping have been issued, one was publicised in November 2023 and the second in February 2024 was not publicised.</p> <p>We will also liaise with other authorities and partnership bodies with a view to sharing good practice.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Councillor Lynda James</b></p> <p><b>In relation to Minute 74 - Councillor Questions (Q5).</b></p> <p>The response does not cover all the points raised in my original question. I would particularly like to know about Tetra Packs, and the destinations of where the recycling materials are being exported.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)</b></p> <p>Please find below further information on the following materials, where the end destinations are not shown on <a href="https://myrecyclingwales.org.uk/local_authorities/swansea">https://myrecyclingwales.org.uk/local_authorities/swansea</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tetra packs are collected and transported to a specialist recycling facility in Halifax that separates and recycles the fibre and plastic elements</li> <li>• Paper is sent to a UK facility where it is debagged and separated into differing grades before being sent to specialist mills. The location of the mills varies depending on the global market. As an example, in Qtr3 2023/24 the separated paper was sent to India and the separated cardboard was sent to Belgium</li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cardboard is sent to a UK facility where it is bulked up before being sent to specialist mills. The location of the mills varies depending on the global market. As an example, in Qtr3 2023/24 cardboard was sent to India and Malaysia.</li></ul> |
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