Welshpool Town Council, The Vicarage Gardens, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DD
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Document / Report #332

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Title	Community Fridge - September
Date	18th September 2025

1. Purpose

1. To update Council on progress with the Community Fridge project and to seek approval to commit expenditure before the end of October 2025.

2. Background

1. The project was approved in principle in July by Council (WTCM254).
2. A meeting was held on 10 September 2025 attended by Cllrs Alison Davies, Richard Church and David France, together with officers Aggie Titley and Paul McGrath.
3. Key points of the meeting included:
    1. Allocated money must be spent before the end of October 2025.
    2. Equipment required includes a standing freezer, smaller fridge, shelving unit and shutters/lockable area.
    3. A second-hand fridge/freezer may be considered if cost-effective.
    4. Contact has been made with a director of Newtown Food Surplus (NFS) and correspondence is ongoing.
    5. An email has been sent to Welshpool Community Haven with a view to meeting shortly.

3. Advice

1. To ensure the project can be delivered within the funding deadline, authority should be delegated to proceed with procurement of the listed equipment. Both new and second-hand options should be considered provided they meet food safety and electrical safety standards.
2. Officers will continue liaison with NFS and The Haven to explore opportunities for partnership working and support.
3. A press release should be issued once the fridge is in place to promote the scheme and highlight the Council’s role in supporting food redistribution and waste reduction.

4. Resource & Legal Implications

1. All costs to be met from the allocated Community Fridge budget, with expenditure committed before the end of October 2025.
2. Officer time will be required to manage procurement, installation and communications.

5. Recommendation

1. Approve the purchase of a standing freezer, smaller fridge, shelving unit and shutters/lockable area, with expenditure committed before the end of October 2025.
2. Authorise officers to consider both new and second-hand equipment, subject to safety checks and warranty where available.
3. Remit the project to the Operations & Development Committee.

6. Decision

1. To resolve to adopt the recommendations as above.