

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 11 th May 2016
Report Subject	Review of the HRC provision and Bulky Waste Collection service
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Waste and Public Protection
Report Author	Chief Officer, Streetscene & Transportation
Type of Report	Strategic & Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welsh Government have now completed their review of the Councils waste service, which included a review of the Councils Household Recycling Centre (HRC) provision. The study concluded that the Councils HRC provision (in terms of the number of sites) was greater than was necessary and that the facilities offered at each site did not match the minimum requirements of the high quality sites which regularly achieve high levels of recycling elsewhere in the Country.

The report recommended that a County of the size and demographic features of Flintshire should offer just three HRC sites, with each site offering good access and excellent recycling facilities to users. The report also made recommendations on which of the current sites would provide the best configuration and coverage across the County.

The Council has recently completed a wide ranging consultation process on the rationalisation of HRC's. Over 500 responses were received and the feedback from the process is included in this report

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To seek a recommendation from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet to approve the proposals within the WG study for the future HRC provision in the County.
2	To seek a recommendation from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet for the proposed pilot scheme to engage a local Social Enterprise to provide the Bulky Waste collection service.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND THE NEW POLICY																			
1.01	In June 2010 the Council adopted its Municipal Waste Strategy. The Strategy contains a number of key actions which were needed to meet the challenging recycling targets set out in the all Wales National Waste Strategy 'Towards Zero Waste'																			
1.02	On 15 th March 2011 the Council's Executive formally approved its Household Waste Collection Policy which supported the introduction of a Managed Weekly Collection (MWC) service, fundamentally changing the way the Council collected all domestic waste in the County. The new MWC service was designed to increase participation in recycling and reduce the Council's reliance on landfill in order meet the challenging targets set out in the Strategy. Further revisions to the Policy were approved by Cabinet in December 2013 and again in April 2015																			
1.03	Failure to meet the WG National Strategy landfill targets could result in infraction charges being levied against the Council totalling £200 for each tonne of waste land filled above the defined allowance. This would result in a relatively minor failure to meet the target of (say) 1,000 tonnes or the equivalent of just 1% of the Council's current Municipal Waste arising, resulting in a financial penalty of £200,000 for that year alone. In addition, a further £200/tonne infraction charge could be levied, if the Council fails to achieve the Statutory Waste Recycling target in a same period, resulting in the possibility of a further £200,000 penalty being served upon the Council.																			
1.04	<p>Since the introduction of the Policy and the new collection arrangements, recycling levels across all areas of the County have increased, allowing the Council to achieve the 2012–13 and 2015-16 statutory targets and to be well on track to achieve the subsequent targets - which are shown below:</p> <p><u>Table 1 - Summary of municipal waste targets</u></p> <table><tr><th rowspan="2">TARGET FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL LOCAL AUTHORITY:</th><th colspan="4">TARGETS FOR EACH TARGET YEAR</th></tr><tr><th>12-13</th><th>15-16</th><th>19-20</th><th>24-25</th></tr><tr><td>Minimum levels of preparing for reuse and recycling / composting (or AD)</td><td>52%</td><td>58%</td><td>64%</td><td>70%</td></tr><tr><td>Minimum proportion of reuse/recycling/composting that must come from source separation (kerbside, bring and/or civic amenity (CA) site</td><td>80%</td><td>80%</td><td>80%</td><td>80%</td></tr></table>	TARGET FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL LOCAL AUTHORITY:	TARGETS FOR EACH TARGET YEAR				12-13	15-16	19-20	24-25	Minimum levels of preparing for reuse and recycling / composting (or AD)	52%	58%	64%	70%	Minimum proportion of reuse/recycling/composting that must come from source separation (kerbside, bring and/or civic amenity (CA) site	80%	80%	80%	80%
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1.05	Approximately 30% of the total domestic waste currently produced in Flintshire is deposited at the HRC sites and the average recycling rate achieved at the sites is just approximately 70%. This is due to the lack of facilities and space at the sites to offer the full range of recycling containers for residents to recycle their waste
1.06	The Councils recycling service receives significant funding from WG through the Sustainable Waste Management Grant (SWMG) which has now been combined within the Single Environment Grant (SEG). The level of the Grant has been reducing since the financial year 2013-14 and indications are that further reductions are to be expected. WG has recently undertaken a study on the Councils waste service (Appendix 1) and have now made some specific recommendation on the future of the HRC service provision.
1.07	The study concluded that the Councils HRC provision was greater than was necessary (in terms of the number of sites provided) and that the facilities offered at each site did not match the minimum requirements for the high quality sites which achieved high levels of recycling elsewhere in the Country.
1.08	<p>The WG study reviewed the optimum configuration and location of sites in the County and the proposals considered a number of factors, before making a recommendation on the number of sites that should remain.</p> <p>The factors included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of residents within a 20 minute drive of the sites • Development potential of the site to meet the requirements of a high quality and high performing site <p>The WG study recommends that Flintshire County Council should operate three HRC sites at locations across the County, with each site offering good access and excellent recycling facilities to users.</p> <p>On this basis, the report recommends that the Council should operate sites at the following locations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greenfield 2. Sandycroft 3. Nercwys near Mold <p>Subject to Cabinet approval of the changes, the closures of the remaining facilities will come into effect on 1st November 2016</p>
1.09	In order that the Council can provide an excellent service at each of the sites it will be necessary to improve the facilities at the Nercwys facility and WG have indicated their initial support for capital funding to improve these facilities through the provision of grant payments. With the completion of the WG study, the grant submission can now be progressed with WG for this funding.

1.10	<p>Bulky Collections</p> <p>The Streetscene and Transportation service will also introduce a new arrangement for the kerbside collection of bulky waste. It is proposed to introduce a pilot scheme with a Social Enterprise (Flintshire Refurbs) to extend the existing arrangement for the collection of bulky waste electrical equipment to allow them to collect all requested bulky waste collections. The material will be taken to an appropriate closed HRC site, to allow the material to be assessed for reuse or broken down to the individual recyclable components. The pilot will last for a period of 1 year, following which a review will be carried out to evaluate the cost effectiveness of the proposals. A further report will then be presented on the future of the service once the pilot period has been completed.</p>
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Reduction in HRC provision will reduce the labour requirement, achieving the savings identified in the portfolio Business Planning process and make the saving necessary to meet the reduced WG grant funding. Labour will be redeployed into other areas of the service.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Consultation has taken place with HRC site users regarding their aspirations for the HRC provision the information received is shown in Appendix 2 .
3.02	Comments have been invited from members and T&CC'S the information received is shown in Appendix 2 .
3.03	A full EIA has been completed and the impact on the statutory protect groups has also been tested at stakeholders workshops

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	A Project Review Board has been set up to monitor and oversee the implementation of the proposals, and to ensure that the project stays on target.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Summary outcome of the consultation process
5.02	Appendix 2 – WG Study in the Council waste and HRC service

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Insert any hyperlinks to supporting documents if necessary.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Stephen O Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	HRC - Household Recycling Centre