

Household Recycling Centre Operations and Vehicle Permit Criteria Workshop

26 September 2022



Cadwch **Sir y Fflint** yn Daclus
Keep **Flintshire** Tidy



Agenda

- Introductions / Purpose of Workshop
- Context / Background
- Where are we now?
 - HRC Operations
 - HRC Recycling Performance
 - Funding Investments
 - Vehicle Permit Policy Update
 - Policy Review
- Breakout Session / Feedback
- Next Steps

Context / Background

- The council's waste and recycling services are highly valued by local members and the wider community.
- Any changes made to these services have wide reaching impacts and can receive substantial interest and challenge.
- In the last 12 years we have moved from a backdoor collection service to a modern, controlled kerbside collection service with the emphasis on recycling.
- We have reduced, modified and upgraded our household recycling centres (HRCs) to improve the customer experience and maximise the services offered.
- Largely driven by Welsh Government (WG) Statutory Recycling Targets and the possibility of infraction fines if we do not achieve them i.e. 70% by 2024/2025
- The percentage of our total waste arisings recycled, composted or re-used increased to 69.16% in 2018/2019

Context / Background

- However, since the pandemic in 2020, we are seeing a year on year decrease in performance irrespective of the improvements made to our services.
- Over the last five years, we have reviewed our waste strategy three times, with the most recent review being the 'Target 70' campaign in July 2021.
- These reviews have allowed us to implement changes which have attributed to improving the way we deliver our household recycling centre services.
- In April 2022 a revised Vehicle Permit Policy and booking system was introduced to improve vehicular access and control and to reduce illegal trade waste disposal and address the verbal and physical abuse that staff were receiving at our HRC sites.
- Now that the new policy is embedded, a review of its effectiveness is required along with a wider review of HRC operations to ensure that they continue to positively contribute to the overall recycling performance.

Household Recycling Centre Overview

There are five HRCs located across the County

- ❖ Buckley
- ❖ Greenfield
- ❖ Nercwys (Mold)
- ❖ Rockcliffe (Oakenholt)
- ❖ Sandycroft



Only small amounts of domestic household waste can be taken to a HRC site under the constraints set out in the Environment Permit. Business and trade waste is not permitted. The types of household waste accepted on site include, but are not limited to:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| ✓ Wood | ✓ Tyres |
| ✓ Garden waste | ✓ Plasterboard |
| ✓ Soils/Rubble | ✓ Mattresses and Carpets |
| ✓ Scrap Metal | ✓ Paints |
| ✓ Cardboard | ✓ Certain hazardous waste |
| ✓ Electrical items | ✓ Non-recyclable wastes |
| ✓ Plastic | |
| ✓ Glass | |
| ✓ Textiles | |

All waste collected and handled by the Local Authority has to be reported through a national reporting tool called WasteDataFlow.

Where all our recycling and waste ends up can be viewed on the website:

<https://myrecyclingwales.org.uk/>

Environmental Permitting

- All HRC sites are regulated by Natural Resources Wales under an Environmental Permit.
- An environmental permit sets out specific conditions on how a waste operation (Landfill Site, Transfer Station, Household Recycling Centre) must be carried out.
- The conditions include:
 - what type of waste can be taken to the site,
 - limits on the amount of waste that can be accepted and stored,
 - measures that need to be put in place to control site operations (drainage, security, odour, litter)
- The purpose of an Environmental Permit is to ensure protection of the natural environment.
- Our HRCs are routinely visited by NRW who undertake inspections to ensure we are operating compliantly with the regulations
- Data on how much waste is collected, where it has come from as well as where it is disposed of is provided to NRW Quarterly via waste returns.
- Any breaches of the permit could lead to a fine or imprisonment, dependant on the severity of the non-conformance.

Waste Duty of Care Requirements

When disposing of waste both residents and business have to comply with Duty of Care as set out in the Environmental Protection Act, Section 34. The following requirements must be met with any noncompliance possibly resulting in prosecution.



Business Waste

- ✓ Have a compliant waste contract in place
- ✓ Check person taking the waste is a registered waste carrier
- ✓ Complete a Waste transfer note recording the waste type, who took it and where it has been disposed of
- ✓ If transporting the waste obtain a waste carriers licence and take the waste to a licenced site

Household Waste

- ✓ Check person taking the waste is a registered waste carrier
- ✓ Record the business name
- ✓ Record the type and registration of the vehicle
- ✓ Record the date the waste was taken
- ✓ ALWAYS ask where the waste is going to
- ✓ Get a receipt

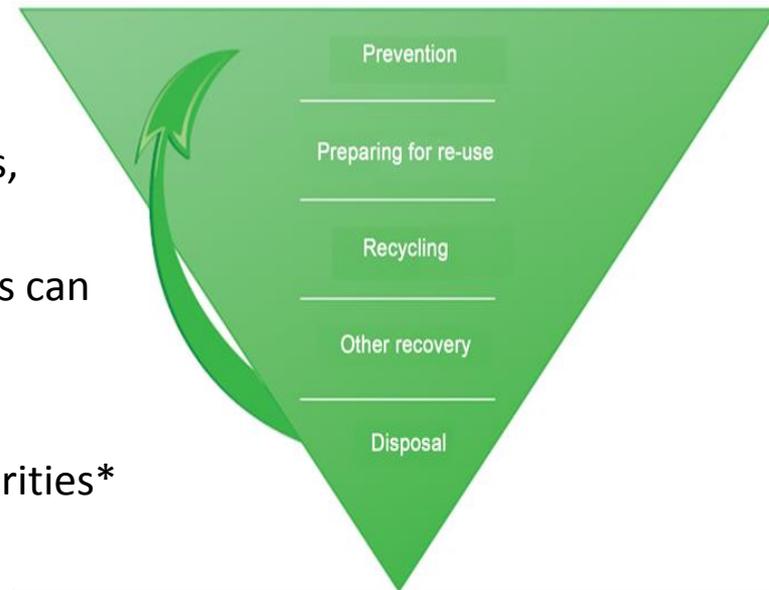
Reuse, Repurpose, Repair and Deconstruction

As well as collecting waste for recycling or disposal, we aim to encourage our residents to reuse, repurpose or repair items instead of disposal to fulfil the waste hierarchy and deliver on a circular economy.

Some of the interventions we have taken to achieve this include:

- Bulky waste collection service
- Reusable nappies scheme
- Discourage the use of single use items (plastic bottles, carrier bags)
- Have set-aside areas at the HRC where reusable items can be taken for resale or repurposing
- Provide repair, reuse and upcycling workshops
- Develop a “reuse for good” hub and partner with charities*
- Trial a doorstep collection service for textile items*
- Where an item cannot be reused they are deconstructed into their component parts which are then recycled.

*Both initiatives subject to a funding application



Polices, Legislation, Guidance & Changing Times

- Towards Zero Waste: Our Waste Strategy 2010
 - Municipal Waste Sector Plans, Collections Blueprint
- Recycling, Preparation for Re-use and Composting Targets (Monitoring and Penalties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Wales Waste Measure
 - Waste classification, Household/municipal waste
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- End Destinations
 - proximity principle , market stability, reporting regimes
- Wales Circular Economy – Beyond Recycling Strategy
 - Repair and reuse, carbon reduction
- Waste Compositional Analysis
- Grant funding applications for new initiatives



Recycling Targets and Performance

Municipal Waste Collected by Local Authorities	2012-13	2012-13	2015-16	2019-20	2024-25
Minimum levels of preparing for reuse and recycling/composting (or AD) for municipal waste	40%	52%	58%	64%	70%

2018-2019 – almost had achieved 70% target at 69.16%

2019-2020 – Start of Covid-19 pandemic: 65.85%

2020-2021 - Covid-19 pandemic: 63.98%

2021-2022 – Covid-19 pandemic: 61%

2022-2023 (Q1) – Covid recovery: ??%

If we do not achieve the set target we could face fines of £200 per tonne of waste not recycled. For context, in 2020/21 we missed our target by just 17 tonnes which equated to a penalty of £3,400

Funding Investment and Redevelopment

New and redeveloped HRCs to provide a modern and safe environment

Improved welfare facilities for staff

New plant, machinery and equipment to deliver a safe and efficient operation



- Repair and Reuse Centre Buckley
- Community garden focusing on sustainability
- “Reuse for good” Hub
- Doorstep recycling collection service

Vehicle Permit Policy – Need for Change

- In September 2021, following two all-member seminars held in July 2021, a number of recommendations were presented to Cabinet on proposed changes to the current waste strategy to ensure that the Council achieves the 70% target by 2024/2025.
- One of the recommendations made was to revisit the current Household Recycling Centre (HRC) vehicle permit scheme criteria.
- At the seminars, Members had expressed their concerns that the current vehicle permit criteria was not clear enough and could be left to interpretation, which can create confusion and ambiguity for service users and staff.
- It was also highlighted by our HRC staff that the permitting system unintentionally allowed traders and commercial businesses to exploit the system and bring in trade waste streams, which we are not permitted to accept.
- When questioned or challenged by our staff, some of these customers could become abusive and violent, leading to unpleasant working environments.
- A report was submitted to the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee in January 2022 and Cabinet approved a revised policy, which was implemented in April 2022.
- At this time, a booking system for mattresses and asbestos was also introduced following further concerns that the containers for these materials were often full when customers arrived at site.

Vehicle Permit Policy – Key Changes April 2022

- All trailers, irrelevant of size now require a permit
- Size restrictions on vehicles and trailers that are eligible for a permit
- Trailers with extended and caged sides are not an approved vehicle
- Trailers are not permitted if towed by a vehicle requiring a permit (E.g. van)
- Permits are issued for one specific site only
- A 'one off permit' will be issued to a business vehicle, providing that the waste does not originate from the activities of that business
- A temporary permit to be issued to a hired vehicle allowing for up to three visits over a week during each calendar year
- All applications will be via an online application process
- If an applicant continually provides incorrect documentation then they will be refused a permit and not permitted to reapply for six months.
- An appeals process has been established should an application be refused.
- The policy details that abuse of the scheme will not be tolerated and that permits can be revoked for non-compliance

CYNGOR Sir y Fflint Flintshire **BWCLE BUCKLEY**
Llinell Gymorth / Helpline: 01352 701234

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TRELAR TRAILER **CYNGOR Sir y Fflint Flintshire** **BWCLE BUCKLEY**
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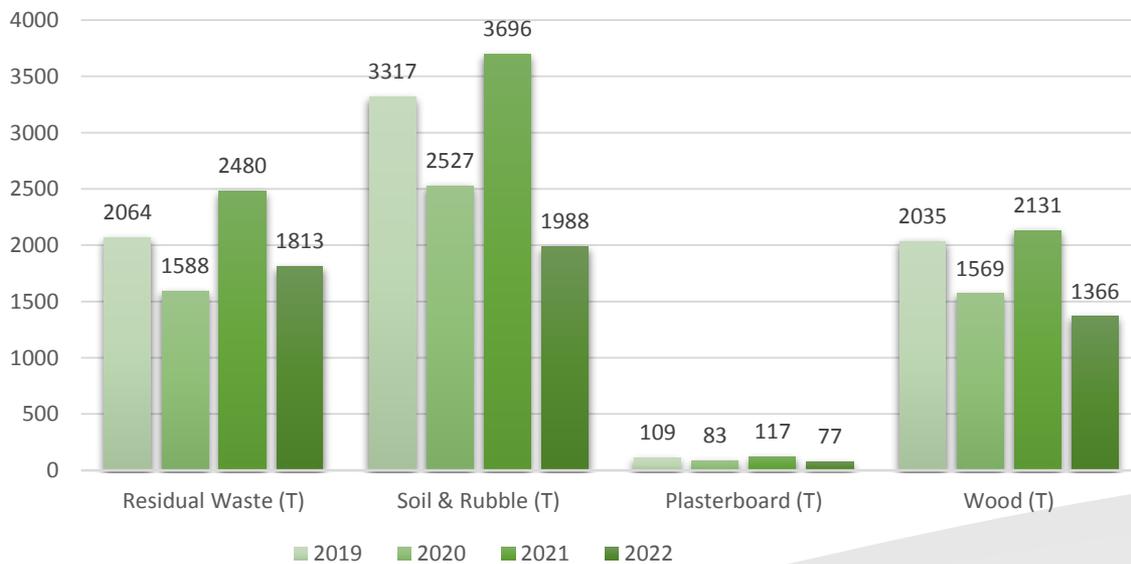
Vehicle Permit Policy – Vehicle Issues



Vehicle Permit Policy – Impact

Waste Tonnes and Saving						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	Difference 21-22	£ Saving
Residual Waste (T)	2064	1588	2480	1813	-667	-£55,411
Soil & Rubble (T)	3317	2527	3696	1988	-1708	-£13,664
Plasterboard (T)	109	83	117	77	-40	-£3,988
Wood (T)	2035	1569	2131	1366	-765	-£22,184
Total	7525	5768	8424	5244	-3180	-£95,247

Waste Tonnes



Vehicle Permit Policy – Impact

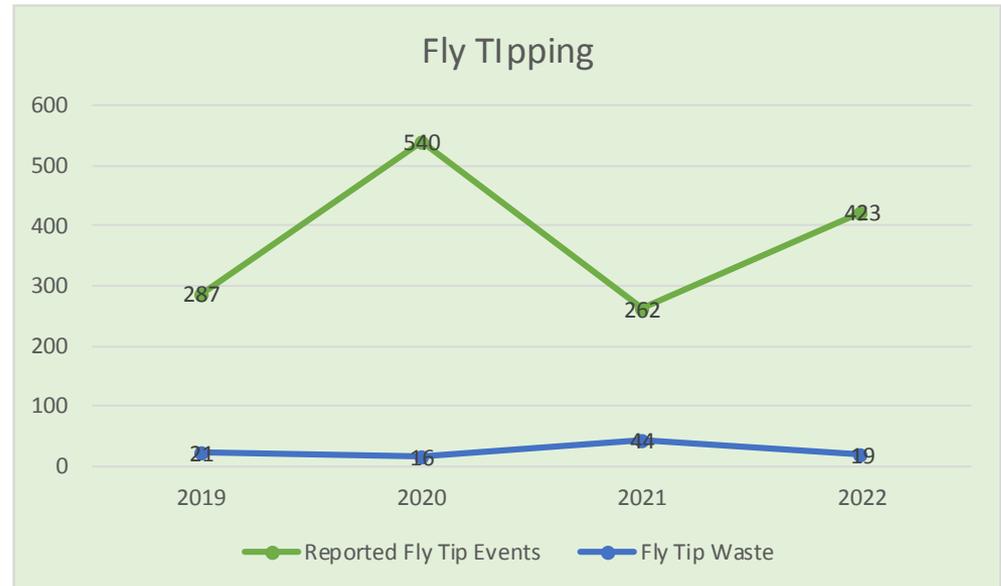
Application Statistics

Permit Applications	1992
Permits Issued	1766
Permits Refused	266
Appeals Received	106
Appeals Upheld	6

Reported Incidents of Violence and Aggression

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022
April	4	X	3	1
May	4	X	1	0
June	0	X	1	1
July	2	0	0	0
August	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	11	0	5	2

Fly Tip Data				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Reported Fly Tip Events	287	540	262	423
Fly Tip Waste (T)	21	16	44	19



Discussion Session and Points for Consideration

- Vehicle permit policy
- Booking system for waste streams
- Charging for disposal of C/I waste for residents
- Trader/charities tipping on site
- Extended opening hours
- Bagging and charging for soil conditioner
- Any other considerations

Next Steps

- Collate all feedback / create FAQs
- Review feedback
- Identify any operational and policy changes
- Report to E&EOSC in November for scrutiny
- Present to Cabinet in November for consideration

Thank You