

Public Document Pack

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To: Cllr David Evans (Chair)

Councillors: Glyn Banks, Mel Buckley, David Coggins Cogan, Chris Dolphin,
Ray Hughes, Richard Lloyd, Vicky Perfect, Mike Peers, Dan Rose,
David Richardson and Roy Wakelam

10 July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF HYBRID MEETING
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 16TH JULY, 2024 at 10.00 AM

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum
Democratic Services Manager

Please note: Attendance at this meeting is either in person in the Delyn Committee Room, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire or on a virtual basis.

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. The live streaming will stop when any confidential items are considered. A recording of the meeting will also be available, shortly after the meeting at <https://flintshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact a member of the Democratic Services Team on 01352 702345.

A G E N D A

1 **APOLOGIES**

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING (ENV)** (Pages 5 - 14)

Report of Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator

Purpose: To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.

4 **ENFORCEMENT OF CLOSURE NOTICES AND CLOSURE ORDERS UNDER THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014** (Pages 15 - 18)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection

Purpose: To give the Council the powers to issue Closure Notices and Orders under The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

5 **UPDATE ON THE WORKS OF THE ENFORCEMENT SERVICE** (Pages 19 - 26)

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation

Purpose: To provide Scrutiny with an update on the work of the Enforcement Service

6 **OPEN ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH FRESHWAVE** (Pages 27 - 32)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

Purpose: To seek approval to sign a non-exclusive Open Access Agreement with Freshwave Facilities Limited

7 INVESTMENT ZONE FOR FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM (Pages 33 - 46)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

Purpose: To update Members on the development of the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone to date and seek approval for the next steps needed to take the programme through the joint UK / WG Gateway process.

8 THE COUNCIL'S TRANSITION TO A RESTRICTED CAPACITY RESIDUAL WASTE COLLECTION MODEL (Pages 47 - 92)

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation

Purpose: To update Scrutiny on the outcome of the waste and recycling modelling work undertaken by WRAP Cymru with the purpose of maximising recycling performance.

Please note that there may be a 10 minute adjournment of this meeting if it lasts longer than two hours

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ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16 th July, 2024
Report Subject	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking
Report Author	Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview & Scrutiny presents a unique opportunity for Members to determine the Forward Work programme of the Committee of which they are Members. By reviewing and prioritising the Forward Work Programme Members are able to ensure it is Member-led and includes the right issues. A copy of the Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration which has been updated following the last meeting.

The Committee is asked to consider, and amend where necessary, the Forward Work Programme for the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The report also shows actions arising from previous meetings of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the progress made in completing them. Any outstanding actions will be continued to be reported to the Committee as shown in Appendix 2.

RECOMMENDATION

1	That the Committee considers the draft Forward Work Programme and approve/amend as necessary.
2	That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises.
3	That the Committee notes the progress made in completing the outstanding actions.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING
1.01	Items feed into a Committee's Forward Work Programme from a number of sources. Members can suggest topics for review by Overview & Scrutiny Committees, members of the public can suggest topics, items can be referred by the Cabinet for consultation purposes, or by County Council or Chief Officers. Other possible items are identified from the Cabinet Work Programme and the Improvement Plan.
1.02	<p>In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and/or objectives?2. Is it an area of major change or risk?3. Are there issues of concern in performance?4. Is there new Government guidance of legislation?5. Is it prompted by the work carried out by Regulators/Internal Audit?6. Is the issue of public or Member concern?
1.03	In previous meetings, requests for information, reports or actions have been made. These have been summarised as action points. Following a meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee in July 2018, it was recognised that there was a need to formalise such reporting back to Overview & Scrutiny Committees, as 'Matters Arising' was not an item which can feature on an agenda.
1.04	It was suggested that the 'Action tracking' approach be trialled for the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Following a successful trial, it was agreed to extend the approach to all Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
1.05	The Action Tracking details including an update on progress is attached at Appendix 2.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None as a result of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	In some cases, action owners have been contacted to provide an update on their actions.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None as a result of this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Forward Work Programme Appendix 2 – Action Tracking for the Environment & Economy OSC.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Minutes of previous meetings of the Committee as identified in Appendix 2. Contact Officer: Margaret Parry-Jones Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator Telephone: 01352 702427 E-mail: Margaret.parry-jones@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Improvement Plan: the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan.

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Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2023/24

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
10 Sept 24 10.00 am	Annual Performance Report 2023/24 to incorporate the Council Plan End of Year Performance Report 2023/24	To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan and to consider the Annual Performance Report.	Assurance	Facilitator	
	North Wales Economic Ambition Report	To consider the progress report.	Assurance	Chief Officer – Planning, Environment & Economy	
	Review of reduced opening hours at Household Recycling Centres	As requested at June meeting.	Post-decision	Chief Officer – Streetscene & Transportation	
8 Oct 24 10.00 am	Review of Highways Asset Management Plan and Highway and Car Park Inspection Policy	To provide Scrutiny with an update on the refreshed Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) and reviewed Highway and Car Park Inspection Policy	Information	Chief Officer - Streetscene & Transportation	
	Update on Local Bus Services in Flintshire	To receive an update	Assurance	Chief Officer – Streetscene & Transportation	

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
APPENDIX 1

Page 10

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
	<p>Revised Waste Collections and HRC Charges</p> <p>Winter Maintenance Update</p> <p>20 mph Speed Limit Update</p>	<p>To consider the proposals</p> <p>To receive an update</p> <p>To receive an update</p>	<p>Pre-decision</p> <p>Assurance</p> <p>Information</p>	<p>Chief Officer – Streetscene & Transportation</p> <p>Chief Officer – Streetscene and Transportation</p> <p>Chief Officer – Streetscene and Transportation</p>	
<p>12 Nov 24 10.00 am</p>	<p>Conversion of the FCC fleet to electric or alternative fuels</p> <p>Car Parking Strategy</p> <p>Welsh Government Deposit Return Scheme update</p>	<p>To receive a progress report on the implementation of the conversion of the FCC fleet to electric and alternative fuels</p> <p>To receive an update</p> <p>To review the current strategy</p>		<p>Chief Officer – Streetscene and Transportation</p> <p>Chief Officer – Streetscene and Transportation</p> <p>Chief Officer – Streetscene and Transportation</p>	

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
APPENDIX 1

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
10 Dec 24 10.00 am	Integrated Transport Strategy & Regional Transport Plan (RTP) Streetscene Standards	To receive an update To consider the recommendations of the Task & Finish Group	Assurance Pre-decision	Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation	
14 Jan 25 10.00 am	Fleet Services Update Grass Cutting Performance Update	To receive an update To receive an update		Chief Officer Streetscene and Transportation Chief Officer Streetscene and Transportation	
11 Feb 25 10.00 am					
11 March 25 10.00 am					
8 April 25 10.00 am	Access Barrier Review	To review the access barriers post implementation.		Tom Woodall	

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
 APPENDIX 1

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
6 May 25 10.00 am					
10 June 25 10.00 am					
8 July 25 10.00 am					

Page 12

Items to be added :-

Place Making Plan Buckley

Place Making Plan Holywell

Update report on Bailey Hill in the Autumn with Site Visit in advance

Action tracking for Environment & Economy OSC July 2024

Item/Date	Discussion	Action	By whom	Status
11 June 2024	It was queried (from the minutes) whether anything had been done in relation to comments about improving consultation with local Ward Member(s) regarding the siting of recycling waste collection points in local communities.	Steve Goodrum agreed to make enquiries with Ruth Tulley	Steve Goodrum	Ongoing
11 June 2024	Cllr Mike Peers requested an item be included to review the reduced opening times of Household Recycling Centres	To be added to the Forward Work Programme	Facilitator	Completed
11 June 2024	Streetscene Standards Task & Finish Group – change of membership	Further meetings required and confirmation of Membership	Chris Goddard/ Facilitator	Ongoing

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Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16th July 2024
Report Subject	Enforcement of Closure Notices and Closure Orders under The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Economy and Environment)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to endorse the authority for the Chief Officer for Planning, Environment and Economy to be delegated to exercise the Council's powers in relation to Closure Notices and Orders, under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

A Closure Notice can be issued for up to 48 hours if the Council or Police are satisfied on reasonable grounds:

- that the use of a particular premises has resulted, or (if the notice is not issued) is likely soon to result in nuisance to members of the public; or
- that there has been, or (if the notice is not issued) is likely soon to be, disorder near those premises associated with the use of those premises and that the notice is necessary to prevent the nuisance or disorder from continuing, recurring or occurring.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To endorse the recommendation that the Chief Officer for Planning, Environment and Economy, on behalf of Flintshire County Council, be given delegated authority to issue Closure Notices under section 76 of The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and authorise officers to enforce these powers in accordance with the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSALS
1.01	The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 came into effect on the 20 th October 2014. It proposed several reforms to the existing legislation that sought to put the victim at the heart of the response to anti-social behaviour, by providing professionals and organisations with greater flexibility to deal with any given situation.
1.02	In March 2015 Cabinet supported recommendations that the then Chief Officer for Planning and Environment and the Chief Officer for Community and Enterprise be given delegated authority to authorise officers to serve Community Protection Notices and, Fixed Penalty Notices in the event of a breach, in accordance with the Act 2014. Furthermore, it supported the recommendation that the Chief Officer for Planning and Environment be given delegated authority to designate and approve Public Space Protection Orders on behalf of Flintshire County Council and authorise officers to enforce, identified prohibited activities in areas designated by such Orders, in accordance with the Act.
1.03	Part 4 of the Act includes powers for Local Authorities and Police to issue Closure Notices and apply for Closure Orders on premises that are deemed to be causing nuisance and or disorder.
1.04	To date no delegated powers have been given to any officers in relation to Closure Notices.
1.05	<p>A Closure Notice can be issued for up to 48 hours if the Council or Police Officer (of at least the rank of Inspector) is satisfied on reasonable grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the use of particular premises has resulted, or (if the notice is not issued) is likely soon to result, in nuisance to members of the public; or • that there has been, or (if the notice is not issued) is likely soon to be, disorder near those premises associated with the use of those premises and that the notice is necessary to prevent the nuisance or disorder from continuing, recurring or occurring. <p>A Closure Notice can be issued in the first instance for up to a maximum of 48 hours by the Council's Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) or designate thereof, or by a Police Superintendent.</p>
1.06	<p>A Closure Order can subsequently be issued if the court is satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that a person has engaged, or (if the order is not made) is likely to engage, in disorderly, offensive, or criminal behaviour on the premises; or

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the use of the premises has resulted, or (if the order is not made) is likely to result, in serious nuisance to members of the public; or • that there has been, or (if the order is not made) is likely to be, disorder near those premises associated with the use of those premises, and that the order is necessary to prevent the behaviour, nuisance, or disorder from continuing, recurring or occurring.
1.07	<p>Closure Notices can last for either 24 or 48 hours. In relation to the issuing of Closure Notices, the Government guidance states:</p> <p><i>The level or role of employee within the Council who can issue a notice for up to 24 hours has not been specified due to the different structures in place in different areas. In considering who should be authorised as designates of the chief executive officer for the issuing of the 48-hour notice, councils will also want to consider who is delegated to issue the Closure Notice for 24 hours and consider whether the extension to 48 hours should be authorised by an officer of greater seniority, as is the case for the Police. This may take into consideration the need for the power to be used quickly, its flexible nature, and equivalent requirement for a police inspector to issue a Closure Notice for 24 hours.</i></p>
1.08	<p>Once a 48-hour Closure Notice has been issued to a premises the Local Authority or Police have 48 hours in which to put the matter before a magistrate's court to apply for a closure order on the premises. The Closure order, if granted, will last for three months, but a further application for an extra three months can be applied for.</p>
1.09	<p>A Closure Notice cannot prohibit access in respect of anyone who habitually lives on the premises. This means that the Notice cannot prohibit those who routinely or regularly live at those premises. It is therefore unlikely to disallow access to, for example, students who live away from the family home for part of the year, but routinely return to the family home or those who spend most of the week living at the pub in which they work. However, a Closure Order, granted by the court, can prohibit access to those who routinely live at the premises.</p>
1.10	<p>A Closure <i>Notice</i> cannot be appealed; however, a Closure <i>Order</i> can be appealed. Appeals are to the Crown Court and must be made within 21 days, beginning with the date of the decision to which the appeal relates. For example, if an Order is made on 1st of the month, then an appeal would have to be lodged with the court by 22nd of the month.</p>
1.11	<p>The power to issue Closure Notices and Orders on premises where there is anti-social behaviour is an effective alternative enforcement tool that the authority can use to combat such behaviour. It can be used in relation to shops selling illicit goods such as tobacco, vapes or alcohol, licensed premises that fail to address bad behaviour caused by their customers and any other premises where there is persistent anti-social behaviour.</p>

2.00 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

2.01	Officer time gathering and compiling the evidence. There is a fee of £260 to be paid to the Court to hear the application for a Closure Order, which would also require assistance from Legal Services. Any appeals against closure orders are heard in the Crown Court and will incur legal costs.
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3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None as a result of this report.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Any risks could be financial and reputational should an order be successfully appealed in the Crown Court. Officers with enforcement experience would consult with Legal, other relevant Council services and North Wales Police before a decision was made to pursue a closure notice and order. Experienced, competent officers will be carrying out these duties and will liaise with Legal well in advance of any action. Legal have been consulted and confirmed they are able to give the support required with proper notice.

6.00	APPENDICES
6.01	Statutory Guidance https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6422a19b60a35e00120cae63/2023_Update_ASB_Statutory_Guidance_-_FINAL_1_.pdf

7.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
7.01	Contact Officer: Richard Powell Trading Standards Investigations & Community Safety Manager Telephone: 01352 703198

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	None



ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 16 th July 2024
Report Subject	Update on Environmental Enforcement Activities
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy
Report Author	Chief Officer, Streetscene and Transportation
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested a report on the operational activities of the Civil Parking and Environmental Enforcement Team for assurance purposes.

The intention of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of the performance of each area of enforcement activity along with the number of related incidents reported, details of how engagement and educational work is being carried out, as well as outlining plans for the introduction of new powers through Community Protection Notices and Community Protection Warnings, and the challenges and barriers faced by the Service during the last twelve months.

The report details the activities of the team and the various recorded data, which has been captured for each element of the service for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1. | That the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes the actions of the Civil Parking and Environmental Enforcement team along with the performance data for these activities over a twelve-month period. |
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND TO CIVIL PARKING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME ENFORCEMENT
1.01	<p>Civil parking and environmental crime enforcement activities are carried out by the Civil Parking and Environmental Enforcement team based at the Alltami depot. The team comprises nine full time positions (FTEs) and a working supervisor. The team is multifunctional, covering the enforcement of on-street and off-street parking contraventions, environmental crimes (littering; dog fouling; control of dog's in public spaces, Public Space Protection Orders, fly tipping; side waste; household duty of care) and any educational related campaigns on such matters. The team members are contracted to work 37 hours per week over 7 days between the hours of 7am and 7pm.</p> <p>The team's primary focus is on engagement and education of the public, ensuring that, when out on patrol, the residents of Flintshire are understanding of the law and their own personal responsibilities. Where residents then choose to disregard the advice/information given, then enforcement means are necessary.</p>
1.02	<p>Civil Parking Enforcement</p> <p>Officers patrol all areas of Flintshire where parking restrictions exist and which are covered by a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). This includes double and single yellow lines, loading and unloading areas, disabled bays, limited waiting areas, taxi ranks and any Council controlled off-street parking areas (car parks).</p> <p>Enforcement officers will issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to drivers who have parked in contravention of any regulations in force at that time. Parking illegally or in the wrong place on the highway network or Council run car parks may result in a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) being issued.</p> <p>The Wales Penalty Processing Partnership (WPPP), which is hosted by Denbighshire County Council, works on behalf of ten Welsh local authorities to support the enforcement operation by dealing with challenges, payments and processing of all penalty charge notices that are issued.</p>
1.03	<p>Environmental Crime Enforcement</p> <p>Our team's aim is to improve Flintshire's local environmental quality by reducing environmental crime across the county. To meet this aim, the team look to achieve the following objectives: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise awareness of good waste management, litter control, dog control, highway obstructions and other local environmental quality issues.• To educate and work in partnership with residents, businesses and visitors around their own roles and responsibilities.• To undertake any enforcement action as necessary, in a reasonable, equitable and proportionate manner.• To take all enforcement decisions in a proportionate manner and strive for high standards of consistency.• To take all enforcement action without education and advice only when the severity of the situation dictates.

1.04	<p>The team has been successful in working to enforce excess waste (side waste) across Flintshire and we are aware of issues with this remit, especially at communal collection point locations. Our enforcement officers work closely with the waste and recycling collection crews to identify, log and issue Section 46 notices for non-compliance with the side waste policy.</p> <p>Public awareness of the enforcement process has been enhanced and this has proved to be a successful campaign in reducing excess waste at the kerbside. Enforcement officers also support the recycling officers at excess waste 'hotspot' areas by carrying out door-knocking campaigns and letter/leaflet drops.</p> <p>Only by engaging with our residents can we fully understand their barriers to participation or non-compliance when presenting side waste.</p>
1.05	<p>Working alongside the environmental improvement coordinator, the team has also been invited to environmental visual audits and community walkabouts with members or town/community councils and the team has worked collaboratively with internal and external partners, such as the housing team, local members, Keep Wales Tidy, Fly Tipping Action Wales, community groups, volunteers, North Wales Police and local schools.</p> <p>The team has formed active collaborations with the Clwyd Alyn and Wales and West Housing Associations; and this partnership working has been successful in campaigns to address fly tipping issues at their properties.</p> <p>Currently, the team is working on a project with ENI at Talacre in education and enforcement of dog fouling with the objective of enhancing our tourist destinations.</p> <p>During this type of event, typical activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informing residents about our latest initiatives aimed at improving our environment and enhancing the quality of life across Flintshire. • Promotional campaigns on behalf of Fly Tipping Action Wales (Your Duty to Care) and Keep Wales Tidy (Not up my Street and Not a Good Look) • Promotion of national campaigns that drive long term, consistent behavioural change. • Provision of recycling containers to make recycling easier and more convenient for everyone. • Sharing tips and tricks on how to minimise waste in our daily lives and promote responsible waste disposal practices. <p>During the engagement session residents can also: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign up for our Green Dog Walkers Campaign and receive complimentary dog waste bags, ensuring our public spaces remain clean for everyone to enjoy. • Get "hands-on" experience by taking part in a litter pick and try to help us make a big difference. • Sign up to become litter picking champions and/or create litter picking hubs. • Engage in fun activities designed to make the subject matter engaging and interesting.

1.06	<p>Civil Parking Enforcement Data</p> <p>The table below details the total number of PCNs issued, including a breakdown of on and off-street contraventions and the income received for the period between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024: -</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="288 338 1366 488"> <tr> <td>Total of PCN's Issued</td> <td>4,887</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On-Street Parking</td> <td>1,497</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Off-Street Parking</td> <td>3,330</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PCN Income</td> <td>£157,246.36</td> </tr> </table>	Total of PCN's Issued	4,887	On-Street Parking	1,497	Off-Street Parking	3,330	PCN Income	£157,246.36																																		
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1.07	<p>Environmental Crime Enforcement Data</p> <p>The table below details the total number of recorded activities for each element of environmental crime enforcement from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024: -</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="288 730 1382 1630"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Fly tipping</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fly Tipping Incidents Logged to service</td> <td>1,479</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fly Tip Investigations (following identification of evidence)</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total number of PACE Interviews arranged for environmental crime offences</td> <td>68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fixed Penalty Notices issued for Fly Tipping</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Successful Court Prosecutions for Fly Tipping</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Excess Waste</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excess waste letters issued to residents (01.06.2023 to 31.03.2024)</td> <td>2,603</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Section 46 Notices Issued to residents for Excess Waste</td> <td>203</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FPNs issued for Excess waste</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Dog Fouling and Dog Control</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of days patrolling for PSPOs</td> <td>86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of locations patrolled (over the 86 days)</td> <td>1,159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of people engaged with over (the 86 days) of patrols</td> <td>1,916</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fixed Penalty Notices issued for Dog Fouling Offences</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Littering</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fixed Penalty Notices issued for Littering Offences</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Household Duty of Care</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FPNs issued for Duty of Care Offences</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Abandoned Vehicles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Investigations into reports of abandoned vehicles</td> <td>493</td> </tr> </table>	Fly tipping		Fly Tipping Incidents Logged to service	1,479	Fly Tip Investigations (following identification of evidence)	33	Total number of PACE Interviews arranged for environmental crime offences	68	Fixed Penalty Notices issued for Fly Tipping	10	Successful Court Prosecutions for Fly Tipping	2	Excess Waste		Excess waste letters issued to residents (01.06.2023 to 31.03.2024)	2,603	Section 46 Notices Issued to residents for Excess Waste	203	FPNs issued for Excess waste	7	Dog Fouling and Dog Control		Number of days patrolling for PSPOs	86	Number of locations patrolled (over the 86 days)	1,159	Number of people engaged with over (the 86 days) of patrols	1,916	Fixed Penalty Notices issued for Dog Fouling Offences	0	Littering		Fixed Penalty Notices issued for Littering Offences	5	Household Duty of Care		FPNs issued for Duty of Care Offences	6	Abandoned Vehicles		Investigations into reports of abandoned vehicles	493
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Household Duty of Care																																											
FPNs issued for Duty of Care Offences	6																																										
Abandoned Vehicles																																											
Investigations into reports of abandoned vehicles	493																																										
1.08	<p>Within the last two years we have invested in new equipment for the officers on duty to further promote their personal safety and wellbeing, such as new body worn CCTV cameras, new handheld devices for issuing PCNs, new deployable CCTV cameras and new officer uniforms.</p>																																										
1.09	<p>Following concerns raised by elected members regarding a range of environmental issues and anti-social behaviours in their local communities, officers have been exploring the use of community protection warnings (CPWs) and community protection notices (CPNs). The CPWs and CPNs are an enforcement tool we can utilise under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.</p>																																										

	<p>This is the same legislation that provided local authorities with the powers to create Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to tackle persistent behaviours that spoil communities and their quality of life. Over recent months, officers have engaged with a legal company, Mallard Consultancy, who have been funded by Welsh Government to provide assistance to local authorities in Wales with implementing the use of CPWs and CPNs.</p>
1.10	<p>During November 2023, all civil parking and environmental enforcement officers attended a four-day training course for a WAMITAB Level 2 Award for Parking and Enforcement. The course covered all aspects of the roles and responsibilities for civil parking enforcement, along with managing conflict in parking control and management challenging situations.</p> <p>For further continued professional development, the team undertook PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence) refresher training via Mallard Consultancy, which was provided in collaboration with Fly Tipping Action Wales (FTaW). Officers, supervisors and managers have also been invited to attend or have attended online Local Environmental Quality (LEQ) workshops and meetings organised by FTaW.</p> <p>During April 2024, all officers attended a one-day training event at the Welsh Government offices in Llandudno. The event was an introduction to Blue Badge Enforcement. In collaboration with our Customer Services team, we are now looking to adopt new processes for the team to begin enforcement action for the misuse of the Blue Badge Scheme.</p>
1.11	<p>Barriers, Challenges and Limitations of the Service</p> <p>While the team have worked diligently to deliver the comprehensive requirements of the role, there are several barriers highlighted that prevent successful outcomes in some instances, which are detailed as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People become increasingly aware of our practices and procedures, and these can be used against the Authority in terms of manipulating the outcomes (e.g., not placing identifiable material in a fly-tip) • School parking, when officers are in attendance, the issues generally disappear due to parents warning others via social media groups • Houses of Multiple Occupancies (HMOs) with high a turnover of residents or tenants can present issues with high volumes of waste streams, such as mattresses and white goods, which are items that are often difficult to evidence for enforcement action. As these properties tend to have a high turnover of occupancy and are transient, it is also difficult to maintain education and engagement on a continuous basis. • Uncertainty of land ownership and the ability to undertake enforcement action. • Recruitment of enforcement officers can often be a slow and labour-intensive process. Recent recruitment exercises have demonstrated that the roles attract few applications and/or poor-quality applications, and we find that the contentious nature of the role means there is often low interest in the job adverts when they are circulated. • For similar reasons, the demands of the role mean that sickness absence levels within the team can be higher than in other desk-based roles.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since June 2023, the team has been operating with seven officers in work, which has been down to the ongoing vacancies and long-term sickness absence within the team. Consideration has previously been given to cover absences with agency staff; however, due to the investment in specialist training and development of the role, the cost of this cover has not been deemed a viable option • One FTE vacancy was given up for efficiency in the 2024/2025 budget setting, which has reduced the resilience in the team and decreased the number of enforcement officer roles from ten to nine FTE. • There are currently two FTE positions vacant within the team. • With only nine FTEs and the broad range of multifunctional enforcement duties, the team must prioritise its duties to the areas of highest risk to the authority.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The resources required to deliver the current service standards are based on existing staffing levels and budgets within the service.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	Not required. This is an operational report requested by the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee for assurance purposes.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Wales Penalty Processing Partnership website: https://www.wppp.org.uk/Welcome

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Vicky Plant, Enforcement Manager Telephone: 01352 704781 E-mail: vicky.plant@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>TRO – Traffic Regulation Order – A legal order, usually made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984</p> <p>PCN – Penalty Charge Notice – Issued for a breach of Traffic Regulations / Contraventions</p> <p>FPN – Fixed Penalty Notice – Issued when an Environmental Crime has been committed and also an offender to discharge their liability to prosecution.</p> <p>CPN – Community Protection Notice – These can be used under the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act to tackle persistent detrimental behaviours in communities.</p> <p>CPW – Community Protection Warning (as above Antisocial Behaviour)</p> <p>FtAW – Fly tipping action Wales - Fly-tipping Action Wales is a partnership initiative, sponsored by the Welsh Government & coordinated by Natural Resources Wales to tackle fly-tipping.</p> <p>DOC – Duty of Care - The Duty of Care is a legal requirement for those dealing with certain kinds of waste to take all reasonable steps to keep it safe and is set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA). It applies to anyone who is a holder of household, industrial and commercial waste, known as controlled waste.</p> <p>PACE Interviews – Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 – interview under caution to determine circumstance around environmental crime activities.</p> <p>PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) – A set of requirements stipulated under the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act to prevent an antisocial activity taking place.</p>

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Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 16th July 2024
Report Subject	Open Access Agreements
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council Plan and Digital Strategy highlight the importance of improving digital connectivity in Flintshire for residents and businesses. Connectivity has grown in importance over recent years to enable social interaction, access to information and services, education, and employment whether from home or in other locations. Despite this, mobile connectivity remains poor in many areas of the County.

UK Government is encouraging local government to use Open Access Agreements to make it easier for the Mobile Network Operators to invest in improved connectivity through the use of the Council's Street furniture assets.

This report proposes the development of Open Access Agreements in Flintshire with the first one to be signed with Freshwave Facilities Limited and others to follow.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Members support the proposed development of Open Access Agreements as a tool to improve digital connectivity in Flintshire.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	Explaining the Open Access Agreement
	<u>Background</u>
1.01	The Council Plan and Digital Strategy highlight the importance of improving digital connectivity in Flintshire for residents and businesses.

	Connectivity has grown in importance over recent years to enable social interaction, access to information and services, education and employment whether from home or in other locations.
1.02	Although fixed broadband speeds have improved dramatically in Flintshire in recent years, mobile connectivity is of variable quality with only 22% of properties having 5G coverage from at least one operator (outdoor) compared to 74% for Wales and 85% for the UK as a whole (Source: Ofcom Connected Nations 2024).
1.03	Although it is not the local authority's responsibility to directly improve the private mobile network, the UK Government is keen to see local authorities playing a role. There are technical solutions that can improve mobile phone signal strength and this report includes a proposal for a means of support that can be provided through the Council to enable the Mobile Network Operators to maximise their response to rectifying issues in Flintshire.
	<u>Improving mobile phone coverage and capacity</u>
1.04	Mobile Network Operators are increasingly investing in small cell infrastructure to fill the gaps in their networks. Macro cells use large phone masts and cover large geographic areas with signal but can be prone to signals being weaker where they are blocked by topography or buildings. They are also expensive to deploy and, other than in some rural areas, the main mast infrastructure is now in place. Small cells, by contrast, are cheap to deploy, have a short range and are used to fill gaps in the network. This can be either in terms of coverage or capacity. In the latter, for example, a busy location with more users trying to share the signal than the rest of the network will lead to an unsatisfactory experience for users unless extra signal capacity is added.
1.05	Small cell equipment can be readily attached to street furniture where power and data connections are available and enables the Mobile Network Operators to improve connectivity in a responsive way.
	<u>The proposed Open Access Agreement</u>
1.06	UK Government is encouraging local government to play an active role in facilitating the improvement of digital connectivity for their residents and businesses and making it easier for Mobile Network Operators to make the investments necessary to improve infrastructure. UK Government is encouraging local government to use Open Access Agreements as a key tool in this work. The presence of Open Access Agreements in a county sends a clear message to Mobile Network Operators that the area is one in which investment will be cost and time effective and can increase the chances of that area being prioritised for investment over others.
1.07	Ambition North Wales, as part of its programme to improve digital connectivity across the region, is encouraging and supporting local authorities to develop Open Access Agreements with a range of companies. Wrexham County Borough Council has already done so and they are under development in all of the other counties.

1.08	Open Access Agreements are signed between the local authority and an intermediary company who will liaise with the Mobile Network Operators and facilitate their use of street furniture to boost their signals thus increasing the strength and quality of the network connection available to its subscribers.
1.09	Open Access Agreements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. are non-exclusive so can be signed with as many companies as the Council wants; 2. are fully flexible so the Council can retain full control of the asset and can determine which assets can be used, as and when necessary; 3. are cost neutral to the Council with all costs (including legal fees, repairs, maintenance, officer time, asset inspection) being met by the other party; and 4. do not require procurement as no financial benefit accrues to the other party and they are non-exclusive.
1.10	Once the open access agreement is in place, the other party would work with Mobile Network Operators to identify where services could be improved. The actual location of small cell technology is a commercial decision determined by the Mobile Network Operators.
	<u>The Open Access Agreement with Freshwave Facilities Limited</u>
1.11	The intention is to sign Open Access Agreements with as many companies as is practicable to ensure the greatest access to Council assets for Mobile Network Operator investment. In developing this process, the Council has reached an advanced stage of discussion with Freshwave Facilities Limited and proposes to sign an Open Access Agreement with them initially and use the learning developed through the process to make similar agreements with other companies, supported by learning from other local authorities and by Ambition North Wales.
1.12	The draft Freshwave Open Access Agreement has been reviewed from a legal and technical perspective and it is considered that signing the Agreement would place no significant risks upon the Council and would not have a detrimental impact upon the Council's management of its street furniture and other assets.
1.13	The agreement is primarily focussed upon the use of street furniture. The agreement is able to be amended to include wider Council infrastructure should the need for this be identified but this would require further technical consideration and negotiation at that point in time.
	<u>Next steps</u>
1.14	Following approval, the Council would conclude the discussion process with Freshwave Facilities Limited and the Open Access Agreement would be given a final review and signed. Discussions with further companies would then commence on the development of further Open Access Agreements.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	No resource implications arise directly from this report. The operation of Open Access Agreements is fully cost neutral to the Council with all costs, including officer time, met by the other party to each agreement.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT																												
3.01	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table> <p>Well-being Goals Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td>Digital connectivity is a critical factor in the economic success of an area and is becoming more and more vital in terms of education, home and mobile working and business operation.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resilient Wales</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Healthier Wales</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More equal Wales</td> <td>Encouraging improved digital connectivity helps to improve access to digital services for currently underserved communities.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cohesive Wales</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vibrant Wales</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Globally responsible Wales</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Risk</th> <th>Mitigation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No significant risks identified.</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Long-term	None	Prevention	None	Integration	None	Collaboration	None	Involvement	None	Prosperous Wales	Digital connectivity is a critical factor in the economic success of an area and is becoming more and more vital in terms of education, home and mobile working and business operation.	Resilient Wales	None	Healthier Wales	None	More equal Wales	Encouraging improved digital connectivity helps to improve access to digital services for currently underserved communities.	Cohesive Wales	None	Vibrant Wales	None	Globally responsible Wales	None	Risk	Mitigation	No significant risks identified.	
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4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Internal consultation has taken place with technical Highways, Assets and Legal teams.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Niall Waller (Enterprise and Regeneration Manager) Telephone: 07342 093133 (English) / 01267 224923 (Cymraeg) E-mail: niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk / niall.waller@siryfflint.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>5G is the fifth-generation technology standard for cellular networks, which cellular phone companies began deploying worldwide in 2019, and is the successor to 4G technology that provides connectivity to most current mobile phones. (Wikipedia)</p>
	<p>Ambition North Wales is the partnership of local authorities across North Wales delivering the UK and Welsh Government funded Growth Deal capital investment programme and related economic interventions.</p>
	<p>A macrocell ... is a cell in a mobile phone network that provides radio coverage served by a high power cell site (tower, antenna or mast). Generally, macrocells provide coverage larger than microcell. The antennas for macrocells are mounted on ground-based masts, rooftops and other existing structures, at a height that provides a clear view over the surrounding buildings and terrain. (Wikipedia)</p>
	<p>Mobile Network Operators are the four (Virgin Media / O2, Vodafone, Three, EE) companies licensed to operator mobile networks across the UK.</p>
	<p>Small cells are low-powered cellular ... nodes ... that have a range of 10 meters to a few kilometers. They are base stations with low power consumption and cheap cost. They can provide high data rates by being deployed densely ... (Wikipedia)</p>

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Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting	16 July 2024
Report Subject	Investment Zone for Flintshire and Wrexham
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UK Government Autumn Statement 2023 included the announcement of a proposed Investment Zone for Flintshire and Wrexham, to be led by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (NWCJC). The Investment Zone will focus on the nationally important cluster of advanced manufacturing businesses in Flintshire and Wrexham to enable the sector to thrive, expand, increase skills and wages and increase their contribution to the economy of the region.

This report provides a summary of the Investment Zone programme and the progress made to date on its development in Flintshire and Wrexham. Whilst the announcement of a General Election has created a degree of uncertainty to the process, development work on the Investment Zone has continued in readiness for further discussion with the two governments post-election.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Members recognise the progress of work on the Investment Zone and supports the Council to work with Wrexham County Borough Council and the Corporate Joint Committee to work at risk through the required Gateways outlined over the next six months, to secure the funding of £160m over the next 10 years.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	Explaining the Investment Zone
1.01	The approach to developing Investment Zones in Wales has been co-produced by the UK Government and the Welsh Government, as set out in the Investment Zone Policy Prospectus, which was published in March 2023.
1.02	Investment Zones are intended to “boost productivity” and “increase innovation” through interventions that grow “knowledge-intensive clusters” that are underpinned and leveraged by research activity. Investment Zones are targeted at areas with a significant cluster of employment and research capability in one of the priority sectors, advanced manufacturing in the case of Flintshire and Wrexham.
1.03	The UK Government announced two Investment Zones for Wales in the Spring Budget of 2023. The Autumn Statement in November 2023, subsequently confirmed that Flintshire and Wrexham would join the Cardiff City Region as the second Investment Zone. This followed a period of significant work, which was driven by local business leaders, to highlight how the potential of the functional economic area of Flintshire and Wrexham, aligned with the assessment of both governments of the strategic fit with the policy intervention.
1.04	Subject to the Investment Zone proposal meeting specific requirements, a funding envelope of up to £160m is available to that Investment Zone for a period of 10 years. This was an enhancement to the initial announcement earlier in 2023 that indicated a package of £80m over five years.
1.05	The £160m is made up of a Flexible Spend element, which is split between revenue and capital spends (40:60) and must be match funded 70:30; and Tax Incentives, which can be applied to clearly defined, under-developed sites up to a maximum of 600ha.
1.06	Investment Zones can determine the appropriate mix of Flexible Spend and Tax Incentives, within the total envelope. For example, if tax incentives were not deemed to be the appropriate approach, the equivalent value can be moved to the Flexible Spend element.
1.07	Welsh Government have also agreed that a proportion of the Non Domestic Rates (NDR), specifically some of the extra NDR generated as a result of the success of the Investment Zone, will be returned to the NWCJC for a period of 25 years to continue the support for the priority sector.
1.08	Following the intensive period of work undertaken by local business leaders, the formal process of securing the approval for the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone has passed to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (NWCJC). The NWCJC has been charged with developing the business case, through a series of “Gateways”, which are signed off by the UK Government and Welsh Government.

1.09	The Gateway process was expected to be set out in a Wales Technical Guidance document, jointly agreed by the two governments. This document had not been released at the point of the general election being called and as a result was expected to be delayed until after 4 July 2024. The CJs in Wales have been advised to refer to the Scotland Technical Guidance, which is considered similar but by nature, will not cover matters relating to the Welsh context.
1.10	Prior to the announcement of the general election, the NWCJC had worked with both councils to submit the Gateway 1 document (Appendix 1). This Gateway document was not formally scored as part of the approval process, but set a high level vision and general approach to the business case that would be expanded on through the remaining four Gateways. This work was resourced from within the existing economic development teams of the Councils and the NWCJC.
1.11	Advanced Manufacturing has been selected as the sector that the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone will support, based on the available data and analysis from the two governments showing the scale and importance of this existing cluster. In doing so, it was noted that there has been significant interest locally in the growth of the Creative and Digital Sector. The UK Government and Welsh Government have confirmed that only one sector can be put forward but work will continue to identify how interventions to support Creative & Digital industries can be facilitated.
1.12	The work required to collate, analyse and present the information necessary for Gateways 2-5 is understood to be considerably more involved and will require more specialist knowledge and capacity than would be available within the Council and NWCJC teams.
1.13	It was the expectation of the UK Government and the Welsh Government, that the gateway process would be concluded within the 2024 calendar year. Despite the general election, this expectation remains unchanged, so continued momentum and clear progress needs to be demonstrated to the incoming government to increase the chance of securing formal approval for the Flintshire & Wrexham Investment Zone.
1.14	Along with other CJs in the UK charged with developing Investment Zone proposals, the NWCJC has identified the need to commission specialist resource(s) to lead on the creation and submission of the remaining gateways, with work needing to continue through the pre and post-election period.
1.15	<p>This approach was not without a level of risk.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The change of Government could result in changes in the UK Government's policy or investment approach. 2. The timing of the pre-election period had further delayed the receipt of the Wales Technical Guidance required to inform the process and UK Government Civil Servants were unable to engage with the NWCJC until after 4 July 2024. The absence of the guidance meant that future governance arrangements had not been published, and

	<p>specific details required to respond to the Wales-context had not been set out.</p> <p>3. Commissioning of external support incurred costs, which were budgeted in the region of £50,000 to complete Gateway 2. It was expected that this milestone would align with opportunities to re-engage with UK Government following the general election. Whilst the costs could be recovered from the 4% management fee, this would only be available to the NWCJC if / when the Investment Zone is approved.</p>
1.16	<p>There were believed to be some mitigations to the risks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An in-principle agreement between Leaders and Chief Executives of the two councils to indemnify the NWCJC for costs incurred in the commissioning of external support. This to be limited to £25,000 per council, set within the context of ultimately securing £160m for the Investment Zone. 2. The fact that Investment Zones in Wales are co-produced by UK Government and the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government was not subject to the same pre-election restrictions, which created an environment where a level of activity could continue. 3. Despite any post-election uncertainty, the best form of action was to progress work and complete Gateway 2 and commence Gateways 3, 4 and 5, as soon as was practically possible. This would strengthen the position of the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone and allowing engagement with the incoming UK Government on that basis.
1.17	<p>The senior leadership of the NWCJC and the two Councils, considered that any failure of the Flintshire & Wrexham Investment Zone to make progress through the Gateway process and therefore not secure the £160m funding envelope, outweighed the presence of these risks. It was agreed that this would be reported to the leadership of each Council at the earliest opportunity.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>In the short term, the only direct financial cost to the Council is the £25,000 indemnity to NWCJC highlighted above. In addition, there will be a significant call on officer time from a number of teams to support NWCJC in developing the package of interventions and information needed to progress through the Gateway process.</p>
2.02	<p>The Gateway process is designed to allow the NWCJC, the two Councils, and wider stakeholders to identify the package of interventions that they wish to deliver over the ten years of the Investment Zone programme and the 25 years of the NNDR retention period. The operating costs of the Investment Zone can be reclaimed through a specific budget of up to 4% of programme value.</p>
2.03	<p>The Investment Zone provides an opportunity for the Council to identify priority projects that would contribute to the success of the advanced</p>

	<p>manufacturing cluster and to secure significant capital and revenue funding towards their delivery. Match funding, from Council as well as wider funding sources would be required and could include borrowing to enable capital investment. The availability of the NDR retention income for 25 years provides an opportunity to, for example, cover the costs of borrowing.</p>
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3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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3.01	Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact
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Long-term	The Investment Zone programme is a long term (25 year) funded approach to supporting the priority employment sector in Flintshire and Wrexham.
Prevention	No impact
Integration	Development of the Investment Zone will require a wide range of opportunities and challenges to be considered in an integrated way to have the maximum impact on the priority sector and the wider economy.
Collaboration	The Investment Zone will be delivered in by the NWCJC in conjunction with the two Councils, research institutions, and wider stakeholders.
Involvement	No impact

Well-being Goals Impact

Prosperous Wales	The Investment Zone will support and grow the most significant employment sector in Flintshire and Wrexham, creating and safeguarding jobs, increasing wages and growing skill levels.
Resilient Wales	No impact.
Healthier Wales	No impact.
More equal Wales	No impact.
Cohesive Wales	No impact.
Vibrant Wales	No impact.
Globally responsible Wales	The Investment Zone will be able to support the decarbonisation of businesses and may be able to invest in new infrastructure to support this and to support sustainable transport.

Risk	Mitigation
Uncertainty created by UK General Election	As set out in section 1.16

	Capacity to implement Gateway process	The Councils are able to draw down, at risk, against the 4% administrative budget for the programme to create additional capacity as required.
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4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT	
4.01	There was considerable consultation undertaken with the private sector in the period up to the announcement of the Investment Zone for Flintshire and Wrexham. Since then, there have been two further discussions with private sector representatives to provide an update on progress and ensure that the development of the investment Zone is responsive to business priorities.	

5.00	APPENDICES	
5.01	Appendix 1 – Gateway 1 submission document	

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS	
6.01	Investment Zones policy prospectus https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investment-zones/investment-zones-policy-prospectus	

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS	
7.01	Contact Officer: Niall Waller (Enterprise and Regeneration Manager) Telephone: 07342 093133 E-mail: niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk	

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS	
	<p>NDR (Non Domestic Rates) – the property tax paid on business premises, collected by each local authority on behalf of Welsh Government and redistributed across Wales.</p> <p>NWCJC (North Wales Corporate Joint Committee) – the formal structure being established to lead regional economic development, strategic land use planning and strategic transport planning.</p>	

Name of Place: North East Wales Investment Zone

Primary Contact Details

Name: Alwen Williams

Email Address: alwenwilliams@uchelgaisgogledd.cymru

Phone Number: 07917 024314

Organisation Name: Bwrdd Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru / North Wales Economic Ambition Board

Secondary Contact Details

Name: Catrin Jones

Email Address: catrinelainjones@bwrdduchelgaisgogledd.cymru

Phone Number:

Organisation Name: Bwrdd Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru / North Wales Economic Ambition Board

The Vision

WHAT VISION DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR INVESTMENT ZONE? (1,500 words)

Outline your initial strategic pitch for your proposed Investment Zone, with reference to how it will support the stated programme objectives. Please draw on existing evidence as appropriate.

Introduction

The North East Wales Investment Zone builds upon our nationally important cluster of advanced manufacturing, growing and transforming the sector to meet the needs of the future and increasing its economic benefits to the UK; increasing employment and driving up productivity and pay. The Investment Zone will harness its excellent research base to accelerate business research, development and innovation and use strong and collaborative local leadership and sustained private investment to level-up and close the gap with other top-performing areas.

Early grass roots local work with businesses confirmed that an Investment Zone for North East Wales, covering the counties of Wrexham and Flintshire, with Fair Work, Net Zero, Future Generations and the Environment at its heart, could drive productivity and business growth with increased innovation whilst supporting deprivation reduction and Levelling Up.

North East Wales

The unitary authorities of Wrexham and Flintshire in North East Wales are located on the border with England and form part of a cohesive Mersey Dee sub-region where three regional economic zones overlap; North Wales, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester. The Mersey Dee subregion has an economy greater in size than that of Cardiff and a population equivalent to

Belfast. The sub-region functions as a single economic area with the population largely living and working within it and a critical mass of high value businesses operating either side of the functional invisible border including a wide range of global brands, with embedded supply chains.

The economy is strongly dominated by manufacturing with one of the most important sectoral clusters in the UK with global brands and their suppliers operating alongside a dynamic SME sector. Our manufacturing sector employs 31,000 people and includes major international businesses including JCB, Airbus, Toyota, Eren, Tata, Knauf, Hydro, Convatec, Ipsen, Kelloggs, Kronospan, Prysmian, Hoya, Ardagh Metal, Belfield Group and Plastipak. The area has exports of £5.5bn in goods and a manufacturing GVA of £3.12bn representing 40% of the North East Wales economy.

The advanced manufacturing sector in Wrexham and Flintshire is characterised by collaboration, innovation, and specialisation, with each sub-sector playing a critical role. It includes, for example:

- Raw material suppliers.
- Component manufacturers including precision machining, injection moulding, and 3D printing.
- Sub-assembly suppliers assembling smaller components into larger modules or subsystems, which are then integrated into final products by manufacturers.
- Suppliers of advanced manufacturing equipment and machinery, including robotics, CNC machines, and automation systems.
- Food and drink manufacturers.
- Pharmaceuticals manufacturers or companies producing basic and speciality consumer chemicals and products using chemical processes.
- Logistics companies.
- Quality assurance and certification services ensuring that products meet industry standards and regulatory requirements and maintaining the integrity and reliability of the supply chain.
- Research and technology development organisations.

Aerospace is a particularly important sub-sector in the Investment Zone with Airbus, its supply chain and a range of other companies in operation.

Challenges and opportunities

The Investment Zone will be able to capitalise upon the strengths of the sub-region:

- A skilled workforce with expertise in engineering, machining, and advanced manufacturing technologies.
- Proximity to major transportation networks, including road, rail, and air links, facilitates the efficient movement of goods and materials, enhancing the competitiveness of local manufacturers.
- Collaboration between businesses, academic institutions, and government agencies fostering innovation, knowledge sharing, and technology transfer within the advanced manufacturing ecosystem.

[DRAFT TO SUPPORT CO-DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THE UK GOVERNMENT AND WELSH GOVERNMENT]

- Home to a diverse range of advanced manufacturing businesses spanning aerospace, automotive, electronics, and other high-tech industries, diversifying the local economy and mitigating sector-specific risks.
- Wrexham is Wales' newest city, with high international profile due to Wrexham AFC coverage.
- Local Development Plan land allocations for employment in North East Wales.

In addition to a small number of very large multi-national owned companies in the Investment Zone, there is a very wide range of SMEs in the advanced manufacturing sector. Recent projects to engage them and build their innovation capacity through the Community Renewal Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund programmes have revealed a considerable untapped potential and appetite to grow further. North East Wales is an area where businesses want to locate and there is healthy investment interest.

Several constraints limit this growth potential:

- Advanced manufacturing businesses need to meet the challenges of net-zero especially in the more energy-intensive sub-sectors.
- There is very limited availability of investment-ready sites and premises.
- Businesses face significant skills gaps exacerbated by an aging workforce.
- Penetration of advanced technology remains very limited.
- There is very limited non-car access to employment sites.
- Older employment sites have outdated infrastructure and poor physical environments which can make them unappealing to investors and limits business growth potential.
- Many of the largest businesses in North East Wales are multi-nationals which must compete internally for investment and strategic decisions are taken elsewhere.
- Digital connectivity is still uneven in coverage especially 4G and 5G networks.

Despite the economic strengths of North East Wales, there are pockets of deprivation which remain. In Flintshire, there are three areas within the top 10% of WIMD (Higher Shotton, Holywell Central and Sealand 2) located close to the main employment sites. In Wrexham there are 7 areas within the top 10% of WIMD, with 5 located on the Caia Park Estate (Queensway 1 & 2, Wynnstay, Cartrefle 2, Smithfield 3), located within less than a 10 min drive of Wrexham Industrial Estate.

Gross disposable income in Wrexham is £17,661 vs national average of £20,445. This is £19,212 in Flintshire. Weekly pay in Wrexham is £548 vs national average of £571. This is £569 in Flintshire.

Wrexham and Flintshire's GVA per hour worked shows we are 12.3% less 'productive' than neighbouring Cheshire West & Chester and our Per Capita emissions are 66% higher than the UK average at around 10.1 tCO₂e vs. 6.1 tCO₂e.

There is also an educational divide to overcome as skills levels in business and particularly advanced manufacturing rise over time potentially leaving less-skilled individuals further behind. Only 52.6% of adults in Wrexham have Level 3 qualification or higher vs national average of 60.4. It is 55.8% in Flintshire.

Strategic contribution

The Investment Zone will deliver interventions and outcomes under the three pillars of the UK Government *Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth 2021* with a focus on infrastructure, skills and innovation.

The Investment Zone will make a significant contribution towards delivering the Welsh Government *A Manufacturing Future for Wales 2021* framework for action and the Welsh Government *Innovation Strategy 2023* economy and climate and nature priorities in one of Wales' most important manufacturing clusters.

The Investment Zone will also contribute toward the delivery of a wide range of the *North Wales Regional Economic Framework 2022* priorities.

Finally, the Investment Zone will be delivered within the context of the Welsh Government *Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015* with a focus on the wider determinants of well-being as well as on economic growth.

Potential interventions

The high-level mix of interventions for the North East Wales Investment Zone are expected to include:

1) Research and Innovation

Develop dedicated pop-up factory workspace for new businesses to scale up the production of innovative sustainable product lines.

Build configurable research capacity to support businesses in finding innovative solutions their future needs.

2) Skills

Transform the links between the advanced manufacturing sector and children and young people – growing aspirations, building innovative pathways into the sector and creating exciting higher skill opportunities. Harness the power of the creative sector to engage people in careers in advanced manufacturing.

Create new social partnerships with businesses to widen access to employment especially from deprived or disadvantaged communities.

Work closely with the North Wales Regional Skills Partnership and learning providers to build the learning capacity of the region and the workforce to serve the rapidly accelerating technical skills needs of businesses especially adopting Industry 4.0 and 5.0.

3) Infrastructure

Develop the next generation of specialist learning facilities to upskill advanced manufacturing workforces.

Reshape transport networks and infrastructure to connect employment clusters with areas of population and of deprivation.

Accelerate the development of high-quality sites and premises ready for business investment.

4) Regional Enterprise and Business Support

[DRAFT TO SUPPORT CO-DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THE UK GOVERNMENT AND WELSH GOVERNMENT]

Create a dedicated frontline service to advanced manufacturing businesses enabling seamless navigation through the support and regulatory ecosystem and business to business supply-chain connectivity and learning.

Provide leading-edge specialist advice to businesses to encourage investment in new technologies; transition to low carbon; and research, development and innovation with financial incentives where needed.

Engage high growth potential start-up and scale-up businesses in the sector to facilitate their routes to growth.

5) Planning and Development

Provide a responsive single point of contact service to accelerate planning processes.

Create ambitious high-quality masterplans for key sites to accelerate development and build investor confidence.

NNDR retention will help to sustain some of these investments, especially in revenue-based activities, beyond the initial 10 year period of the programme and may facilitate public sector borrowing to support infrastructure development.

The partnership has, for now, proposed the inclusion of two tax sites as part of the Investment Zone but further discussion and modelling work is needed to understand whether these will form part of the final mix of interventions.

Tax Sites

TAX SITES
Will you be proposing tax sites?
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, how many tax sites are you proposing?
One <input type="checkbox"/> Two <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Three <input type="checkbox"/>
What is the estimated size and location of this site/each of these sites, where known. If you already have specific locations in mind please provide maps and/or postcodes, this will be purely to inform our initial discussions.
Site 1 tbc
Site 2 tbc
Site 3 n/a

Non-Domestic Rates Retention (NDR retention)

[DRAFT TO SUPPORT CO-DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THE UK GOVERNMENT AND WELSH GOVERNMENT]

Non-Domestic Rates Retention
Will you be proposing sites within which 50% of non-domestic rates growth is retained over an agreed baseline for 25-years?
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, how many NDR retention sites are you proposing? (2 maximum)
Two
What is the provisional location and estimated size of these sites?
Deeside 300ha Wrexham Industrial Estate 20ha
Have you engaged the relevant billing authorities? If yes, what was their initial feedback to your proposals?
Yes, authorities engaged and no significant barriers identified. Clarity needed from Welsh Government on how collection and repatriation of funds will work.
Do you intend for these NDR retention sites to be located on the same location as your tax sites?
Need to have further discussion and modelling to determine.

Planning

PLEASE OUTLINE YOUR EARLY THINKING ON THE PROSPECTIVE PLANNING OFFER FOR THE INVESTMENT ZONE (250 words)
You should briefly set out what planning you intend to take forward as part of the Investment Zone and how you will ensure it accelerates progress.
<p>The Investment Zone in North East Wales will not be characterised by the development of a small number of large sites. Instead, the focus will be on making a number of smaller and medium sized sites ready for investment and realising the potential of suitable land. The sites will be capable of conforming with the Local Development Plans in principle, but may require investment or other interventions to become development-ready. The support that businesses will need is therefore complex and it is proposed that this will take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dedicated single point of contact for the Investment Zone for businesses and investors who will co-ordinate support functions across the two counties.• Dedicated planning officer resource in each County to accelerate planning processes for Investment Zone proposals.• Dedicated resource in each County to help businesses and investors to navigate wider regulatory and support functions including flood risk, conservation, biodiversity, highways and land and property.• Considering dedicated officer resources within Natural Resources Wales to accelerate biodiversity and flood advice and consenting.• Development of masterplans for key sites where this will increase the quality of final development, accelerate development and provide investor confidence. <p>Although this approach will seek to accelerate development, the focus will be on achieving high quality and sustainable development outcomes linked, where appropriate, into wider placemaking.</p>

Partner Research Institutions

WHICH RESEARCH INSTITUTION(S) WILL CO-SIGN YOUR PROPOSAL? (250 words)

Please provide details of proposed partner research institution(s), why they are appropriate and how you envisage they could support the proposal.

There are three research institutions that operate in the North East Wales Enterprise Zone, each with their own specialities. Each has a valuable role to play in the delivery of the Investment Zone.

AMRC Cymru, which is part of the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) innovation cluster and a member of the High Value Manufacturing (HVM) Catapult, is a £20m state-of-the-art applied research centre, which was fully funded by the Welsh Government. AMRC Cymru's focus is to turn world-leading research into practical improvements for industry, helping to boost productivity, sharpen their competitive edge and save time, money and energy. AMRC Cymru focuses on advanced manufacturing sectors including aerospace, automotive, nuclear and food in the key research areas of future propulsion, sustainability and digital manufacturing. As a cutting-edge R&D facility, AMRC Cymru is driven by industry, for industry. It provides an open innovation platform accessible to all manufacturers in the whole of Wales.

Bangor University has operations in North East Wales and a strong research based related to advanced manufacturing including: telecommunications and sensing; photonics and imaging; life sciences and medical devices and low carbon. Bangor University is the second highest performing research-intensive University in Wales after Cardiff University with a research portfolio of around £90-100m running at any one time.

Wrexham University has a history of developing higher level skills and knowledge working collaboratively to use research and partitional experience to inform its learning and teaching, meeting the needs of industry and enriching the communities it serves.

Wrexham University has identified the strategic importance of Knowledge Transfer and commercialisation and works with industry partners to develop their capacity. The university is also aiming for Research Degree Awarding Powers (RDAP) based on its performance in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise.

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ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 16 th July 2024
Report Subject	The Council's Transition to a Restricted Capacity Residual Waste Collection Model
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation
Report Author	Chief Officer, Streetscene and Transportation
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From 2024/2025, the statutory target for the amount of waste prepared for reuse, recycled and composted has increased to 70%, having previously been set at 64% in the preceding years as part of Welsh Government's "Beyond Recycling" Strategy.

However, as a Council, Flintshire did not manage to achieve the previous statutory target of 64% in any of the preceding four years and, without significant service change, will not meet the 70% target required by 2025. This could lead to further significant financial penalties being imposed by Welsh Government, which are already expected to be in excess of £1million for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Following the public consultation in early 2024 and the Council's adoption of the Resource and Waste Strategy in March 2024, a recommendation was approved by Cabinet to consider a further report in June 2024 to outline the Council's transition to a restricted capacity residual waste collection model, which was committed to in Priority Two of the Strategy and recognised as an effective method of reducing residual waste and maximising recycling collected.

To support with this, the Council engaged with WRAP Cymru, Local Partnerships and their consultants, WPS and CRS, to undertake a modelling exercise to simulate different residual waste collection methods for the purpose of identifying the optimum model for:

1. maximising recycling potential and improving performance.
2. reducing our impact on the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions
3. reducing operational costs

That exercise has now drawn to a close and consideration must now be given to the outcome of the modelling work and the most effective collection model to be utilised. The purpose of this report is to outline the modelling work undertaken and present the proposed collection model to be adopted by the Council in order to achieve the statutory target of 70%.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	That Scrutiny acknowledges and supports the outcomes of the modelling work undertaken on restricting the capacity of residual waste collections.
2	That Scrutiny supports a transition to the most effective service delivery model of retaining a comprehensive weekly recycling collection service and reducing residual waste collections to once every four weeks while retaining the 180L black wheeled bin to realise maximum recycling performance increase, greenhouse gas emission reduction and cost reduction.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	Outcome of Recycling and Waste Modelling Exercise															
1.01	<p><u>Background and Context</u></p> <p>The recycling rate in Flintshire of 62.77% (2023/24) was again below the level required to achieve the target of 64% (previous target) and well below the level required to achieve the current target of 70%.</p> <p>The table below shows Flintshire’s performance over the last four years, where we have continually missed the target, year after year.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #202020; color: white;"> <th style="text-align: left;">Year</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Target</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Actual Performance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>64%</td> <td>63.98%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>64%</td> <td>60.08%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>64%</td> <td>61.51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023/24</td> <td>64%</td> <td>62.77% (awaiting verification by NRW)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Target	Actual Performance	2020/21	64%	63.98%	2021/22	64%	60.08%	2022/23	64%	61.51%	2023/24	64%	62.77% (awaiting verification by NRW)
Year	Target	Actual Performance														
2020/21	64%	63.98%														
2021/22	64%	60.08%														
2022/23	64%	61.51%														
2023/24	64%	62.77% (awaiting verification by NRW)														
1.02	<p>The Waste (Wales) Measure (2010) made the targets for reuse, recycling and composting statutory from 2012-13. This status allows Welsh Government to levy financial penalties against Councils that fail to achieve them. The statutory targets are weight based and have increased gradually over time.</p> <p>We have continually reported that the Council faces significant fines for not achieving the statutory recycling targets during 2021/22 and 2022/23. The fines for missing the targets over these two financial years equate to more than £1million.</p> <p>Following the 2023/24 end-of-year reporting, it is known that Flintshire has again not achieved the statutory recycling target resulting in the possibility of a further significant financial penalty.</p> <p>From April 2024, the target has now increased to 70% and the Council faces further fines per annum, based on current recycling levels, which could exceed £1million annually.</p>															
1.03	<p><u>Waste Data Analysis</u></p> <p>Compositional analysis for the residual waste stream was undertaken in 2022. This information shows that, despite providing a comprehensive weekly recycling collection service, supported by additional provision at five household recycling centres (HRCs), a number of residents continue to place valuable recyclable</p>															

materials into the residual waste bin where they are then lost from recycling and cost the authority a significant amount of money to dispose of.

Using data from 2022/23, to achieve the 70% recycling target, we need to divert 7,600 tonnes of material from the residual waste stream to the existing kerbside recycling services or HRCs.

The compositional analysis shows that 13,410 tonnes of material in the residual waste bin could have been recycled using the existing services and, of this, 6,940 tonnes was food waste. The following table summarises the materials found in the black bin.

Materials	% of Kerbside Residual	Mass of Materials (t)
Food Waste	30%	6,940
Dry Recycling	13%	3,010
Other Recycling	10%	2,310
Garden Waste	3%	690
Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP)	2%	460

The remaining 42%, 9,710 tonnes, is non-recyclable waste that was correctly presented in the residual waste bin.

Having analysed the compositional analysis, a separate review was undertaken on the recycling performance of kerbside collected waste alone. This has demonstrated that, over the last six years, the kerbside recycling performance has remained consistent between 49% and 51% (see **Appendix 1**), whilst the overall recycling performance (the recycling performance capturing all the recyclable materials collected by the Council) has fluctuated between 60% and 69%.

The analysis does show variations in tonnages collected, with increased yields being seen in 2020/21 due to the impact of the COVID pandemic, for example, however, the performance is unaffected and remains static.

This indicates that, while the current kerbside collection model remains the same, as it is now, there will not be any significant improvement in the recycling performance and capture of vital resources from the residual waste stream.

1.04 Council Risk and Assurance

Due to the current risk of infraction fines and inability to achieve statutory targets, this has been highlighted as a strategic risk rated RED for the Authority.

As this has been reported as a strategic RED risk, an internal audit was undertaken on the service during 2023-2024 to identify the reasons for the failure to meet recycling targets and provide assurance that the Council is taking effective steps to mitigate the risk.

This audit has an assurance rating of RED with four clear actions identified that the Council will take to mitigate the potential of fines and increase recycling performance. A copy of the internal audit report is presented in **Appendix 2** and will be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee in July 2024.

1.05	<p><u>Welsh Government Position</u></p> <p>The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs has still yet to decide whether to impose any fines for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 and, as such, is monitoring Flintshire’s performance and actions closely.</p> <p>In arriving at a decision, the Cabinet Secretary has stipulated that the Council must be committed to improving its performance to achieve the statutory minimum targets, which is of fundamental importance, and the plan needs to be credible, in terms of the actions proposed and the commitment from the Authority in place to deliver them.</p> <p>To assist the Council in developing its plan, Welsh Government commissioned the support of its professional advisors, WRAP Cymru and Local Partnerships, who were engaged to support officers in the review of the Council’s strategy and identify any opportunities for operational improvement and efficiency.</p> <p>This work led to the development of a Resource and Waste Strategy (Appendix 3) which was adopted by the Council in March 2024. This Strategy demonstrates a strategic approach to address the performance of the Authority and mitigate against the risk of fines.</p> <p>The Strategy has been developed in line with the waste hierarchy, supporting the principles of waste prevention and minimisation, supporting re-use, recycling and finally residual recovery and landfill for items not suitable for re-use or recycling. The Strategy outlines the global, national, and local context including drivers for change so that our residents are fully informed as to why there is a need to focus on recycling performance, infraction fines and waste compositional analysis.</p> <p>It also considers upcoming legislative and policy change such as the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility, Deposit Return schemes and the inclusion of Energy from Waste (EfW) being included in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). All of which will impact the materials that we collect, our performance, and ultimately the cost of disposal.</p> <p>As detailed in the Cabinet report of 12th March 2024, a recommendation was approved to bring a further report on the Council’s transition to restricting the capacity of the residual waste collected, as committed to in Priority Two of the Strategy, a fundamental action for achieving the statutory recycling target of 70%.</p> <p>This report now outlines the modelling exercise that has been undertaken on Flintshire’s collection services in order to identify the most efficient collection model.</p>
1.06	<p><u>Recycling and Waste Modelling</u></p> <p>In December 2023, WSP, in conjunction with CRS, were appointed by WRAP Cymru to support Flintshire in the review of options to improve its recycling performance through the assessment of three different collection models.</p> <p>The exercise that took place sought to identify the most efficient and effective model focusing on three aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. maximising recycling potential and improving performance. 2. reducing our impact on the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions 3. reducing operational costs

The options put forward for modelling were based around the restriction of residual waste, as evidenced data demonstrates that this method increases the capture rate of dry recycling and food waste at the kerbside.

As we intended to change the existing operational shift patterns and remove Saturday collections in the future, the modelling options have factored in a change from a six-day working week to a five-day working week, Monday to Friday.

The table below sets out the 'baseline' position, based on Flintshire's current collection methodology (fortnightly collection with a 180L black wheeled bin on a six-day collection), and an 'enhanced baseline' (fortnightly collection with a 180L black wheeled bin on a five-day collection) with three modelled options for consideration, 1a, 2a and 3a.

Option	Description
Baseline (existing)	180L Fortnightly - 6 day working week (90L capacity per week)
Enhanced Baseline	180L Fortnightly - 5 day working week (90L capacity per week)
Option 1a	180L black wheeled bin collected 3 weekly - 5 day working week (60L capacity per week)
Option 2a	180L black wheeled bin collected 4 weekly - 5 day working week (45L capacity per week)
Option 3a	120L black wheeled bin collected fortnightly - 5 day working week (60L capacity per week)

1.07 The modelling of options 1a, 2a and 3a has been undertaken on the enhanced baseline position as the service intends to transition to a five-day working week for several operational efficiency reasons, which are namely to: -

- Improve recruitment opportunities.
- Reduce leave requests for the same working day.
- Decrease the impact of sickness absence.
- Reduce reliance on agency staff.
- Improved service delivery
- Reduce operational impact from residents being at home (e.g., access obstruction from parked cars)
- Allow for flexibility to change collection days (Christmas/New Year/adverse weather)
- Allow for vehicle maintenance on non-working days.
- Streetscene contact centre does not operate on the weekend restricting support to customers on a Saturday collection day.

1.08 Modelling Process
 The three options were modelled using WRAP's Kerbside Analysis Tool (KAT). This uses a combination of actual data from our existing collection service, such as vehicle and resourcing levels, unit costs, and material yields, and combines them with evidence-based assumptions drawn from reliable data sets from other local authorities. KAT is an established and widely used tool which has supported many councils to assess and implement changes to waste collections.

Appendix 4 provides further detail on what data was provided for the modelling exercise to take place, how the assumptions were calculated, and the methodology for calculation. Making use of WRAP’s “CarbonWARM” emission factors, the greenhouse gas reductions from each option were also calculated.

1.09 Modelling Outcomes - Recycling Performance

The modelling exercise has identified that Option 2a (180L black wheeled bin collected 4 weekly - 5 day working week (45L capacity per week)) achieves the highest performance increase at 5.9 percentage points, against the Enhanced Baseline.

The greatest restriction on available weekly residual capacity results in the highest diversion of food and dry recycling from the residual stream, while the 4-weekly collection frequency means that capture is maximised.

Option 1a (180L black wheeled bin collected 3 weekly - 5 day working week (60L capacity per week)) and option 3a (120L black wheeled bin collected fortnightly - 5 day working week (60L capacity per week)) exhibit similar performance increases at 4.5 and 4.3 percentage points respectively, with Option 3a expected to be slightly lower due to the more frequent residual waste collection, resulting in less uptake of weekly food waste recycling services.

The following table sets out the change in recycling yields, overall waste arisings and performance that the modelling has calculated:

Option	Mass Reused & Recycled (t)	Mass Composted (t)	Total Municipal Arisings (t)	Re-use, Recycling & Composting Rate %	Change relative to Baseline - % Points
Baseline	27,314	16,689	71,542	61.5%	
Enhanced Baseline	27,314	16,689	71,542	61.5%	0.0%
Option 1a – 180L 3 weekly	28,347	18,769	71,350	66.0%	4.5%
Option 2a – 180L 4 weekly	28,580	19,417	71,217	67.4%	5.9%
Option 3a – 120L fortnightly	28,345	18,623	71,370	65.8%	4.3%

The potential increase in recycling performance is based on 2022/23 data when the recycling rate was 61.51%. Applying the potential increase on to 2023/24 performance, we could realise an improvement in performance of up to 68.67% (based on option 2a).

While Option 2a has identified the largest performance increase, this collection model does not fully achieve the statutory target of 70% on its own. This is why it is just one of several actions identified in the Resource and Waste Strategy aimed at achieving the target and meeting our strategic objectives.

Some actions from the strategy have already been implemented, some are at planning and proposal stage (such as this), and others will require investment and industry solutions to implement. The service will continue to work towards implementing those identified action throughout the six-year life cycle of the Strategy.

1.10 The table below provides further details of the individual waste stream yield increase or decrease for each option. This identifies higher yields of dry recycling (paper, card, tins, plastics, glass) and food waste, with significant decreases in residual waste.

Material Stream	Baseline	Enhanced Baseline	Option 1a	Option 2a	Option 3a
	Mass (t)	Mass (t)	Mass (t)	Mass (t)	Mass (t)
Kerbside Dry recycling	12,682	12,682	13,974 +1292	14,249 +1567	13,974 +1292
Food waste	4,480	4,480	7,146 +2666	7,976 +3496	6,958 +2478
Residual waste	22,855	22,855	18,898 -3957	17,792 -5063	19,085 -3770

1.11 Modelling Outcomes - Carbon Reduction

With respect to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, Option 2a sees the largest emission reduction of -2,045 tonnes Co2e, compared to -1,575 tonnes Co2e for Option 1a and -1,491 tonnes Co2e for Option 3a. This is predominantly due to the increased amount of recycling and food capture combined with the greatest reduction in residual waste sent to Energy from Waste (EfW).

Material	Enhanced Baseline	Option 1a 180L 3-weekly	Option 2a 180L 4-weekly	Option 3a 120L fortnightly
GHG Emission relative to EfW - Tonnes CO2e	-7,868	-9,372	-9,823	-9,364
Emissions from fuel - Tonnes CO2e	873	803	784	878
Total - Tonnes CO2e	-6,994	-8,569	-9,040	-8,486
Difference to Enhanced Baseline (t CO2e)	0	-1,575	-2,045	-1,491

1.12 Modelling Outcomes - Cost Reduction

The table below sets out the whole system costs for the three options against the baseline and enhanced baseline.

Activity	Baseline (£)	Enhanced Baseline (£)	Option 1a 180L 3-weekly (£)	Option 2a 180L 4-weekly (£)	Option 3a 120L fortnightly (£)
Collection	7,061,552	7,088,551	6,766,737	6,734,054	7,216,173
Containers	308,085	308,085	308,085	308,085	453,005
Treatment	3,367,624	3,367,624	3,008,880	2,921,497	3,019,882
Garden Waste Income	-1,077,000	-1,077,000	-1,077,000	-1,077,000	-1,077,000
Total	9,660,261	9,687,260	9,006,702	8,886,636	9,612,060
Difference		+26,999	-653,559	-773,625	-48,201

1.13	<p>The key findings of the modelling were that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection costs are lower for options with less frequent residual waste collections (Options 1a and 2a) due to reduced labour/resource costs. • Annualised container costs are higher for Option 3a where 120L bins would need to be purchased and provided to all households (additional capital written down over a 10-year period). • All options exhibit higher recycling incomes than the Baseline and Enhanced Baseline options due to increased diversion of recyclate from the residual waste stream. • Food waste treatment cost increases for the options and sensitivities with greater residual restriction as the increase in yields causes more to be diverted. <p>Residual treatment costs reduce commensurately with the degree of residual restriction. Option 2a, which has the greatest residual restriction, sees treatment costs £440,000 lower than the Baseline.</p>
1.14	<p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>As can be seen from the modelling, Option 2a (180L bin collected every four weeks) achieves both the highest performance increase at 5.9 percentage points, as well as the largest projected financial saving at c.£770,000 per annum against the Baseline and c.£800,000 per annum against the Enhanced Baseline.</p> <p>The greatest restriction in available weekly residual capacity (45L capacity per week) results in higher diversion of food and dry recyclate from the residual stream, while the four weekly collection frequency means that capture is maximised. Reduced vehicle and staff numbers combined with increased material income and reduced processing costs results in the net annualised saving.</p> <p>Option 1a and 3a exhibit similar performance increases (between 4.3 and 4.5 percentage points), but option 1a (180L bin three weekly) does so at a considerably reduced cost, around £650,000 lower than the Enhanced Baseline and £600,000 lower than option 3a (120L bin fortnightly).</p> <p>With four weekly residual collections reducing costs and diverting more material from the residual waste stream, means that Option 2a therefore exhibits the lowest costs and best performance of all the three options.</p> <p>With respect to greenhouse gas emissions, Option 2a sees the largest emission reduction of -2,045 tonnes Co2e, compared to -1,575 tonnes Co2e for Option 1a and -1,491 tonnes Co2e for Option 3a. This is predominantly due to the reduction of waste sent to Energy from Waste (EfW).</p> <p>In order to achieve the objectives set out in the Resource and Waste Strategy that was adopted by County Council in March 2024, it is recommended that Option 2a is progressed and the Council transitions to a restricted capacity residual waste collection model, which was committed to in Priority Two of the Strategy and recognised as an effective method of reducing residual waste and maximising recycling collected.</p>
1.15	<p>If Option 2a is approved for adoption and transition, then a further report will be provided to the Committee to outline the details of how the service change will be delivered, along with an implementation plan and communications plan. This will be accompanied by a revised Household Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Operations Policy.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The work is being supported by Local Partnerships and Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Cymru.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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3.01	<p>A full Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the Resources and Waste Strategy and has assisted in informing the following:</p> <p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>The proposals will drive improvements to recycling performance and achieving a Circular Economy. Through proactive engagement and education, we will drive behavioural change. Reducing the Council's carbon emissions to support the climate change agenda for future generations. Working towards Net Zero 2030 targets and long term financial savings for the authority.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>The proposals will help prevent the increasing amounts of waste generated and therefore reduce the Council carbon footprint. Wastes that are odour or perceived as unhygienic in nature will be collected most frequently to minimise impact on our residents.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td>Through the provision of positive engagement in multi languages we ensure inclusion of all within our communities with our services. Reviewing and updating our assisted waste process will ensure everyone in our community can engage with the services we provide. Reviewing services at flats and houses of multiple occupancy we will include all of Flintshire's residents to partake in the service.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td>The proposal requires further work with Welsh Government, and partners, to find sustainable solutions for nonrecyclable materials. Working collaboratively with businesses, third sector, schools and charities to deliver objectives. Working collaboratively, we will ensure preparedness for new and changing legislations.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> <td>Improved engagement with Flintshire residents, businesses, schools, third sector and charities to ensure they understand their responsibilities and ensure waste minimisation, reuse and recycling before disposal. Through the provision of positive engagement in multi languages we ensure inclusion of all within our communities with our services. Reviewing and updating our assisted waste process will ensure everyone in our community can engage with the services we provide.</td> </tr> </table>	Long-term	The proposals will drive improvements to recycling performance and achieving a Circular Economy. Through proactive engagement and education, we will drive behavioural change. Reducing the Council's carbon emissions to support the climate change agenda for future generations. Working towards Net Zero 2030 targets and long term financial savings for the authority.	Prevention	The proposals will help prevent the increasing amounts of waste generated and therefore reduce the Council carbon footprint. Wastes that are odour or perceived as unhygienic in nature will be collected most frequently to minimise impact on our residents.	Integration	Through the provision of positive engagement in multi languages we ensure inclusion of all within our communities with our services. Reviewing and updating our assisted waste process will ensure everyone in our community can engage with the services we provide. Reviewing services at flats and houses of multiple occupancy we will include all of Flintshire's residents to partake in the service.	Collaboration	The proposal requires further work with Welsh Government, and partners, to find sustainable solutions for nonrecyclable materials. Working collaboratively with businesses, third sector, schools and charities to deliver objectives. Working collaboratively, we will ensure preparedness for new and changing legislations.	Involvement	Improved engagement with Flintshire residents, businesses, schools, third sector and charities to ensure they understand their responsibilities and ensure waste minimisation, reuse and recycling before disposal. Through the provision of positive engagement in multi languages we ensure inclusion of all within our communities with our services. Reviewing and updating our assisted waste process will ensure everyone in our community can engage with the services we provide.
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Well-being Goals Impact	
Prosperous Wales	Positive – improving waste minimisation, reuse and recycling of recycling materials resulting in world leaders in recycling performance
Resilient Wales	Positive – Less demand for raw materials, promoting Circular Economy and greener spaces. Decarbonising our infrastructure and providing county-based disposal solutions.
Healthier Wales	Positive – reducing vehicle movements and emissions and allowing for the responsible management and disposal of controlled waste
More equal Wales	No impact
Cohesive Wales	Positive – building community engagement with residents, businesses, third sector, schools and charities to deliver objectives.
Vibrant Wales	Positive – improving waste minimisation, reuse and recycling of recycling materials and working towards carbon reduction
Globally responsible Wales	Positive - reducing the reliance on the extraction of raw materials and destruction of natural habitats and ecosystems by the reprocessing of recyclable materials. By eliminating, minimising, reusing or recycling waste materials we will reduce carbon emissions.
3.02	We are highly unlikely to achieve the statutory recycling targets without making significant changes to services in order to improve recycling performance and reduce the amount of waste being presented in the residual waste bin.
3.03	The risk of not achieving the statutory recycling targets could result in a significant financial penalty for the Council (£200 for every tonne not recycled) if Welsh Government were to choose to levy the infraction fines. This equates to more than £1million for failing to achieve the targets in 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, and potentially additional significant financial penalties in excess of this figure for 2023/24 and from 2024/25, for which there is no available budget. This would equate to a 1% rise in council tax per annum.
3.04	The disposal of residual waste costs the Council £3.4m a year, as well as increasing the previously mentioned risk of an infraction fine. If the Council stopped disposing of enough residual waste to meet the 70% target (7,600 tonnes), this would reduce the Council's spend on residual waste disposal.
3.05	The lack of appetite by Flintshire customers to improve recycling performance and implement changes could result in the loss of the Sustainable Waste Management Grant from Welsh Government to invest in Flintshire. The value of this grant to Flintshire is currently £0.742m per annum.
3.06	Negative public impression of the service will be managed through positive and proactive engagement, which is a key theme through each of the priorities within the strategy.
3.07	An increase in fly tipping is not anticipated following a transition to a reduced capacity collection model. This is based on evidence from other local authorities in Wales that have introduced a restricted residual waste capacity policy.

	<p>By using the weekly food and recycling collections along with the fortnightly garden collections, there is enough room in the black bin for residual waste. The typical fly-tipped waste (i.e. bulky items such as mattresses, tyres, white goods, chairs and sofas) are most often items that would not typically fit in a wheeled bin. Bulky waste can be taken to the HRCs or collected through our bulky waste collection service and our residents are already in receipt of the solution to their waste disposal needs by way of a comprehensive weekly recycling collection service. By placing their recycling into the appropriate container, which will be collected from their property weekly, there would be no reason for them to take the decision to commit an illegal activity to manage their domestic waste. Following a similar service change in another regional local authority, this was evidenced with no increase in fly tipping observed.</p> <p>Nevertheless, a piece of work would be undertaken prior to a service change to ensure that residents have the correct recycling containers available to them and a detailed communications plan will be developed and presented to the Committee in advance of any approved changes.</p> <p>Should a fly tipping event take place then the Council's in-house civil parking and environmental enforcement team would undertake the necessary investigation to identify potential offenders. The householder's 'duty of care' responsibilities will also be shared through the communications plan so that residents are aware of their personal responsibilities for waste.</p>
3.08	Households of 6 or more people can request a larger 240L wheeled bin as long as they can demonstrate that they are recycling all that they can. All households can request extra recycling bags or containers and it is easy to recycle more.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
4.01	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy has taken place.
4.02	Flintshire residents were consulted on the Resources & Waste Strategy and a communications plan will be developed if the proposals are approved.
4.03	Elected members were consulted on the Resources & Waste Strategy and a communications plan will be developed if the proposals are approved.
4.04	Town and Community Councils were consulted on the Resources & Waste Strategy and a communications plan will be developed if the proposals are approved.
4.05	Members of the Senedd were consulted on the Resources & Waste Strategy and a communications plan will be developed if the proposals are approved.
4.06	Members of Parliament were consulted on the Resources & Waste Strategy and a communications plan will be developed if the proposals are approved.
4.07	Flintshire County Council officers and employees were consulted on the Resources & Waste Strategy and a communications plan will be developed if the proposals are approved.

4.08	Groups with protected characteristics were consulted on the Resources & Waste Strategy and a communications plan will be developed if the proposals are approved.
4.09	Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee – to be held on 16 th July 2024

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Recycling Performance of Kerbside Collected Waste
5.02	Appendix 2 – Internal Audit Report
5.03	Appendix 3 – Resource and Waste Strategy
5.04	Appendix 4 – KAT Modelling Methodology

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Towards Zero Waste Municipal Waste Sector Plan - Collections blueprint Beyond Recycling Strategy Climate Change Strategy Council Plan Cabinet Report - Resource and Waste Strategy WSP Consultants: https://www.wsp.com/en-gb

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Ruth Tulley, Regulatory Services Manager Telephone: 01352 704796 E-mail: ruth.tulley@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Residual Waste Materials that remain following efforts to reduce, reuse, recycle or compost. Commonly known as ‘general waste’ or ‘black bin waste’.</p> <p>Dry Recycling Recyclable items collected such as, cardboard, paper, tin cans, plastic bottles/tubs/trays, glass bottles/jars, waxed cartons, aerosols</p> <p>Kerbside Collections the collection of recycling and waste from residential properties</p> <p>Household Recycling Centres Waste disposal centres where residents can dispose of domestic waste and recycling items that are not collected at the Kerbside.</p>

Net Zero The balance between the amount of greenhouse gases being produced and the amount that are being removed from the atmosphere.

Circular Economy Extending the life cycle of products by reusing, regenerating, sharing, repairing, and recycling existing materials.

Waste Composition The types and volumes of materials found in a waste stream.

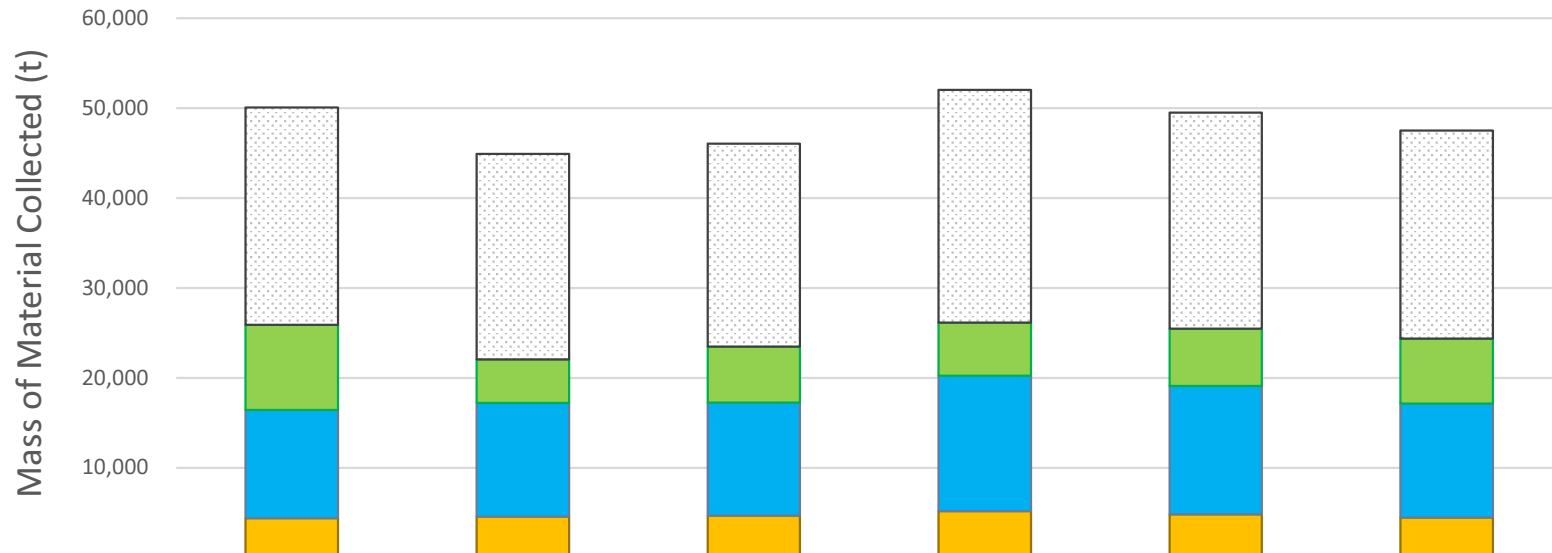
Resources Materials, such as glass, plastic, paper fibres, that can be utilised to produce new items.

Infraction fine a financial penalty imposed by government for not meeting statutory recycling targets.

Fly tipping the illegal deposit of waste on to land.

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Kerbside Collected Material



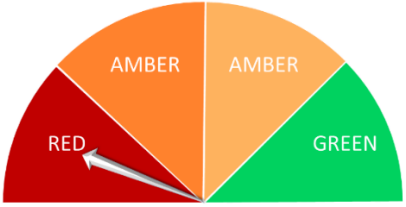
	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Residual	24,166	22,856	22,581	25,861	24,017	23,120
Garden	9,457	4,835	6,231	5,918	6,370	7,223
Dry	12,025	12,640	12,552	15,074	14,245	12,682
Food	4,428	4,597	4,701	5,183	4,860	4,480
Kerbside Recycling Rate %	51.7%	49.1%	51.0%	50.3%	51.5%	51.3%

“kerbside recycling rate” shown in this figure is based just on materials collected at the kerbside.

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23/24 – Recycling Targets – Streetscene and Transportation- 17-2023/24

Final Report – May 2024

Assurance Opinion:	Number of Actions		Risks Reviewed as Identified in Scope
 <p>Urgent system revision required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key controls are absent or rarely applied • Evidence of (or the potential for) significant financial / other losses • System / process objectives are not being met, or are being met at a significant and unnecessary cost or use of resources <p>Conclusion: a lack of adequate or effective controls.</p>	Priority	Number	<p>Risk 1: The service does not achieve the current target potentially resulting in a significant fine to the Council.</p> <p>Risk 2: Current controls in place for managing recycling are not effective.</p> <p>Risk 3: Proposed actions to mitigate the risk of non-achievement of target are insufficient.</p> <p>Risk 4: The recycling data reported to Welsh Government is not accurate.</p>
	High (Red)	2	
	Medium (Amber)	2	
	Low (Green)	0	
	Total	4	

Audit Background

The Welsh Government (WG) has set statutory recycling targets for local authorities to achieve on an annual basis. Failure to achieve these targets could result in the Council receiving an infraction fine. The fine is based on waste tonnage recycled against total waste tonnage collected. Any shortfall is charged at a rate of £200 per tonne. It is within the remit of WG to levy the fine.

The service is responsible for managing waste collection, including the monitoring and reporting of recycling data. The service met the recycling target for 18/19 and 19/20 but has failed to achieve the ongoing targets since then and indications show that the current years target will also not be met. The target is due to increase in 24/25.

Year	FCC recycling	WG target	Recycling tonnage shortfall	WG Infraction fine	Comment
2018/19	69.16%	64%		-	
2019/20	65.85%	64%		-	
2020/21	63.98%	64%	17	£3,400	Fine not enforced
2021/22	60.08%	64%	3,314	£662,800	Enforcement fine to be determined
2022/23	61.51%	64%	1,784	£356,766	Enforcement fine to be determined
2023/24	Q1 66.59%	64%			66.59% but likely to reduce
2024/25		70%			

23/24 – Recycling Targets – Streetscene and Transportation- 17-2023/24

Final Report – May 2024

The action taken to mitigate the risks against the achievement of target is shown in a range of ways.

1. Risk register
2. Operational performance monitoring
3. Medium Term Financial Strategy
4. March 2023 action plan to try and increase the Council's recycling levels.

The audit review sought to establish the effectiveness of risk management by the service in achieving the national targets set. Focus was placed on the adequacy of the controls in place / actions proposed to address the gap between current performance and target as well as the robustness of recycling data and operating model.

Areas Managed Well

- Controls are in place for the collection of recycling across the County.
- There is a clear process in place for validating recycling data for Welsh Government to ensure data is robust and reliable.

23/24 – Recycling Targets – Streetscene and Transportation- 17-2023/24

Final Report – May 2024

Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
<p>1 (R)</p> <p><u>ACTION PLAN DOES NOT ALIGN WITH RISK MITIGATION</u></p> <p>The Welsh Government Waste Strategy (Beyond Recycling 2021) set statutory targets for all local authorities to achieve a minimum of 70% of all waste to be recycled by 24/25.</p> <p>The outturn performance for Flintshire Council for 21/22 was 60.08% and 61.51% for 22/23. The expected target at this point was to achieve 64% which the Council failed to meet. The Minister is still yet to determine if a fine (total £1M) will be levied against the Council for a failure to meet these targets.</p> <p>In January 2023, a Waste Strategy review report was presented to Cabinet and a decision was taken to run a pilot scheme for 3 weekly collections in one area of the county. This decision was called in by other Members as concerns were raised over costs of the scheme, data integrity and benefits to changing the process. This resulted in the scheme not being conducted.</p> <p>An initial action plan (March 2023) was produced by the service at the request of the Minister in response to failing to achieve the statutory recycling targets in 2021/22. The plan was shared with Welsh Government for approval, however in June 2023, the Minister informed the Council that they could not support the plan as it was felt that the proposed changes would not provide sufficient assurances that performance would be improved to achieve 70% by 24/25.</p> <p>We reviewed the action plan (16 actions) and would highlight the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan contained a number of actions (12) that could potentially increase recycling collection rates and estimates were included for 6 actions (11-16%) with the monitoring of tonnages contributing an expected 7-12% increase. • However, none of these actions have been implemented as the action plan was not approved. • Work had commenced on 3 actions (additional Recycling, Compliance and Data Officers, WRAP support and an Environmental Improvement Co- 	<p>The work with Local Partnerships and WRAP has concluded on the Waste Strategy review and this has resulted in a new Resource and Waste Strategy being approved by Cabinet and adopted in March 2024.</p> <p>The Strategy includes five key priorities. In priority two, once action is to restrict the amount of residual waste that residents can dispose of in the black bin to encourage greater recycling by all residents either by reducing the frequency of collections or the capacity of the bin. This action is fundamental in achieving the statutory recycling target of 70%.</p> <p>Modelling data to support this action will be included in an operational report outlining what benefit a transition to this style of collection model would bring. This will indicate that a reduction to the capacity of residual waste collected is a key risk mitigation action.</p> <p>This Operational Report will be presented to Cabinet in June 2024 for consideration and approval.</p> <p>URN 03582</p>	<p>Regulatory Services Manager</p>	<p>30/06/24</p>

23/24 – Recycling Targets – Streetscene and Transportation- 17-2023/24

Final Report – May 2024

Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
<p>ordinator), however it is unknown what impact these will have on recycling rates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan included 4 actions which would have no impact on these recycling rates and focussed more on service improvement, for example, the supply of body cameras, handheld devices and RFID tags for garden waste. These actions have been completed. 10 actions required additional funding for 2023/24 totalling in the region of £1.3M investment (£933K WG and £395K FCC). This was based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> grant funding (£500K), increased income via improved tonnages (£125K), Cost of 10 additional Engagement Officers (£433K), Cost of 5 Enforcement Officers (£200K), Cost of 1 Improvement Co-ordinator (£50K). To date, funding has been identified for 3 additional Engagement Officers and the Improvement Co-ordinator. No other funding has been obtained. <p>Our review considered that these actions are now unrealistic given the current financial challenges the Council is facing.</p> <p>It should be noted that service is working with Local Partnerships and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to develop the Resource and Waste Strategy with clear and evidenced based actions. This is currently out to public consultation (December 23 – January 24) before a report is presented to Cabinet and the Minister in March 2024 for approval. Considerable reliance has been placed on the actions which WRAP may recommend and that these actions will need to be approved by Cabinet. (see #2).</p> <p>The risk is that this review has not been able to identify any interim risk mitigations which have been put in place to increase recycling collection rates. As a result, the risk of non-achievement of target is likely to materialise and a fine may be levied. This fine could be in the region of £1.2M for 2024/25 if current recycling levels remain constant.</p>			

23/24 – Recycling Targets – Streetscene and Transportation- 17-2023/24

Final Report – May 2024

Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
<p>2 (R)</p> <p><u>APPROVAL & DECISION MAKING DOES NOT ALIGN WITH RISK MITIGATION</u></p> <p>The service is trying to mitigate against non-achievement of a statutory target; however, the Chief Officer cannot make unilateral decisions regarding what actions to take as these are policy decisions which require member approval.</p> <p>Member approval will require clear, accurate and a reliable presentation of information to inform risk management decisions to be taken.</p> <p>The service has provided communication to Cabinet, Council Members, the Welsh Government Minister, Local Partnerships and WRAP including progress on achieving recycling targets.</p> <p>In particular the service has delivered workshops and produced information for the Cabinet ‘Called In’ report in January 2023. A review of this information identified the service has presented a comprehensive range of options, including current tonnage levels and potential financial consequences of the fine. However, none of the options outlined in the Called In report were approved by Cabinet which is reflected in the original action plan, and which has driven service activity thus far.</p> <p>Actions which were approved i.e. education on recycling are actions which will take time to embed. The officers have only recently been recruited and have yet to commence employment in the new roles. There is a risk that the service has insufficient time to see the benefits of these actions reflected in improved tonnages by the end of 23/24.</p> <p>Data is showing that recycling collection tonnages are not improving, and residual waste tonnages are increasing. The service recognises and has highlighted that quarterly figures can mask the overall view due to variations in collection rates at different times of the year i.e. garden waste during summer months.</p> <p>It is unlikely that the service will achieve the 23/24 recycling target of 64%. A revised strategy and action plan is being developed and is being consulted upon. This will require approval from Cabinet prior to obtaining Welsh Government</p>	<p>Restricting the amount of residual waste collected is a key risk mitigation action. We are unable to deliver this without political approval and will present the Operational report on this basis.</p> <p>In March 2024, the Minister for Climate change wrote to the Leader of the Council requesting assurance that the Council was committed to implementing residual waste restrictions. Without political commitment the infraction fine (2021/22) still remains a possibility.</p> <p>URN 03601</p>	<p>Regulatory Services Manager</p>	<p>30/06/024</p>

23/24 – Recycling Targets – Streetscene and Transportation- 17-2023/24

Final Report – May 2024

Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
<p>approval. It is likely that the revised plan will contain difficult and challenging actions, some of which may have previously failed to gain approval.</p> <p>Current reporting has provided useful information for consideration when making decisions, however, there remains a risk that decision makers do not specifically identify those changes / actions which are critical to mitigating the risk and those which may be supportive / provide some improvement.</p> <p>There is a risk that Members decisions on whether to approve or not the actions suggested in the new action plan is not seen as fundamental to mitigating the risk of non-compliance with recycling targets. This has a significant bearing on the service’s ability to manage this risk and could result in financial penalties being placed on the Council.</p>			
<p><u>RISK REGISTER DOES NOT ALIGN WITH RISK MITIGATION</u></p> <p>The Corporate Risk Register identifies risks in place in relation to waste recycling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RST07 - Inability to achieve national recycling targets due to increased residual waste tonnages collected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Red Risk, current score of 12, target score of 2. ○ Our review suggests that it is expected that continued non-compliance will remain into 2024/25 as the service will not achieve expected target. ● RST12 – Lack of responsiveness to industry or market changes e.g. recycling income leading to financial budget pressures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational Green Risk, current risk score 2, target score 2. ○ Our review agrees that recycling income is monitored on a regular basis and data is well controlled. ○ However, the levels of income collected could impact on this risk score. ● RST43 - Inability to influence public behaviours and habits which negatively impacts service delivery and income streams. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational Amber Risk, current risk score 9, target score 4. 	<p>The key strategic risk is RST07 - Inability to achieve national recycling targets due to increased residual waste tonnages collected.</p> <p>We have referred to this risk within the Resource and Waste Strategy Scrutiny and Cabinet reports. The operational report will identify the actions we intend to take to mitigate this risk which is currently out of tolerance.</p> <p>We will highlight that without taking the key mitigating risk action (restricting residual waste capacity), our ability to bring the risk back into tolerance to avoid the infraction fine will be limited.</p> <p>URN 03588</p>	Regulatory Services Manager	30/06/2024

23/24 – Recycling Targets – Streetscene and Transportation- 17-2023/24

Final Report – May 2024

Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This risk has yet to be addressed. Actions have been included within the draft action plan but have yet to be fully delivered. <p>Risk RST07 is a strategic risk and in line with the risk management framework escalation depends on the worsening of risk score which currently is scored at 12. COT have oversight of all strategic risks.</p> <p>This risk is that additional mitigations have not been put in place; significant reliance is being place on the delivery of a new action plan and its subsequent approval as being sufficient for the mitigation of this risk.</p>			
<p>4 (A)</p> <p><u>MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STATEMENT DOES NOT ALIGN WITH RISK MITIGATION</u></p> <p>The MTFs statements produced in advance for 23/24 identified a number of proposed efficiencies which could be achieved by the service. Some of these efficiencies relate to changing the approach to collection of waste and levels of recycling.</p> <p><u>The data below is as was presented within the MTFs statements.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charge for assisted waste and recycling collections (+£20K); • Charge for Disposals on waste streams (+£TBC); • Charges for replacement containers (+£20K-£120K); • Compost Charges at HRC's (+£TBC); • Enforcements for recycling in residual waste bins (+£50K); • Food Waste Bags (+£10K); • Greenfield development as a regional waste facility (+£TBC); • Increase Charges, Reduce Collections Frequency for Garden Waste Collection (+£25K); • Introduce 2 Weekly Collections, bin reduction (+£200K); • Introduce 3 Weekly Collections (+£400K-£500K); • Introduce 4 Weekly Collections (+£600K-£800K); • Recycling Collections offer to businesses (+£TBC); • Reduce Frequency for Garden Waste Collection (+£50K); • Review provision on HWRC's (+£TBC); and 	<p>For financial year 2024/25, all portfolios were tasked with finding cost reductions.</p> <p>Restricting residual waste collections were included as a potential cost reduction option; however, following feedback from Overview and Scrutiny meetings held in February this proposal was removed from final budget setting, as detailed in a Cabinet Report of 20th February 2024.</p> <p>Following adoption of the Resource and Waste Strategy, and consideration of the operational report in June, the financial savings from restricting the capacity of residual waste collected will be included in the 2024/25 MTFs (if there are in year savings) if approved.</p> <p>The infraction fine, if imposed, would have to be met from the Corporate Contingency Reserve as a potential fine cannot be classed as a budgeted item in the MTFs.</p> <p>URN 03589</p>	<p>Regulatory Services Manager</p>	<p>30.06.2024</p>

23/24 – Recycling Targets – Streetscene and Transportation- 17-2023/24 Final Report – May 2024

Findings and Implications	Agreed Action	Who	When
<p>• One budget pressure was also identified relating to Garden Waste Income Grant (-£50K annual).</p> <p>From our review of statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the MTFS statements were drafted and submitted by the Chief Officer, the actions have not yet taken place; • Significant amount of efficiencies are dependent on approval which was not received; • The financial context has changed, and this should be reflected in the revised action plan; and • There is nil mention as a pressure of the potential fine which may be levied. <p>The risk is that the MTFS statements and the revised action plan are not aligned.</p>			

Page 70

Distribution List	
To be determined	Accountable Officer Responsible for the Implementation of Agreed Actions
Katie Wilby	Chief Officer, Streetscene and Transportation
Ruth Tulley	Regulatory Services Manager, Regulatory Services
Neal Cockerton	Chief Executive, Flintshire County Council

23/24 – Recycling Targets – Streetscene and Transportation- 17-2023/24

Final Report – May 2024

Audit Priority:

Appendix A

Priority of Audit Finding	
Priority	Description
High (Red)	Action is imperative to ensure that the objectives of the area under review are met
Medium (Amber)	Requires action to avoid exposure to significant risks in achieving the objectives of the area
Low (Green)	Action encouraged to enhance control or improve operational efficiency

Audit Opinion:

The audit opinion is the level of assurance that Internal Audit can give to management and all other stakeholders on the adequacy and effectiveness of controls within the area audited. It is assessed following the completion of the audit and is based on the findings from the audit. Progress on the implementation of agreed actions will be monitored. Findings from **Some** or **Limited** assurance audits will be reported to the Audit Committee.

Assurance	Explanation
Green - Substantial	<p>Strong controls in place (all or most of the following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key controls exist and are applied consistently and effectively Objectives achieved in a pragmatic and cost effective manner Compliance with relevant regulations and procedures Assets safeguarded Information reliable <p>Conclusion: key controls have been adequately designed and are operating effectively to deliver the key objectives of the system, process, function or service.</p>
Amber Green – Reasonable	<p>Key Controls in place but some fine tuning required (one or more of the following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key controls exist but there are weaknesses and / or inconsistencies in application though no evidence of any significant impact Some refinement or addition of controls would enhance the control environment Key objectives could be better achieved with some relatively minor adjustments <p>Conclusion: key controls generally operating effectively.</p>
Amber Red – Some	<p>Significant improvement in control environment required (one or more of the following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key controls exist but fail to address all risks identified and / or are not applied consistently and effectively Evidence of (or the potential for) financial / other loss Key management information exists but is unreliable System / process objectives are not being met, or are being met at an unnecessary cost or use of resources. <p>Conclusion: key controls are generally inadequate or ineffective.</p>
Red – Limited	<p>Urgent system revision required (one or more of the following)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key controls are absent or rarely applied Evidence of (or the potential for) significant financial / other losses Key management information does not exist System / process objectives are not being met, or are being met at a significant and unnecessary cost or use of resources. <p>Conclusion: a lack of adequate or effective controls.</p>

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Flintshire Resource and Waste Strategy

2024 - 2030

Cymraeg

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
Gweler y dudalen Gymraeg ar ein gwefan.



Contents

Glossary	Page 3
Strategy Forward	Page 4
Our Vision	Page 4
Our Strategic Objectives	Page 4
Our Current Service and Progress	Page 5
Case for Change	Page 6
Global drivers	Page 6
National drivers	Page 6
Local drivers	Page 7
Drivers for Change	Page 7
Priority 1 – Waste Minimisation and Reuse	Page 9
Priority 2 – Increase Recycling	Page 10
Priority 3 – Decarbonisation	Page 12
Priority 4 – Infrastructure	Page 13
Priority 5 – Enforcement	Page 13
Monitoring and Evaluation	Page 14
Figures:	
Figure 1: Global, national, and local context	Page 6
Figure 2: Recycling Performance and Targets	Page 7
Figure 3: Waste compositional Analysis	Page 8

Glossary

Carbon footprint A carbon footprint is a measure of the total amount of greenhouse gases, specifically carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other equivalents like methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O), emitted directly or indirectly by human activities.

Circular economy Extending the life cycle of products by reusing, regenerating, sharing, repairing, and recycling existing materials.

Composting The natural process of recycling organic matter, such as leaves and food scraps, into a valuable soil conditioner for soil and plants.

Decarbonisation The reduction or elimination of carbon emissions using low carbon sources.

Food Waste Food that is not consumed and discarded or by humans e.g. leftovers, peelings, expired products, inedible products.

Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) Waste disposal centres where residents can dispose of domestic waste and recycling items that are not collected at the Kerbside.

Infrastructure Structures and facilities needed for the operation of a service e.g., Waste transfer stations, depots.

Net Zero The balance between the amount of greenhouse gases being produced and the amount that are being removed from the atmosphere.

NGO Non-profit organisation that operates independently of a government.

Parc Adfer – Energy from waste facility set up by the North Wales residual waste treatment project to manage the residual waste generated by populations from five local authorities, Flintshire, Conwy, Denbighshire, Anglesey, and Gwynedd. Diverts waste from landfill and generates renewable energy.

Recycling The process of converting waste items into new products to prevent disposal, reduce the need for raw materials, reduce carbon emissions and decrease pollution.

Repair Fixing or restoring items that are damaged, faulty, broken to extend their life and avoid the need to recycle or dispose.

Residual Waste Materials that remain following efforts to reduce. Reuse, recycle or compost. Commonly known as 'general waste' or 'black bin waste'.

Residual Waste Bin Black bin provided for non-recyclable and non-compostable waste.

Resources Materials, such as glass, plastic, paper fibres, that can be utilised to produce new items.

Reuse Using items again for the same use instead of discarding them.

Single Use Items that are only used once before being recycled or thrown away.

Third Sector Charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups put in place to deliver essential services.

Waste Duty of Care A legal requirement for all those dealing with waste to take all reasonable steps to ensure its compliant disposal.

Waste Composition The types and volumes of materials found in a waste stream.

Workplace recycling reforms A law for all businesses, charities, and public sector organisations to sort their waste into separated recycling streams to maximise recovery of valuable resources.

Waste minimisation Reducing the amount of waste generated; therefore, preventing waste from being created rather than managing it after production and use.

Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) Vehicles that produce low levels of harmful emissions.

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Strategy Forward

In 2022 Flintshire Council released its climate strategy pledging to take urgent action to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2030 and committed to support and promote the Welsh Government's strategy to create a sustainable, circular economy in Flintshire.

Unsustainable consumption of precious resources has a significant impact on our environment and climate. Taking steps to reduce consumption and move away from traditional linear resource models of make, buy, dispose, to a circular model to preserve the environment for future generations is a must.

It will take a collective effort from residents, our workforce and the wider community to reduce consumption and our impact on the environment.

This Resource and Waste Strategy will set out our aims to enable and support residents living in Flintshire to make it easier for them to reduce their impact on the environment and their carbon footprint and move Flintshire towards a circular economy.

Our Vision

Our vision is to lead Flintshire towards a circular economy, maximise our resource efficiency, minimise waste and work collaboratively with our communities to take collective environmental responsibility.

Through an effective resource and waste strategy, we aim to safeguard the well-being of current and future generations, support the local economy, and reduce our impact on climate change.

Our strategic Objectives

1. To be a net carbon zero Council by 2030 and support wider decarbonisation actions across the County
2. Prioritise waste minimisation through proactive engagement with our communities
3. Increase reuse and repair through partnership with third sector organisations.
4. Achieve Welsh Government targets to reuse, recycle and compost over 70% of the waste we collect.
5. To provide efficient, innovative, and cost-effective services.
6. Meet budgetary requirements and avoid fines.
7. To invest in our infrastructure to future proof services to accommodate service growth.
8. Utilise proportionate and effective enforcement for non-conformance.

Our Current Services and Progress



Provide a weekly recycling service for **72,441** households



Spend over **£3.4M** on the disposal of residual (black bin) waste



Operate two closed landfill sites generating electricity for methane extraction



Produce soil conditioner from the composting of garden waste



Generate an income of **£750k** for the sale of recyclable materials



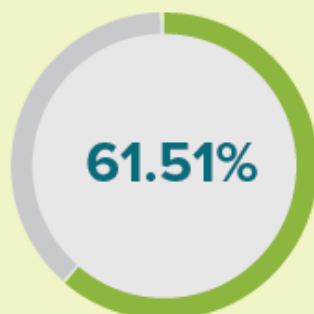
Operate five household recycling centres achieving **81%** recycling



Enforce against waste crimes such as fly tipping and side waste



2022/23 recycling rate:



2025 recycling target:

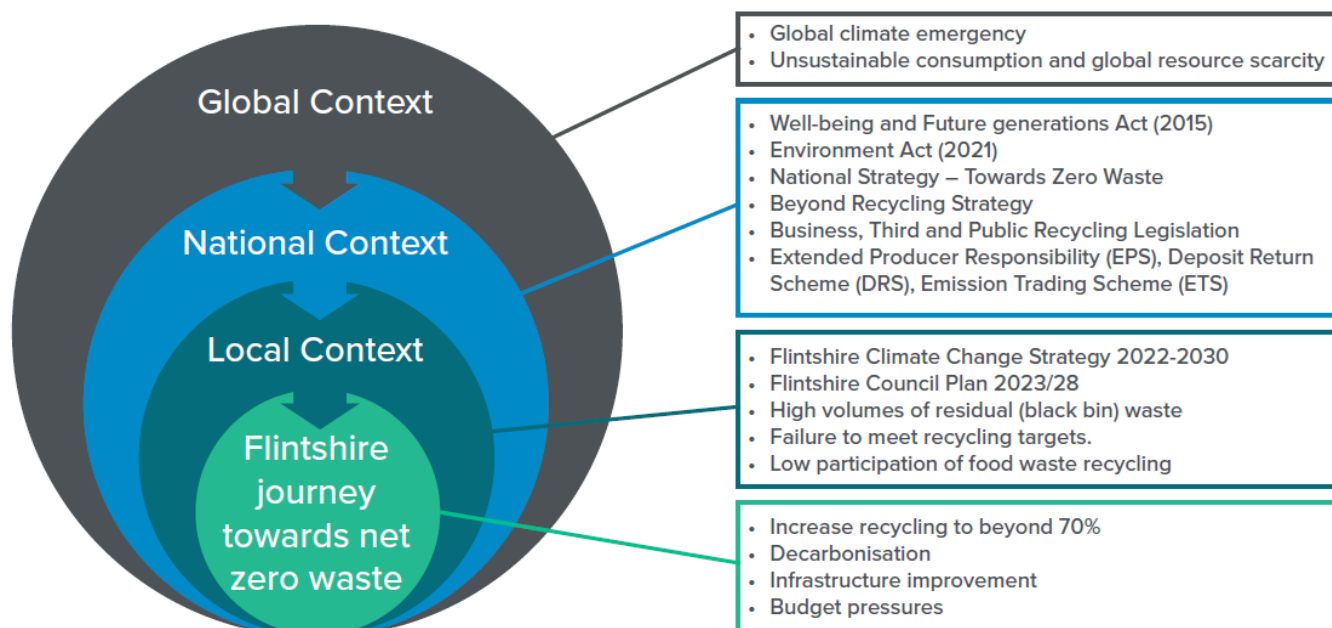


The Case for Change

The climate emergency and our unsustainable consumption of resources has been recognised by the Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council.

Moving to a circular economy is key to significantly reducing our carbon emissions and our over-exploitation of natural resources, and to help reverse the decline in biodiversity. Crucially, it can also improve economic and social outcomes. The drivers, and legislative and strategic framework in place to support our move towards a more circular economy are summarised below:

Figure 2: Global, national, and local context



Global Drivers

We are facing a global climate crisis, and it is now widely accepted that human activity is affecting the climate on a scale that is having detrimental effects on all living things. To avoid the worst impact of these effects we need to take urgent action to limit the increase in global temperatures by 1.5oC above preindustrial levels as outlined in the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

National Drivers

The Welsh Government has set an overall zero waste target by 2050 and ambitious recycling targets for councils in the interim period.

These are statutory targets and an Authority can be fined if they are not achieved.

In addition to the above targets, we also need to ensure we work with our communities to protect the long-term impact of our decisions in line with the Well-Being and Future Generations Act (2015) and adapt to the reforms that have been included within the Environment Act (2021). The reforms are designed to increase the recyclability of packaging waste, improve recycling, reduce litter, and increase business recycling.

Local Drivers

At a local level Flintshire Council has committed to tackle climate change and become carbon neutral by 2030 through its climate change strategy (2022/30)

There is a statutory obligation on Flintshire County Council to achieve a 70% recycling rate by 2024/25 or face significant financial penalties. Flintshire's current recycling rate of 61.51% for 2022/23 is significantly below the 70% target for 2024/25 and there is need, therefore, to take urgent action to increase our recycling rates and avoid being fined.

Flintshire is facing a budget gap of £32m in 2024/25 with potential solutions identified to bridge the gap at £18m, leaving a remaining shortfall of some £14m.

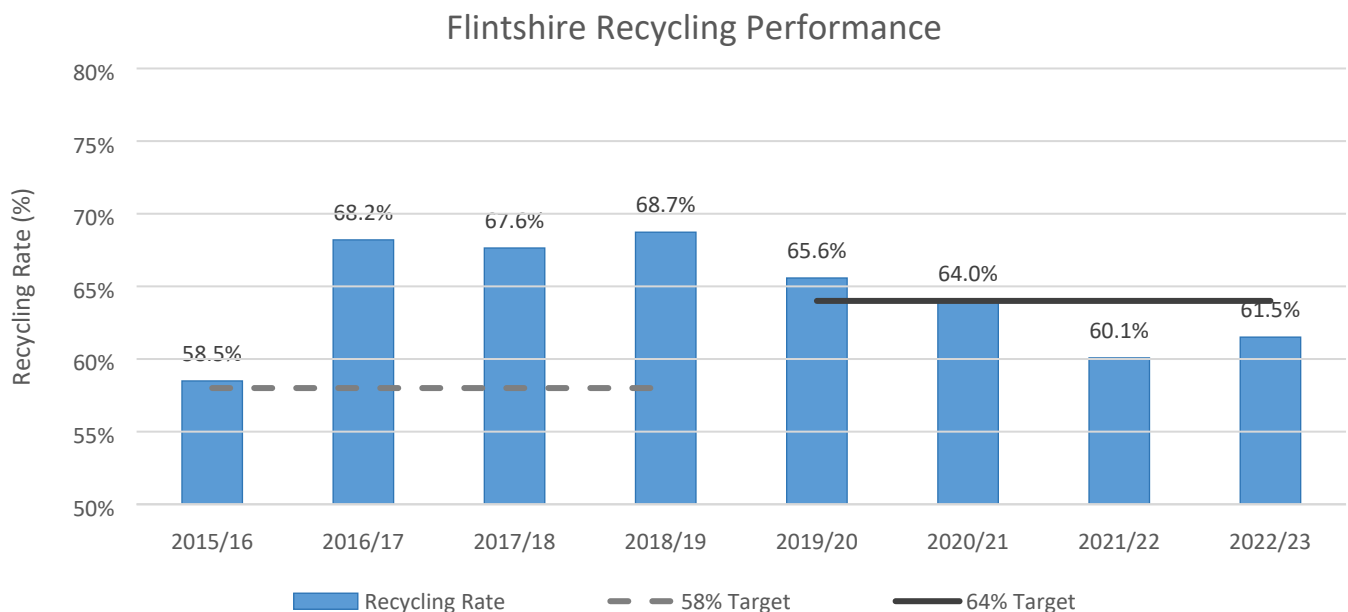
There is little left to cut and without more funding difficult decisions will need to be made to deliver a balanced budget.

Drivers for Change

In recent years we have achieved great success in increasing the amount we recycle in Flintshire to 61.51% in 2022/23. We would like to thank residents of Flintshire for engaging with our services to reach this target. Despite this progress we need to do more to increase our recycling rate to 70% and beyond, reduce our carbon impact and ensure that overall waste arisings reduce, increase reuse, and recycle as much as we can to promote a circular economy.

The table below shows our recycling performance since 2015/16 and whilst progress with recycling has kept pace with Welsh targets in previous years as an authority, we have failed to meet targets set in 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23, and we are currently not on target to achieve a 70% recycling rate by 2024/25.

Figure 2: Recycling Performance and Targets



The Council faces significant fines for not achieving the statutory recycling targets. The fines for missing the targets over the two years 2020/21 and 2022/23 equate to circa £1M, and we are not set to meet the targets in 2023/24 resulting in the potential for additional fines.

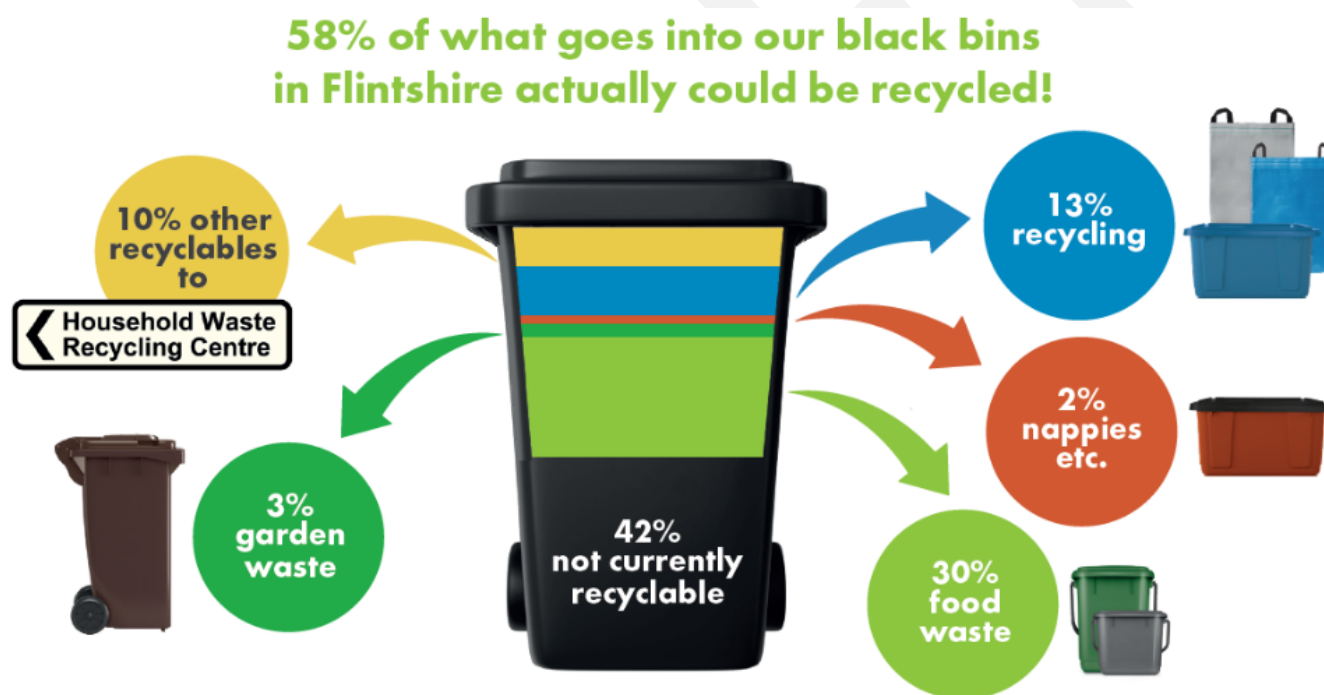
Furthermore, the targets increase again from 1 April 2024 and the Council will face higher fines of £1.2m per annum based on current recycling levels.

Waste composition

In 2022 an analysis of our household residual waste took place, the results of which can be seen in the pictorial diagram below.

The analysis shows that despite Flintshire's comprehensive weekly recycling service 58% of the contents of the residual waste bin (black bin) are materials that could be recycled either at the kerbside or at the household recycling centres. The remaining 42% are items that are not currently recyclable and should be placed in the residual waste stream.

Figure 3: Waste compositional Analysis



To help us reach a recycling target of 70% we need to divert recyclable materials from the residual waste stream (black bin) to the existing kerbside recycling services. The compositional analysis shows that 13,410 tonnes of material in the residual black bin, of which 6,940 tonnes was food waste, could have been recycled using our current service.

Taking into consideration the need to divert recycling from the residual waste stream to increase recycling rates and avoid financial penalties it is imperative that we take prompt corrective actions to meet statutory targets.

Within this strategy we have outlined our priorities that seek to address this risk to reduce our waste, increase recycling and decarbonise our activities so that we meet our strategic objectives.

Priority 1 – Waste Minimisation and Reuse

Our priority is to reduce overall waste arisings within Flintshire and increase the amount we reuse to avoid disposal. Our approach will be focused on helping residents, business schools and third sector reduce the amount of waste they produce and enabling better reuse of items.

What We Want to Achieve

- Raise awareness of waste minimisation and reuse in households, businesses, schools and third sector
- Encourage positive behavioural change towards waste prevention, minimisation and reuse.
- Reduce the overall amount of waste generated per household.
- Make it easier for residents to reuse and repair items.

How we will achieve this:

Communicating and Engagement

Consistent and clear messages are essential to support wider behavioural change. We recognise that the council needs to support residents across Flintshire to make the right decisions on how to minimise their impact on the environment. We want to improve our engagement with residents seeking more effective ways in which to communicate and raise awareness in ways that suits their needs including door knocking campaigns, roadshows, social media, mailshots and letter drops to households.

We will do this by:

- Setting out a communications plan for each year outlining key activities, promotional themes and how they will be delivered to residents.
- Promoting how residents can reuse and repair their items through targeted campaigns and collaboration.
- We will promote alternative places to donate/sell reusable items, such as online platforms or charities.
- Make minimising food waste a continuous targeted communication campaign.
- Promote how residents can avoid single use items, while supporting national drivers to prevent single use items being sold in the market place.
- Use data to identify households with high amount of waste to provide targeted messaging on reducing and reusing their waste.
- Ensure our communications literature is available in multilingual languages and readily available.
- Provide educational visits to Parc Adfer energy from waste facility to local students and community interest group.
- Promote alternative places to donate/sell reusable items, such as online platforms, charities or household recycling centres (HRCs)
- Work with schools within the county to create long term educational campaigns. Explore opportunities to work with eco groups and school councils.
- Work with local and national business to minimise waste at source and encourage less packaging, reuse and refill

Collaboration

- We will develop collaborative working with businesses, NGOs, schools and third sector including charities and social enterprise to achieve our goals.
- We will make it easier for residents to repair broken items by supporting community repair cafés.
- We will promote and make it easier for residents to borrow items, rather than buying new, through increased collaboration with the borrow bus and developing a 'library of things'.

Household Kerbside Collections

- Continue to provide vouchers towards the cost of reusable nappies to reduce the number of disposal nappies in the residual bin.
- We will ensure that collected bulky items from homes are segregated for reuse where possible.
- Promote home composting to minimise waste out of the home

Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)

- We will make it easier for residents to donate items for reuse at our HRCs and expand our relationship with local charities to recover reusable items.
- We will continue to promote our deconstruction facility at the Rockliffe (Oakenholt) HRC site, to deconstruct bulky items into their component parts in order to minimise waste.

Priority 2 – Increase Recycling

We need to increase our recycling rate to 70% and beyond by 2024/25 to ensure that we meet targets set out by Welsh government, avoid materials from being needlessly discarded, promote a circular economy, meet net zero carbon targets and avoid financial penalties for not conforming.

What We Want To Achieve

- To reduce food waste volumes in the residual waste bins
- To increase our recycling rate to 70% and beyond as set by Welsh Government
- To make it easy for residents to recycle their household waste.
- To provide all flats with a comprehensive recycling service
- Ensure businesses are compliant with workplace recycling reforms and legislative change.
- Divert recycling from the residual waste (black bin) into the correct recycling streams.
- Collect additional recyclable items at the kerbside.
- Reduce missed collections and provide real time service information.
- Restrict the amount of residual waste collected at the kerbside.

How we will achieve this:

Working with our communities we will provide a clear and comprehensive service to residents and business in Flintshire. Making it easy to recycle is key to engaging with residents and changing long term behaviours.

Communicating and Engagement

We will consistently promote how residents, businesses, schools and the third sector can easily recycle their waste, making it clear what can and cannot be recycled.

Using data, we will proactively engage with low performing areas and businesses in Flintshire to address barriers to recycling and monitor participation to inform targeted activity for engagement.

We will engage in a variety of ways including:

- Site visits and door knocking campaigns.
- Increased roadshows at high footfall locations including Connect Centres, household recycling centres, community events and fetes and local markets.
- Increase the use of social media, Council website and informative videos.
- Engage in National recycling campaigns and promote Recycle Week
- Continue to door drop leaflets and engage through council tax notices, annual calendars and targeted campaigns.
- Work closely with landlords/housing associations/FCC housing officers to provide joint solutions to improve recycling.
- Work with schools within the county to create long term educational campaigns to support our objectives. Explore opportunities with eco groups and school councils.

Household kerbside Collections

We will:

- Encourage residents to use the existing kerbside collection services already provided by the Council, including absorbent hygiene products, such as nappies and incontinence waste products, and clinical waste.
- Introduce new materials for collection at the kerbside with a focus on flexible plastics, small electricals, textiles.
- Introduce measures to increase resident participation in our food waste recycling collections service and promote home composting where possible.
- Find outlets for recyclable items we cannot currently recycle.
- Implement efficient and effective recycling and waste collection rounds, minimising their impact on the environment.
- Review suitability of our recycling containers.
- Provide a comprehensive recycling service to all flats within Flintshire, including food waste collections.
- Utilise technology to provide real time service information on collection rounds.
- Review our assisted collections policy and utilise technology to minimise missed collections and provide real time service information where possible.
- We will restrict the amount of residual waste that residents can dispose of in the black bin to encourage greater recycling by all residents either by reducing the frequency of collections or the capacity of the bin.

Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)

We will review our HRC provision with a view to providing an effective and efficient service to maximise recycling.

We will:

- Continue to seek sustainable markets for hard to recycle items.

- Do not allow mixed bags of waste into the residual (general) waste skip to ensure recycling is placed in the correct container.
- Introduce a clear bag policy so that recycling can be identified and removed prior to disposal.
- Deconstruct bulky household items that cannot be reused to recover recyclable material and avoid disposal.
- Ensure HRCs are accessible, efficient and clearly marked to improve customer experience.

Street Cleansing

We will explore sustainable methods for our street cleaning operatives and community litter picking groups to segregate recyclable littered items.

Commercial Waste

We will work with local business, business groups and leads to ensure they are compliant with forthcoming legislative changes to workplace recycling through active engagement and promote waste minimisation and reuse.

Priority 3 - Decarbonisation

We have committed to be net carbon zero Council by 2030 and supporting wider decarbonisation actions across the County.

What We Want to Achieve

- Meet Net Zero by 2030 in line with the council climate strategy.
- Ensure services are procured in line with carbon neutral objectives.
- Ensure our future infrastructure is carbon neutral.
- Enable residents to reduce their carbon footprint by minimising waste production.

How we will achieve this:

Communicating and Engagement

Communicate with residents, businesses, schools and third sector on how they can reduce their carbon footprint through waste reduction, reuse and recycling. This will be delivered using targeted campaigns using social media, the council website roadshows, door knocking.

Working collaboratively with internal colleagues, Welsh Government and NGOs we will educate residents on the importance of wider climate change issues such as Decarbonisation and net zero.

Fleet review and transition plan

A large proportion of the carbon emissions from waste activities are through the use of diesel collection vehicles. We are committed to reducing the environmental impact of our fleet by transitioning to ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV).

We will develop a fleet transition plan that is linked to our strategic infrastructure plans and decarbonisation objectives while considering the natural replacement of vehicles.

Infrastructure

Develop waste infrastructure that meets net zero targets and enables our operations to decarbonise.

Priority 4 - Infrastructure

Delivering effective and efficient recycling services, that maintain the quality of the materials collected and ensure the capability of accommodating increases in future growth requires robust infrastructure to be in place.

What We Want to Achieve

- To ensure the authority has full control of recyclable materials collected from households and businesses.
- Improve operational efficiencies of collection and transfer of materials.
- Ensure our infrastructure has the capacity for future growth in tonnages and new materials.
- Ensure the infrastructure meets and enable our carbon net zero targets.

How we will achieve this:

Infrastructure review

We want to ensure that we have full control of the materials that we collect and ensure operational efficiencies for our services. We will therefore undertake an infrastructure review with a view to reviewing the business case for our own Recycling Waste Transfer Station for the deposit and processing of recyclable materials, to enable us to meet decarbonisation and net zero targets. We will also review the Council's current HRC provision to determine whether the current service provision should be maintained.

The review will take into consideration:

- Decarbonisation and net zero targets
- Future capacity for increased volume of materials and new materials
- Operational efficiencies
- Review the Council's infrastructure requirements.
- Compliance with new permitting requirements
- Set realistic, achievable targets

Priority 5 - Enforcement

We want to ensure that we make reducing, reusing, and recycling household waste as easy and as accessible as possible for all Flintshire residents.

We will continue to educate and support residents on their recycling journey, but we will also deliver fair and robust enforcement of waste policies and illegal activities such as fly tipping, where necessary.

What We Want to Achieve

- Support residents that struggle to recycle and identify barriers.
- Signpost residents to the most effective way of managing their waste and recycling.
- Ensure that households participate and recycle their waste.
- Prevent fly tipping, littering and side waste presentation.
- Educate on household and business Duty of Care

How we will achieve this:

Communicating and Engagement

We will proactively engage with residents that may be struggling to manage their waste and encounter barriers to participation with the recycling service. This may include including visiting their property, to offer support through advice and practical measures to resolve issues.

We will regularly communicate waste Duty of Care requirements so both residents and businesses are aware of their responsibilities.

We will make it clear through regular communication that the authority will enforce against fly tipping, littering and side waste presentation and that action that will be taken and what those consequences are. We will publish details of enforcement action taken that result in Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) or prosecution to act as a deterrent.

Household Kerbside Collections

We will empower operational collection crews to identify households that could be struggling to manage their waste so that early intervention and support can be provided to avoid escalation.

Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)

- Continue to challenge and reject commercial waste from entering sites.
- Review the potential to introduce a resident booking system to prevent cross border tipping.
- Take action against those who display any verbal or physical aggression towards our staff who challenge our policies and procedures.

Enforcement

We seek to:

- Take a fair and reasonable three stage process to tackle service issues which includes issuing an informative/warning letter, use of Section 46 Notices and FPNs.
- Introduce the use of community protection warnings, community protection notices and/or Public Space Protection Orders for waste crimes that have a detrimental impact on the local community.
- Work collaboratively with our enforcement team to identify problematic areas in the community and facilitate educational sessions to prevent environmental crime occurrences.
- Undertake a zero-tolerance approach on significant waste related crime such as fly tipping.
- Take action against those who display any verbal or physical aggression towards our enforcement team.

Monitoring & Evaluating

We will measure our performance against our Strategic aims using performance indicators to track our outcomes to our objectives and ensure we are meeting targets and offering value for money.

Throughout the year we will report progress against a set of key indicators of performance (KPIs) that relate to the delivery of our priorities. This will be reported via including Programme Boards, Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet committee and our Council Plan.

We will also regularly update residents and the community on our performance against targets.

Strategic Aim	Measurement	Unit	
Minimise overall waste	Kilogram of resident waste generated per year per person	Kg /person/ yr	Annually
Reduce food waste in residual waste stream	Increase in Food waste yield. Reduction in residual waste tonnages and composition Increase in food Waste Participation Numbers	tonnes/yr	Annually
Reuse / Recycling	Municipal Waste Collected and Prepared for Re-use/Recycling	Kg/hh/yr	Quarterly
Increase Recycling	Proportion of materials recycled	%	Annually
Satisfaction with services	Public Opinion Survey	Qualitative	Annually

1 Data Collection and Collation

WRAP's Kerbside Analysis Tool (KAT) uses a combination of actual data from our existing collection service, such as vehicle and resourcing levels, unit costs, and material yields, and combines them with evidence-based assumptions drawn from reliable data sets from other local authorities. KAT is an established and widely used tool which has supported many councils to assess and implement changes to waste collections.

Prior to the project commencing, we completed a number of KAT baseline data sheets. These provided as much of the key information required for KAT modelling as possible.

The data can be categorised into three themes: operational data, cost data, and material yield data. Categorisation of what data was supplied in each theme is:

Operational Data

The operational data supplied includes:

- Number and type of vehicles operated.
- Crewing levels.
- Mass of material collected.
- Length of working day.
- Tipping locations.
- Garaging locations.

Cost Data

The cost data supplied includes:

- Staff costs including operatives and supervision.
- Vehicle capital costs.
- Vehicle operating costs (standing and running cost).
- Waste transfer / infrastructure costs (staff, plant, operation and maintenance, consumables, energy etc.).
- Treatment cost for collected materials – residual waste and food waste.
- Material incomes from recyclables.
- Haulage (if applicable).
- Overheads.

Yield Data

Yield data was extracted from WasteDataFlow (WDF) and supplied for the financial year 2022/23. This includes:

- Kerbside residual waste
- Kerbside dry recycling

- Kerbside food waste
- Kerbside green waste
- HRC wastes (used for impacts on HRC's, rather than directly impacting collections modelling)

Additional Collection Data

In addition to that in the KAT proformas, further operational data was captured including a list of collection rounds and areas worked each day to give a much clearer picture of how current collections are arranged and resourced.

Of paramount importance when creating a service baseline is the measurement of productive time, i.e., the time during the working day when crews are actively collecting materials, and non-productive time, i.e., driving to the point of first collection, breaks, driving to offload materials, tipping times, return to collections, and return to depot. These are defined in the model using a number of parameters:

- Length of working day – taking into account breaks and other periods where vehicles not engaged in collection;
- Time spent travelling to first pick up;
- Time spent travelling from collection area to tipping point;
- Time spent travelling from tip to garaging location; and
- Time spent at the tip.

To maximise accuracy a 4-week sample (November 2023) of GPS data for the whole collection fleet was supplied as evidence and analysed using the model to produce a set of accurate, real-time parameters for the baseline model. This approach has been successfully employed in modelling projects undertaken in Wales by members of the project team and has been seen to produce reliable and realistic modelling outputs, where projected resource levels closely align with real world resource levels post implementation.

2 Modelling Assumptions

Yield uplifts, as a result of service changes, are key to the modelling process. As well as directly impacting recycling rates, changes to yields will affect the rate at which collection vehicles are filled and can therefore have a considerable influence on the resources required.

To accurately predict the changes from the options to be modelled, a detailed benchmarking exercise was undertaken drawing upon yields seen in other authorities across Wales.

Two types of residual waste collections were benchmarked to provide predicted yield uplifts:

- Authorities collecting via wheelie bins with weekly containment of 70 litres or less: Blaenau Gwent, Cardiff, Conwy, Neath Port Talbot, Newport, Powys, Torfaen, and Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- Authorities collecting the equivalent of one black bag of residual waste per week: Bridgend, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire, Vale of Glamorgan.

The two collection types were assessed because sack-based residual collections consistently exhibit the lowest residual waste yields, as well as the highest dry and food yields.

Yield uplifts were varied depending on the amount of weekly residual capacity, as well as the frequency of collection. The yields for each of the modelled options were agreed to be:

- For Option 1a, with residual capacity of 60L/week, dry and food yields are predicted to be at the median yield of bin authorities.
- For Option 2a, with a residual capacity of 45L/week, dry and food yields are predicted to be just below the median of sack authorities – this is due to an apparent tendency for sack-based collections to out-perform bin-based collections with similar nominal weekly residual volumes.
- For Option 3a, with a residual capacity of 60L/week, is predicted to realise the same dry yields as option 1a, but with more frequent residual collections (fortnightly as opposed the three weekly) food waste yield is projected to be slightly lower than Option 1a.

The agreed yield assumptions were:

Option	Description	Residual volume per week (l)	Yield - kg/hh/yr		Dry set out %
			Dry	Food	
Baseline	180l Fortnightly - 6 day working	90	168	62	80%
Enhanced Baseline	180l Fortnightly - 5 day working	90	168	62	80%
Option 1a	180l 3 Weekly - 5 day working	60	186	99	85%
Option 2a	180l 4 Weekly - 5 day working	45	190	110	90%
Option 3a	120l Fortnightly - 5 day working	60	186	96	85%

3 Carbon Assessment

Methodology

An assessment of the carbon impacts related to our current collection service and the modelled options was undertaken as part of the overall project. WRAP's Carbon

Waste and Resource Metric (Carbon WARM) factors were used to underpin the assessment.

The standard WARM conversion factors allow greenhouse gas emissions (in tonnes CO₂e) relative to landfill, to be calculated based on the mass of materials collected for each part of the service modelled. From the KAT modelling, the mass of each material stream collected for each service configuration was determined, and was used in conjunction with the relevant WARM factors to calculate greenhouse gas emissions for each option modelled.

With landfill disposal largely replaced by treatment of material via Energy from Waste (EfW) in Wales, the factors were modified to express greenhouse gas emissions relative to EfW.

In addition, we were keen to understand the contribution made by their collection fleet to overall emissions. The published Carbon WARM factors include an element of emissions attributed to the collection of material from the kerbside. However, the KAT modelling and our own data provide a more accurate measure of actual fuel usage.

The Carbon WARM factors were therefore modified to remove the collection emissions element, with the fuel data produced by KAT used to calculate the collections emissions instead. UK government (BEIS) emission factors for road fuel were used for the calculation.