

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** WEDNESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2013  
**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT  
**SUBJECT:** RECYCLING INCOME

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update Members of the Committee on the volumes of material collected and the level of income received from the sale of recyclates collected by the Council.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

- 2.01 In June 2010 the Council formally adopted its Municipal Waste Strategy. The strategy contained a number of key actions needed to meet the challenging targets set out in the all Wales National Strategy 'Towards Zero Waste'.
- 2.02 The introduction of a Managed Weekly Collection (MWC) service was one of the key actions listed in the approved Municipal Waste Strategy and it changed the way the Council collected domestic waste by introducing a wheeled bin for residual waste, replacing the black sacks previously provided to residents. The MWC service was designed to increase participation in recycling collections and reduce reliance on landfill.
- 2.03 The new service was presented as follows:
- Alternate fortnightly collections of a 180 Litre black wheelie bin for residual waste and a 140 Litre brown bin for garden waste.
  - Weekly food waste collections
  - Weekly recycling collections
- 2.04 The new service was rolled out to all properties in the County over a nine month period which was completed in November 2011. The volume of recyclable material collected following the introduction of the new service has increased subsequently.

2.05 At its meeting in 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012, the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested that the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider a report on the level of recycling income generated by the Council's Waste Collection Services.

### 3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 It has been suggested that the Council gains financially from its recycling collection service. However, this is not the case as the cost of collecting recycled material is higher than the value of income gained from the process.

3.02 The shortfall in the cost of delivering the recycling service is recovered by a significant contribution from Welsh Government (WG) in the form of the Sustainable Waste Management Grant (SWMG). In addition the WG provide each Council in Wales with a Food Waste Grant which is to be used specifically for the collection of food waste

The level of each Grant in 2012-13 is as follows:

SWMG - £2.252m (reducing by 1% each year)  
Food Waste grant - £1.079m

3.03 In addition to the above, the Councils overall waste collection budget in 2012-13 is £3.881m

Included within the budget is an overall income target for the sale of recyclates of £370k.

3.04 The level of income generated from the sale of the recyclable material collected has risen since the introduction of the new service and the current projected income for 2012 -13 is £481k. In addition, the diversion from landfill of the 1,649 tonnes of recycling material has created a further £120k saving in landfill costs.

The full breakdown of the projected income for the year, together with three year quantity comparisons are shown in **Appendix 1**

3.05 Income from recycled material is extremely volatile and highly dependant on demand, which is clearly outside of the control of the Council. As an example, the Council received £14.00/t for recycled glass in 2010, which would raise approximately £51k income at today's recycling rate. However as a result of the reduction in demand for glass, the Council currently receives no income at all for our recycled glass.

3.06 Additional operating costs resulting from the revised method of service delivery, have offset the additional recycling income resulting, in an overall balanced budget within the waste service

- 3.07** A Service wide budget realignment exercise is currently being undertaken by the Environment Directorate's Finance Team in conjunction with Service Managers. This will realign budgets following the Streetscene reorganisation completed at the beginning of the current financial year. The new budget provisions will more accurately reflect the costs of the services provided and will come into effect at the start of the next financial year (2013 -14). Accordingly these will form the basis for future budget monitoring reports from the Service.
- 3.08** In addition to the income generated from recycling collections, income is generated from the sale of the following materials collected at the Councils Household Recycling Centres (HRC's)
- Scrap metal (Budget £120k per annum)
  - Vehicle Batteries (Budget £2 per annum)
- 3.09** The Council is also currently tendering the arrangements for textile recycling and reuse at the Councils 'Bring Sites' which is also intended to provide a financial contribution to the Council from the successful contractor.

**4.00** **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01** That the Committee notes the levels of income generated from sales of the material recycled by Flintshire residents.

**5.00** **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01** The Council's savings target for The Managed Weekly Collections service in the 2011-12 financial year was £0.200m and £0.445m per annum thereafter.

**6.00** **ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

Not Applicable

**7.00** **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01** The increase in the amount of waste recycled reduces the Councils reliance on landfill which has a positive impact on the environment

**8.00** **EQUALITIES IMPACT**

Not Applicable

**9.00** **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

Not applicable

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

With Cabinet Member

**12.00 APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Recycling Quantities and income projections

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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