

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **ENVIRONMENT AND OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2014**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

SUBJECT: **THE COUNCIL'S HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION POLICY**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To inform members of the committee of the proposals to review and update the Council's Waste Collection Policy

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 On 15th March 2011 the Council's Executive formally approved its Household Waste Collection Policy which supported the introduction of a Managed Weekly Collection (MWC) service, fundamentally changing the way the Council collected all domestic waste in the County. The new MWC service was designed to increase participation in recycling and reduce the Council's reliance on landfill in order to meet the challenging targets set out in the all Wales National Strategy 'Towards Zero Waste'.

2.02 Failure to meet the WG National Strategy targets could result in infraction charges being levied against the Council totalling £200 for each tonne of waste land filled above the defined allowance. In addition, a further £200/tonne infraction charge could be levied if the Council fails to achieve the Statutory Waste Recycling target in the same period. Therefore if the Council fails to meet the target by (say) 1,000 tonnes (roughly equivalent to just 1% of the Council's current Municipal Waste Arising), this could result in a financial penalty of £400,000 for that year alone.

2.03 Since the introduction of the policy and the new collection arrangements, recycling levels across all areas of the County have increased, allowing the Council to achieve the 2012 – 13 statutory target and to be well on track to achieve the subsequent targets - which are shown below:

Table 1 - Summary of municipal waste targets

TARGET FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL LOCAL AUTHORITY:	TARGETS FOR EACH TARGET YEAR			
	12-13	15-16	19-20	24-25
Minimum levels of reuse and recycling / composting (or AD)	52%	58%	64%	70%
Minimum levels of AD (or composting if	12%	14%	16%	16%

currently committed to this technology) of source separated food waste from kitchens as part of the combined recycling/composting target above				
Minimum proportion of reuse/recycling/composting that must come from source separation (kerbside, bring and/or civic amenity (CA) site	80%	80%	80%	80%
Maximum level of energy from waste per annum	-	42%	36%	30%
Maximum level of landfill	-	-	10%	5%
Maximum level of residual household waste per inhabitant per annum	295kg	258kg	210kg	150kg

2.04 The service is partly funded by WG though the Sustainable Waste Management Grant (SWMG). The level of the grant was reduced by approximately 5% or £149,470 during the financial year 2013-14 and indications are that further reductions are to be expected in 2014 – 15 and beyond.

2.05 It is good practise to review all formal Council policies to ensure they are still appropriate and meet the needs of both the residents and the Council. It is also important to ensure that by the application of the policy, the Council avoids any financially damaging infraction charges in future years. In addition there are a number of elements within current waste policies which are not being implemented and that therefore require amending i.e.

- Side waste collection policy – Changes detailed in new policy
- HRC provision

2.06 To provide clarity and a single document which provides detailed information on the Councils complete waste collection service, the new policy has been extended to include detailing operations at the Councils Household Recycling Centres (HRC's) and 'Bring Sites'.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 The proposed policy relies heavily on the continuing participation of Flintshire citizens to ensure that recycling levels remain high, and the further development and promotion of the new collection service is considered essential if the Council is to achieve the targets set by WG.

A summary of the main changes to the policy are as follows:

3.02 The new Collection Policy provides greater clarity for collection arrangements allowing curtilage rather than kerbside collections to take place. It also provides clarity on the liability issues in respect of containers placed for collection.

3.03 Residents can continue to purchase a second Garden waste bin however the number of garden waste bins at individual properties will be restricted to a maximum of two. Properties currently with more than this number will continue to

be serviced.

- 3.04 The collection of side waste will continue in order to avoid littering. However the process for residents whom continue to present side waste is clarified in the new Policy. Properties presenting excess side waste will be noted by the crews and staff from the service will then call on the resident to investigate the level of waste being produced at the property. If the resident continues to present side waste and refuses to reduce their waste by recycling, a formal notification process will be followed to ensure the resident is aware of the collection arrangements and the need to recycle. Continued failure to follow the advice issued during this process may result in action being taken under the powers within the Environment Protection Act 1990.
- 3.05 The number of HRC sites will be considered further as one element of the broader Assets Review however the proposed changes resulting from the completion of the Sandycroft HRC site are detailed in the policy. This includes closure of the current facilities in Saltney and Queensferry once the new facility in Sandycroft opens
- 3.06 The opening times for all HRC sites have been amended to reflect the footfall levels at the sites. The opening hours will also prevent overtime working for staff and remove the need for lone working at the sites during the evening and morning periods.
- 3.07 The Council Van Permit Scheme, which allows residents with vans to use the HRC site's has been amended to limit all van owners to the HRC sites in Greenfield, and Mold which are more suited to receiving these vehicles. The proposal is intended to reduce the risk of confrontations with staff at the remaining sites, where a clear instruction will be advertised informing all users that vans are not accepted into the public areas of the facility. Resources will be allocated to the Greenfield and Mold sites to manage van usage and ensure compliance with the policy. The proposed arrangements will be further monitored by operators based in Alltami using the new CCTV system and the complete van ban in all public areas of the remaining sites will be easier to manage and will improve the safety of Council staff
- 3.08 The Council will continue to offer Trade customers in the County the opportunity to dispose of their garden waste and general waste in Greenfield HRC site only. This will be a chargeable service with details of the charges available on the Council's Fees and Charges listing.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the proposed changes to the Council Waste Collection Policy

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The service is part funded by the Welsh Government through the Sustainable Waste Management Grant. There has been a reduction in this grant in the current year of approximately 5% (£149,470) and further reduction are expected in future years.

5.02 The remaining service is budgeted within the Environment Directorate budget

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 Not applicable

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 Achieving the recycling targets will reduce landfill and also reduce the Council carbon footprint.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 The service will continue to provide a full Assisted Collection service for the elderly and disabled members of the community

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 No impact

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Notification to all HRC site users of revised opening hours

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 With Cabinet Member

11.02 With Local Member in respect of Saltney and Queensferry HRC site closure

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 The Councils Waste Collection Policy

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

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