

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**  
**Environment - Initial Budget Proposals 2014/15**

No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Environment Comments / Issues</u></b>	
1.1	It is pleasing to see collaboration between services. With instances such as inclement weather, would joining up services lead to delays in responses to incidents e.g. Repairing potholes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Such problems are not foreseen and this should make it easier to manage such instances through better co-ordination of two teams which should result in improved service delivery.</li> </ul>
1.2	HRC Site Sandycroft – Application for planning previously in 2009 was for 5.5k tonnes but the new application is for 4k tonnes. Is that because we are not collecting the expected levels of recycling? Reference was made to previous prudential borrowing requirements of £600k.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No there is no correlation between the planning application tonnage at the new level and recycling levels. Recycling is increasing but so are the targets in relation to this. The Director will seek clarification on issue with the Member who raised the specific issue Relating to borrowing outside of the meeting</li> </ul>
1.3	Due to the volatility of plastic recycling prices, would it be more economic to change the frequency of plastic waste collection to fortnightly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To change the way we collect plastics would create efficiency issues, as it would mean putting extra vehicles on, given that rounds are full at the end of the day at the moment. It would also create a clarity issue for the public as all recyclates are currently collected weekly, whereas this suggestion would mean that some would have to be put out fortnightly – this could impact negatively on recycling performance.</li> </ul>

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No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Pressures</u></b>	
2.1	Residual Waste Pressure – does this reflect a reduction in the tonnage of residual waste even though the cost per tonne has increased?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> </ul>
2.2	Energy inflation amount queried as to why less than last year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further information to be provided. A response was provided as part of feedback to Overview and Scrutiny meeting 3/2/14.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b><u>Efficiencies</u></b>	
3.1	When Streetscene was introduced there was a lack of joining up. Assurance is sought about the level of efficiency proposed and that it will not mean a negative impact on the service – needs to be managed effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a key efficiency but there is confidence that it can be delivered without an adverse impact on the service. It is centred on reducing the number of agency staff within the service and making teams more flexible. Director to provide further detail to the Councillor on this.</li> </ul>
3.2	Public Protection – concern raised that this may result in increased charges to residents when dealing with problems relating to pest control. Needs to be recognised as an area of risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fees will increase but these will not be greater than 5%. Fees need to reflect the cost of the service and be non-profit making</li> </ul>
3.3	Fleet efficiencies from reducing the 30% downtime is very positive but have we identified who we would hire from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be via the “All Wales Framework for Hire”. Hire companies not known at the moment. Director to inform the Councillor when the information is known.</li> </ul>

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3.4	HRC Sandycroft Site – Is this ready for service?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not yet but an application to Planning Committee is due in March. Other sites will not close until this one is open.</li> </ul>
3.5	Clinical Waste – Are the Health Board aware that they are going to be charged?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes and there is agreement to pay. Wrexham CBC are already recharging the Health Board</li> </ul>
3.6	Cost of planning application fees – will these be going up?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fees are set nationally so not under the control of the Council. As part of the Planning Bill, WG have committed to a review of Planning Fees.</li> </ul>
3.7	Fleet costs –specialist training requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No record of passing up opportunities to embrace this specific training</li> </ul>
3.8	Community Assets. Will any within Lifelong Learning be considered as part of the Rationalisation Programme?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All assets are included within the review</li> </ul>
3.9	What is being proposed is rapid change. How much work on business re-engineering has been undertaken because if processes are not changed, this may not be sustainable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposals have been developed over time and thought has been put in to how they can be delivered within the way that we operate. The Service has developed an action plan to bring about changes and Environment have a good track record of achieving delivery in efficiencies.</li> </ul>

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3.10	Planning has historically been under pressure. Are we confident we can deliver these changes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is recognised that there has been pressure within the service historically. The service is closely managed and performance has improved. There is confidence in the ability to meet the proposal and still maintain performance.</li> </ul>
3.11	Fleet – will there be some sort of workshop facility?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Options which will be brought back to Cabinet in March as part of Phase 3 of the proposals included in the November 2013 Cabinet Report.</li> </ul>
3.12	Closing depots – how do they add to the efficiency?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a combination of flexible workforce, utilities, general running costs etc.</li> </ul>