

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 19 April 2016
Report Subject	Proposed Review of the Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Services
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welsh Government has set each Council in Wales challenging recycling targets. Failure to achieve these targets would result in significant financial penalties being served. To achieve the incrementally more challenging targets, more of our waste needs to be recycled. The majority of residents in Flintshire have embraced the current recycling service since it was launched in 2012 and most residents now recycle most, if not all of their recyclable waste. There remains however a sizeable minority of residents who do not participate fully with the system and in some cases do not recycle their waste at all.

This is clearly unfair on the residents that do support the service and there has to be a way of ensuring that all residents show citizenship and contribute to our achievement of targets.

Welsh Government is undertaking a review of the Council's waste service, which includes a review of the Council's Household Recycling Centre (HRC) provision. Early indications from the study indicate that the Council has more HRC sites than necessary, and that the facilities offered at each site does not match the minimum requirements for the high quality sites which achieve the high levels of recycling elsewhere in Wales. The final report will make a recommendation on the optimum number of HRC sites that a county of the size and demographic features of Flintshire should offer, with each site offering good access and excellent recycling facilities to users. Given the dependence of Councils on Welsh Government grant funding, the Council will need to work with Welsh Government in the implementation of the recommendations of the review.

The Council's Business Planning proposals 2016 -18 recognised some financial benefits from changing the current waste service provision however these changes will require changes to the Council's Waste Collection Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet support the on-going consultation and Welsh Government (WG) review work in order to deliver the 2016-18 Business Plans for the waste service and that a further report is presented to Cabinet in May 2016 once WG review and the public consultation period have been completed.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND THE NEW POLICY
1.01	In June 2010 the Council adopted its Municipal Waste Strategy. The Strategy contains a number of key actions which were needed to meet the challenging recycling targets set out in the all Wales National Waste Strategy 'Towards Zero Waste'.
1.02	In March 2011 the Council's Executive formally approved its Household Waste Collection Policy which supported the introduction of a Managed Weekly Collection (MWC) service. This fundamentally changed 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 meet the challenging targets set out in the Strategy. Further revisions to the Policy were approved by Cabinet in December 2013 and again in April 2015.
1.03	Failure to meet the Welsh Government (WG) National Strategy landfill targets could result in infraction charges being levied against the Council totalling £200 for each tonne of waste land filled above the defined allowance. This could result from a relatively minor failure to meet the target of (say) 1,000 tonnes or the equivalent of just 1% of the Council's current Municipal Waste arising with the consequence of a financial penalty of £200,000 for that year alone. In addition, a further £200/tonne infraction charge could be levied if the Council fails to achieve the Statutory Waste Recycling target in a same period, leading to a possible further £200,000 penalty being served upon the Council.

1.04 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 and 2015-16 statutory targets. More challenging subsequent targets have been set for 2019-20 and 2024-25 - 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 preparing for reuse and recycling / composting (or AD)	52%	58%	64%	70%
Minimum proportion of reuse/recycling/composting that must come from source separation (kerbside, bring and/or civic amenity (CA) site	80%	80%	80%	80%

1.05 The Council’s recycling service is partly funded by WG though the Sustainable Waste Management Grant (SWMG) which has now been combined within the Single Environment Grant (SEG). The level of the Grant has been reducing since the financial year 2013-14 and indications are that further annual reductions can be expected.

1.06 The following is a summary of the changes to the existing Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Policy coming through the 2016 – 18 Business Plan proposals.

1.07 **A reduction in the number of HRC sites in the County**

Approximately 30% of the total domestic waste currently produced in Flintshire is deposited at the HRC sites and the average recycling rate achieved at the sites is just approximately 70%. This is due to the limited facilities and space at the sites to offer the full range of recycling containers for residents to recycle their waste.

1.08 Welsh Government are currently carrying out a review of the Council’s waste service, which includes a review of the Council’s HRC provision. The early feedback indicates that the Council’s HRC provision is greater than necessary (in terms of the number of sites provided) and that the facilities offered at each site do not match the minimum requirements for the high quality sites, which achieved high levels of recycling elsewhere in the Country.

1.09 The WG study will make a final recommendation on the most effective solution (in terms of site numbers and locations) for the future HRC site provision and will make a recommendation on the optimum configuration and location of sites.

The factors to evaluate are:

- Percentage of residents within a stated drive time of the sites
- Development potential of the site to meet the requirements of a high

	<p>quality and high performing site</p> <p>A public consultation process has commenced to allow Local Members, Town and Community Councils and residents to comment on the existing service and provide their expectations of the new service in the future.</p> <p>Once the study and the consultation feedback has been received, the changes and closures to the surplus facilities will come into effect on 1st November 2016.</p>
1.10	<p>For the Council to provide an excellent service at each of the remaining sites it will be necessary to improve the facilities at the sites that do not meet the WG standards. WG have indicated that capital funding may be available to improve the facility through the provision of grant payments.</p>
1.11	<p>Non-collection of Side-waste and Enforcement when side waste is presented</p> <p>The majority of residents in Flintshire have embraced the current recycling service since it was launched in 2012 and most residents now recycle most, if not all of their recyclable waste. There remains, however, a minority of residents who do not participate fully with the system and some cases do not recycle their waste at all. This is unfair on the residents that do support the service and there has to be a way of ensuring that everyone contributes to our efforts to achieve the targets and avoid the fines that will result if we fail.</p>
1.12	<p>In future, all non-recyclable waste must be contained within the Council supplied black wheeled bin and any material presented in addition to this will be classed as side waste, and the Council's method of dealing with this material should change in line with following timetable.</p>
1.13	<p>Current Arrangement: 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 Environmental Protection Act 1990. The side waste will however be collected to reduce littering in the locality.</p>
1.14	<p>From 1 June 2017: No side waste will be collected from this date. The normal bin will be emptied and the side waste material will then be placed back in the container and a sticker placed on the bin to inform the resident of the new arrangements. Officers from the Council will also accompany the rounds and provide the residents with information (and new containers if required) to allow them to recycle more of their waste thus reducing the need to place the side waste.</p>
1.15	<p>From 1 September 2017: Any side waste material presented for collection will be subjected to enforcement action. A fixed penalty notice (FPN) will be issued to the resident in the first instance. If the resident chooses not to pay</p>

	the FPN the Council will take action against the resident under the powers within the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
1.16	In order to facilitate the removal of side waste, it will be necessary to identify which property each residual waste container has been allocated to. This will be achieved by applying a bar code sticker or electronic tag to each container which will identify the address to which the bin has been allocated. This work will be undertaken by the service over the next twelve months to facilitate the above changes in 2017.
1.17	Introducing Three Weekly Collections for Residual Waste This Council is not planning to introduce three weekly collections at this stage and expects the changes to side waste collection arrangements will improve recycling levels through greater participation levels. Should the proposals to remove side waste collections and take enforcement action in the event that residents do not comply with the arrangement not lead to the Council achieving the statutory the Recycling Target, then a move to three weekly collections will need to be reconsidered.
1.18	The revised Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre policy will be presented to the May Cabinet meeting, allowing the feedback from the current consultation process to be considered and included in the revised policy.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Reduction in HRC provision will reduce the labour requirement, achieving the savings identified in the portfolio Business Planning process. Workforce resources will be redeployed into other areas of the service.
2.02	Enforcement operations will be managed by the Council's Enforcement team.
2.03	The residual waste container identification will be installed during 2016-17 by employees from the service supported by contractors when required.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Consultation is taking place with a cross section of key stakeholders across the Authority from front line staff through to Cabinet Members.
3.02	Consultation is taking place with HRC site users on their aspirations for the HRC provision.
3.03	Comments on the HRC changes have been invited from Members and Town and Community Councils.
3.04	An online survey is currently being promoted in order that residents can make comments on the waste service provision.

3.05	A full Equality Impact Assessment is being completed and the impact on the statutory protected groups is being tested at stakeholder workshops.
3.06	The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider the changes to the policy and the feedback from the consultation at its meeting in May 2016.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Delivery of the project will be managed through the service Programme Board with individual risk identified and reviewed on a regular basis

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	The revised Waste collection and Household Recycling Centre policy will be presented to Cabinet in May 2016.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Insert any hyperlinks to supporting documents if necessary.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Stephen O Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	HRC - Household Recycling Centre