

## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 October 2016
<b>Report Subject</b>	Review of the Waste Collection Rounds and HRC changes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Waste and Public Protection
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer, Streetscene & Transportation
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic & Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A review was undertaken by Welsh Government (WG) on the Council's waste service. The review made recommendations on both the number of HRC sites and in the way the Council collects its waste.

The outcome of the HRC review has been widely reported and this report provides an update for Cabinet on the progress made to deliver the more localised HRC solution, previously endorsed by Cabinet.

The WG report also made recommendations on the waste collection service and particularly on the vehicles needed to collect the kerbside recycling. It proposed that the Council move to a bespoke Recycling Recovery Vehicle (RRV) which would improve the Council's recycling performance and increase the number and types of recycling materials collected.

This report provides details of the new vehicles and the changes required to the rounds to accommodate both the new vehicles and the increased number of properties in the County since the last review of the waste collection rounds in 2011.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet approves the commencement of preparations to review the current waste and recycling rounds and procure the new waste collection vehicles detailed in the report.
2	That Cabinet notes the progress made on the proposed changes to the HRC provision across the Authority.

## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	<b>EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSALS</b>																			
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	On 15 <sup>th</sup> 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 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, with 7 day collections being introduced in September 2015.																			
1.03	Failure to meet the 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 would result in 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, resulting in 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, resulting in the possibility of a further £200,000 penalty being served upon the Council.																			
1.04	<p>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 and to be well on track to achieve the 2019 -20 target - shown below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Table 1 - Summary of municipal waste targets</u></b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">TARGET FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL AUTHORITY:</th> <th colspan="4">TARGETS FOR EACH TARGET YEAR</th> </tr> <tr> <th>12-13</th> <th>15-16</th> <th>19-20</th> <th>24-25</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Minimum levels of preparing for reuse and recycling / composting (or AD) – Statutory Target</td> <td>52%</td> <td>58%</td> <td>64%</td> <td>70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flintshire performance</td> <td>53%</td> <td>58%</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	TARGET FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL 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) – Statutory Target	52%	58%	64%	70%	Flintshire performance	53%	58%		
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1.05	The 2024-25 target is more challenging and will require further changes to both the waste and recycling collection service and the Council's HRC provision in order for the Council to achieve 70%.																			

1.06	The Council's recycling service receives significant funding from 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 reductions are to be expected.
1.07	<p><b><u>Waste and recycling collection round review</u></b></p> <p>Since the last round review in 2011, the number of households in Flintshire has significantly increased and although the new properties were accounted for in the initial round design, the current rounds are now nearing capacity. It is good practice to review waste collections rounds every 5 years, in order to plan for future development, and with the number of households expected to increase further in the next 5 years, now is the right time to review and optimise the rounds once again.</p>
1.08	<p>The Council secured WG funding and are in the process of constructing a second waste transfer station in Greenfield in the North of the County. This will allow the waste and recycling material to be bulked up in the new facility when collections take place in the North of the County, removing the need for the collection vehicles to travel back to the Buckley transfer station twice each day to tip - saving both time and fuel.</p> <p>The new facility allows the Council to redesign the rounds to encompass a growth in the number of properties without increasing the number of front line vehicles required to deliver the service.</p>
1.09	The WG review carried out with officers of the Council was completed using the WG "Waste Collections Blueprint". The Blueprint was devised by WG and is designed to deliver higher rates of high quality recycling. The blueprint provides recommendations across all waste activities that Local Authorities undertake, but is specific in recommending that dry recycling material (Paper/Card, tin cans/plastic, glass) is collected separately to increase the value of the material and that food waste should be collected on the same vehicle.
1.10	The Blueprint promotes the use of a new breed of Recycling Recovery Vehicles (RRV's) These vehicles are relatively lightweight and more fuel efficient than a standard Recycling vehicle. They have multi-compartments that can take a wider range of recyclable material than other collection vehicles. The Council currently operates 2 RRV's which were purchased in 2015 following a WG grant. These vehicles have been used mainly on rural collections but worked well and proven to be fit for purpose. In addition the new vehicles can accommodate food waste collections which are currently collected on the domestic/garden waste vehicle.
1.11	<p>The Council's kerbside collection service contributes an average of 32% to the overall recycling figure. This amounts to circa 28,000 tonnes. The existing kerbside service performs well in comparison with other Welsh Local Authorities but is limited in the number of recycling materials it can collect due to the capacity of the vehicles currently used by the Council. The introduction of RRV'S to collect dry recycling will have multiple benefits to the authority that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the volume and quality of the materials collected</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number and range of recycling material types to include a wider range of plastics such as food trays, yogurt pots etc.</li> <li>• Reduced running costs.</li> </ul>
1.12	<p>The existing recycling collection fleet is nearing the end of their lease term and are due to be replaced during 2017. A number of RRV's vehicles have already been trialled by the service and appraised both against each other and the existing fleet. The trial has demonstrated that RRV's are the most suitable vehicle in the current market that it will meet the needs of the service both now and into the future. The recommendation therefore is to purchase a fleet of these vehicles to collect all dry recycling and food in one pass from all residential properties, on a weekly basis. A second standard waste collection vehicle will collect residual waste and garden waste on alternative weeks.</p>
1.13	<p>The introduction of the new vehicles into the service is planned for September 2017 and in order to meet this deadline, the procurement process and subsequent orders for the vehicles needs to commence because of the extended lead in time for the manufacture and delivery of the vehicles.</p> <p><b>Appendix 1</b> provides details of a typical RRV vehicle.</p>
1.14	<p>A further report will be presented to Cabinet in July 2017 providing more details of the round review which will come into operation in September 2017 and coincide with the introduction of the new vehicles. The report will outline the essential changes to the current collection policy that will reduce waste and increase the volumes of recyclable materials collected and ensure the Council achieves the statutory targets for recycling in future years.</p>
1.15	<p><b><u>Changes to the Council's HRC provision</u></b></p> <p>Following receipt of the WG review of HRC sites, which recommended just three sites in the County as the optimum solution, Cabinet requested officers to explore a more localised solution for the service.</p>
1.16	<p>In July 2016, Cabinet approved proposals to improve the current HRC facilities in Buckley and Mold, within the existing footprint and along the lines to the new Sandycroft HRC facility.</p> <p>This would include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear separation of operational and service user areas – removing the requirement to close the site when skips are emptied.</li> <li>• Easy step free access to skips</li> <li>• Clear entrance and exits and good traffic management arrangements</li> </ul>
1.17	<p>The design and procurement work is now ongoing and <b>Appendix 2</b> shows the proposed redeveloped layouts for both Buckley and Mold facilities and it is intended that a planning application is submitted to the November Planning Committee. The plans have been made available in Alltami depot from the 12th September, for Local Councillors, whose wards are affected by the redevelopments, to view and make comment on the proposals. The plans will also be displayed at the sites for the public to view during October.</p>

1.18	An extensive search by FCC's Assets Team is ongoing in order to identify a suitable site to replace the Flint and Connahs Quay facilities. A further report on the final proposal will be forthcoming once a site has been identified and negotiations are completed. As previously indicated both Flint and Connahs Quay HRC facilities will remain open at the current level until the new site has opened.
1.19	A capital bid of £1.7 million submitted by Flintshire County Council has been approved by WG for funding from their Capital Change Programme fund. The funding is intended for the redevelopment of two existing HRC's in Buckley and Mold and to support the purchase a number of the RRV's detailed in this report. There is a requirement to spend this capital within the current financial year.
1.20	The cost of the proposed HRC site in the North of the County will be assessed once any site details have been finalised. Funding bids are being prepared for the Councils own Capital budgets and 'Invest to save' funds in order to construct the scheme.
1.21	Work on the development of the sites in Mold and Buckley will commence directly after the Christmas break, which is one of the busiest times of the year for the service. The construction will take approximately 12 weeks to complete and both sites will reopen in time for the Easter Holiday. Discussions are ongoing with WG to allow the closed HRC site in Queensferry to reopen for the period of the proposed closure in Mold and Buckley.
1.22	<p>The portfolio Business Planning proposals included savings from the rationalisation of HRC sites which consisted of two elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Savings in operational costs from reduced site numbers</li> <li>2. Savings from reduced landfill cost through improved recycling.</li> </ol> <p>As the saving from the first element will be significantly reduced by the revised localised proposal, the second element will become critical if the majority of the projected Business Planning financial saving are still to be delivered.</p>
1.23	A target of 90% recycling at all of the proposed facilities is required in order to deliver the second element of the savings. Other Local Authorities in Wales are currently achieving this level of recycling at their HRC sites through a range of methods ranging from controlling trade use to 'resident only' permit schemes. A rebranding of the sites from the traditional 'skip site' to a modern efficient recycling centre will be required and during the month of October officers will be contacting these high performing authorities to investigate their methodologies and make recommendations on those that are most effective.
1.24	Whatever new methods are adopted it is likely this will impact on the way the public perceive and use the sites. Support from all parties will be required in introducing these changes in order for us to meet the 90% target.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	There will be no reduction in the number of operatives required to operate the HRC provision.
2.02	There will be no reduction in the number of front line collection vehicles.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	Consultation has taken place with the public, local land owners, Local Members and front line staff.
3.02	Consultation has taken place with HRC site users regarding their aspirations for the HRC provision.
3.04	A “Survey Monkey” consultation process has been completed, allowing residents to make comments on the waste service provision.
3.05	A Member workshop about the changes is going to be held in October on the date of the Environment and Overview Scrutiny Committee, all Members will be invited.
3.06	The redevelopment plans will be displayed at both Buckley and Mold HRC’s during October.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	A Project Review Board has been set up to monitor and oversee the implementation of the proposals, and to ensure that the project stays on target.
4.02	A review of the Equalities Impact Assessment will be required for the changes proposed.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<b>Appendix 1</b> - Typical RRV vehicle details <b>Appendix 2</b> – Site layout plans for Buckley and Mold

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None.  <b>Contact Officer:</b> Stephen O Jones <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704700

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<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>HRC</b> - Household Recycling Centre <b>RRV</b> – Recycling Recovery Vehicle