

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 24 th September 2019.
Report Subject	Waste Strategy Review Consultation
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene And Transportation)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2011, Flintshire County Council introduced a Managed Weekly Collection waste service (MWC), which changed waste collections in the County from a weekly, black sack and back door service to weekly recycling and food waste collections with fortnightly collections of non-recyclable waste, alternating with garden waste - with all of the various waste streams being pre-sorted by residents and collected at the kerb-side.

This change significantly improved the Council's recycling performance and due to the engagement and efforts of residents, the Council continues to perform well with the recycling performance for 2018/19 confirmed at 69.16%. This is already above the 2019/20 target of 64% with the next significant target being 70% in 2025.

The current recycling performance needs to be celebrated, but without operational and policy change, it is likely that performance will now stabilise and any future improvements in performance will become difficult to achieve. Whilst the current waste strategy does not come to an end until 2025, the target set within the document of 70% has been almost achieved and it is important that the Council starts to plan for the future, considering what more could be done to increase recycling rates still further and reduce residual waste.

This report proposes that the Council undertakes a wide ranging public consultation exercise on the future provision of the waste and recycling service to better understand residents' expectations and behaviours, and set the future direction for the service provision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet notes the current recycling performance.
2	That Cabinet approves the commencement of a public consultation exercise on the Council's Waste Strategy and the future direction of the waste and recycling service.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE CURRENT POLICY															
1.01	In 2010, Welsh Government (WG) published its policy for dealing with municipal waste in Wales 'Towards Zero Waste' (TZW). This policy sets out statutory recycling targets for all Councils in Wales to meet.															
1.02	In June 2010, the Council adopted its own Municipal Waste Strategy. The strategy contained a number of key actions which were required to meet the challenging targets set out in TZW.															
1.03	In 2011, WG published its Municipal Sector Plan which was a partnering document to TZW which provided guidance to Welsh Council's in the form of a blueprint describing WG's recommended service delivery for Councils to follow.															
1.04	Working to the Council Municipal Waste Strategy, recycling performance has exceed the statutory targets, with current performance almost at the level required by 2024/25 <table border="1" data-bbox="367 1232 1372 1444"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Recycling Target</th> <th>FCC's Recycling Performance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>52%</td> <td>54.92%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>58%</td> <td>68.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>64%</td> <td>69% (projected)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024/25</td> <td>70%</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Recycling Target	FCC's Recycling Performance	2013/14	52%	54.92%	2016/17	58%	68.2%	2019/20	64%	69% (projected)	2024/25	70%	
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1.05	<p>WG is currently reviewing its national policies with a view to revising future targets.</p> <p>This review is taking place following waste compositional analysis, which has shown that items such as cans, plastic bottles and food waste are still ending up in the residual waste bin and inevitably then in landfill or sent for incineration rather than being recycled.</p>															
1.06	<p>It is widely recognised that the impact of not recycling our waste has substantial environmental implications that must be addressed to mitigate the future impact on the planet.</p> <p>Some of the most significant effects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of raw materials for the manufacture of new products destroys natural habitats and ecosystems. 															

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased carbon emissions from the mining, transport and manufacture of new products. • Increased pollution as non-recycled items enter the waste stream and pollute the natural environment. Plastic waste, specifically, has recently been highlighted as polluting our seas and oceans.
1.07	In addition to the environmental impact, there is a lost financial opportunity by not recycling our waste. There is a cost for every tonne of waste, which is treated or landfilled, whilst the sale of the recycled products raises a small amount of income for the Council.
1.08	<p>With the current Municipal Waste Strategy coming to an end in 2025, and the expectation that our current performance will plateau without further changes, now is an opportunity to review the current service provision to identify how recycling performance could increase further.</p> <p>This report proposes that a public consultation is undertaken to assist the Council in identifying what changes could be made to services in order to achieve improved recycling targets.</p> <p>The consultation will consider a number of aspects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informing service users on current success • Informing service users what happens to collected recyclable items • Explaining the need for a review to be undertaken • Gaining information on current recycling behaviours • Consideration for future service change options that will maximise recycling potential are listed in Appendix 1
1.09	<p>It is proposed that the consultation will take place over a period of five weeks from 25th September 2019 until 31st October 2019.</p> <p>In order to deliver the consultation to as many key stakeholders as possible a programme has been developed, highlighting the proposed methods of communication and engagement Appendix 2.</p> <p>The consultation will take the form of a short Survey Monkey questionnaire, in which a number of key questions will be asked Appendix 3.</p>
1.10	A report detailing the outcome of the public consultation exercise will be presented to the December meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny and to Cabinet to approve the next steps following completion of the consultation.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no additional resource implications for undertaking the public consultation.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Member workshops were held in June 2019 to seek views on the future provision of the collection service.
3.02	Residents through 'Survey Monkey' feedback.
3.03	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside.
3.04	Town and Community Councils – invitation for written response/comment.
3.05	Elected Members – invitation for written response/comment.
3.06	Assembly Members – invitation for written response/comment.
3.07	Members of Parliament – invitation for written response/comment.
3.08	Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be asked to provide comments at their meeting in October 2019.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	A project team is in place to manage and support the consultation to ensure Countywide engagement.
4.02	An Integrated Impact Assessment has begun to assess the impact of any potential service changes.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Service change considerations Appendix 2 - Consultation programme Appendix 3 - Consultation questions

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: Stephen O Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	WG – Welsh Government TZW – Towards Zero Waste MWC – Managed Weekly Collections