



## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Date Written	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2018
Report Author	Paul Davies/Stephen Thomas
Service Area	Waste Services
Committee Date	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2018

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

### **Recycling / Landfill Performance Data**

#### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

1.1 This report is to provide details on MTCBC's recovery rate performance for materials sent for recycling, composting and preparation for re-use. The report outlines relevant trends and comparison with other Welsh authorities.

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 The content of this report to be discussed and noted.

#### **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

3.1 The WG overarching waste strategy 'Towards Zero Waste' sets out how waste is to be dealt with in Wales in order to produce benefits for not only the environment, but also for our economy and social wellbeing

1. Towards Zero Waste strategy states that by 2025 at least 70% of municipal waste is to be recycled, composted or prepared for re-use, (recovery) and the remaining (residual) 30% is to be dealt with by high efficiency Energy from Waste plants.
2. 2050: Achieving Zero Waste. By 2050 the impact of waste in Wales is to be reduced to within our environmental limits (approximately 65% less waste than we currently produce). The expectation is that residual waste will decline steadily over time e.g. reduced product packaging and more 'eco-designed' products, which maximise reuse potential at end of life.

3. The Waste (Wales) Measure 2010 established statutory targets for local authorities in terms of the % of waste must be recycled, re-used or composted. The current target is 58%.

3.2 The legislation also imposes financial penalties on local authorities that fail to meet the target. The penalty amount is £200 per tonne by which it falls short of the target amount.

#### 4.0 WHERE WE WERE

4.1 In 2012/13 we failed to achieve the Welsh Government’s recovery target of 52%. In the subsequent two years we continued to fail to achieve the 2012/13 target. Our position compared to other Welsh authorities continued to be at the very bottom of the Welsh league table.

4.2 Since the introduction of the Kerbside sort recycling system and the reduction of the standard wheeled bin size to a 140l from a 240l per household in 2015 performance has increased significantly.

4.3 In 2015/16 Merthyr Tydfil CBC provisionally exceeded the Welsh Government recovery target of 58% by attaining 61.58%. This was almost a 10% increase on the previous year’s recovery rate, placing us 9th out of the 22 Welsh local authorities. In 2016/17 performance continued to increase with us achieving a recovery rate of 65.09%

4.4 The table below illustrates our performance and league position over the past 5 years.

Financial Year	Welsh Govt Target	MTCBC Recovery Rate	Position
2012/13	52%	49.14%	18th
2013/14	52%	48.22%	22nd
2014/15	52%	51.20%	21st
2015/16	58%	61.58%	9th
2016/17	58%	65.09%	11th
2019/20	64%		
2024/25	70%		

#### Performance

4.5 In 2012/13 we missed the statutory target of 52% (achieved 49%).

4.6 In 2013/14 we missed the statutory target of 52% (achieved 48%); a shortfall of 1,120t with an associated financial penalty of £224k The Minister eventually waived the fine but in terms of performance and reputation, we were bottom of the all wales league table (22/22)

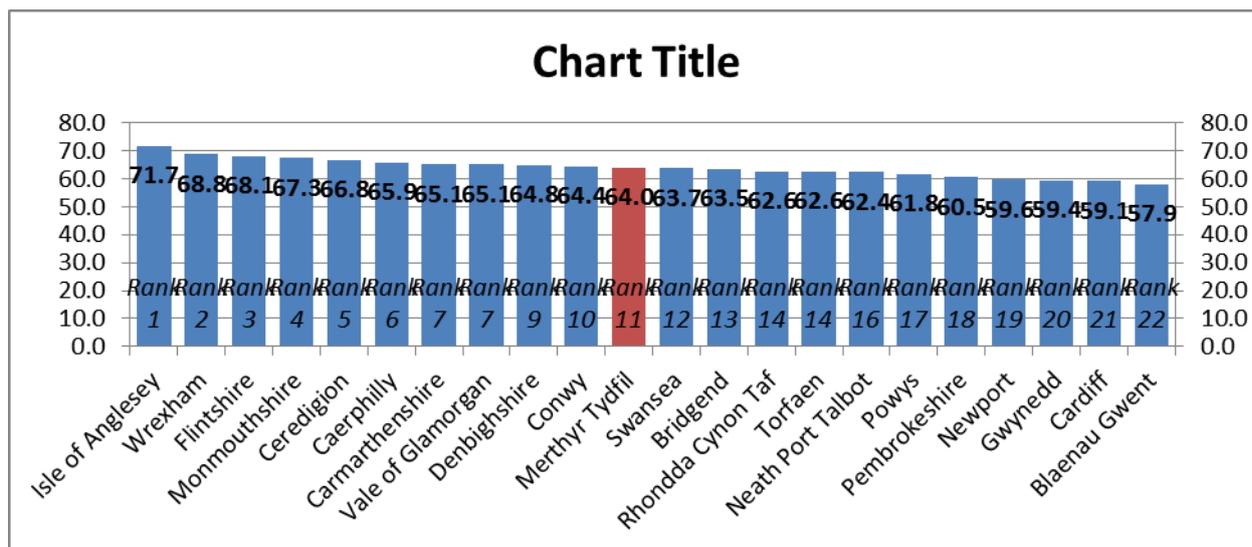
- 4.7 2014/15 we missed the statutory target of 52% (achieved 51%); a shortfall of 240t with an associated financial penalty £48k, this was eventually waived but we were almost bottom of the all wales league table (21/22)
- 4.8 2015/16 – The recycling collection service was transformed to follow the WG collection blueprint. The service was changed from a co-mingled collection to a kerbside sort system. WG provided £2m capital funding to develop the waste services depot in units 3/4 Pentrebach into a waste transfer station and to purchase new recycling multi sort vehicles. A 61.58% recovery rate was achieved, exceeding the new statutory target of 58%.

## **5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW**

- 5.1 Since the introduction of the Kerbside sort system, performance has increased significantly.
- 5.2 In 2015/16 Merthyr Tydfil CBC provisionally exceeded the Welsh Government recovery target of 58% by attaining 61.58%. This was almost a 10% increase on the previous year`s recovery rate, placing us 9th out of the 22 Welsh local authorities.
- 5.3 In 2016/17 the success of the previous year in relation to achieving recovery targets has continued. A recovery rate of 65.09% has been achieved although this is provisional at the moment.
- 5.4 For the first three quarters of 2017/18 the provisional recovery rate is 63.39%.
- 5.5 For the calendar year 2017, we have continued to retain a consistent recovery rate of 64%, remaining 11<sup>th</sup> in the Welsh league table.
- 5.6 The quality of the collected material is high with less contamination less than through the co-mingled service. This clean, high quality, recyclate generates an income for the Authority of approximately £400k p.a.
- 5.7 Participation by residents in the kerbside recycling schemes is 78% in the dry recycling service and 55% in the food service.
- 5.8 Only 84% of our landfill allowance was used in 2015/16. With the majority of residual waste now being diverted to Energy from Waste 2016/17 and future landfill diversion targets should continue to be met. In 2016/17 we landfilled just 3.66% of our total municipal waste.
- 5.9 For the first 3 quarters of 2017/18 we have only landfilled 2.4% of our total waste arisings.
- 5.10 We have been collaboratively working on two major waste projects that have resulted in us entering into long term contracts for the diversion of food and residual waste from landfill.
- 5.11 In partnership with RCTCBC and Newport CBC our food waste is treated through an anaerobic digestion process at the Biogen site at Bryn Pica. Treating our food waste in this way, reduces reliance on landfill as well as generating electricity to power homes and provides a high quality fertiliser.

5.12 Our residual waste, in partnership with RCTCBC, Torfaen CBC and Blaenau Gwent CBC is treated at the Viridor Energy from waste facility at Trident Park. Electricity generated as a result of burning our residual waste is used to power homes and commercial premises. The longer term plan is to use the heat generated at the plant to heat surrounding homes and commercial premises.

5.13 The graph below illustrates MTCBC`s position in relation to other Welsh authorities in relation to recovery performances (% of TWA recovered) for the calendar year 2017. (Latest publicised NRW data)



See APPENDIX I for Chart

## 6.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE

6.1 To continue to improve performance to enable us to exceed the statutory target.

6.2 Our aim is for Merthyr to be among the top performing authorities in Wales.

## Risks & Challenges

6.3 As a high proportion of residents already participate in the recycling collection services the households that do not recycle are in the main those residents that are most difficult to change behaviours.

6.4 The main recyclable materials are currently being collected. Additional recycle streams are difficult to collect and are usually expensive to treat e.g. Absorbant hygiene products (AHPs).

6.5 Stricter guidelines from WG and NRW on reporting materials being recycled can result in lower percentages of recyclables counting towards the recovery rate. NRW have recently conducted an investigation into the percentage of wood waste sent to reprocessors that is recycled. The investigation concluded that only 20% was recycled with the remaining 80% being sent for EfW This has had a detrimental

effect on Merthyr's overall recovery rate. Figures currently reported as recovered for WDF are 25 – 27%.

6.6 Increasing recycling services can result in additional resources being required.

## **7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT**

- 7.1 A pilot project commenced in July 2017, in partnership with Furniture Revival to provide a re-use option for the bulky furniture items that we collect at the kerbside. The bulky items that are deemed re-useable by the collection crews will be delivered to unit 5 in Pentrebach by the collection crews. Furniture Revival will remove the items that they deem re-useable, and sell from their shop in Rhymney. These items will be sold at a reasonable cost to residents of the County Borough. The items not acceptable on the kerbside for re-use will be taken to the HWRCs and deposited in the recycling containers. An area has been identified within the Unit 20 depot in Pentrebach for the creation of a re-use storage area and shop. This will be included in the planning application to be submitted.
- 7.2 A proposal by our current Textile contractors to place bric-a-brac containers on the HWRCs has been accepted and the banks sited there in March. We are waiting on communication information so that the scheme can be promoted via the various communication channels. The service will be operational in April 2018.
- 7.3 On the 27<sup>th</sup> September council agreed the proposal to manage the HWRCs in-house on expiry of the current contract in September 2018. As well as providing financial benefits we will have more control on the marketing of materials and improving the recovery rate of recyclables at the sites. Progress towards this goal are on schedule.
- 7.4 Unit 20 in Pentrebach has recently been purchased by the Council. Waste Management will be re-located to the depot from Unit 4 in 2018. The new depot will provide additional space and increase the capacity to deal with increased levels of recyclables. A re-use shop is planned to operate at the new unit so that re-useable materials can be extracted and sold on to Merthyr residents who may not be able to purchase these item new.
- 7.5 A school education programme has been developed. A waste & Recycling Warden has been seconded to engage with the local schools and provide advice and information on the authorities recycling and waste services. All schools will be engaged with during the campaign that will operate between September 2017 and March 2018. This project has now ended. However, some of the longer term projects such as Christmas card recycling and a schools household battery recovery service will continue to be supported.
- 7.6 A door knocking campaign was implemented between September 2017 and March 2018 to increase participation and yield of food waste collected at the kerbside. The waste & Recycling Wardens knocked all households within the County Borough to encourage those not currently participating in the service to do so. Advice was provided on maximising the use of both the kerbside food and dry recycling services to those who already participate. This includes the promotion of additional materials now being collected such as WEEE and Textiles. A participation monitoring exercise will be implemented in April/May 2018 to identify the effectiveness of the project.

- 7.7 The removal of redundant additional capacity bins and assisted collections to improve collection efficiencies and reduce waste to landfill is to be implemented. An exercise to determine which residents who have been provided with additional capacity bins and may no longer require them has been completed. The waste & Recycling Wardens will be engaging with these residents during February and March 2018. Where containers are deemed to be no longer required the bin will be replaced with the standard 140l container.
- 7.8 Welsh Government funding has provided us with Recycling box frames that allow greater capacity for recycling in flats and residential complexes and will result in more, cleaner recyclables being collected. The frames have been built and delivery to the selected areas will be complete in April 2018.
- 7.9 Welsh Government have funded the provision of trolley boxes to be distributed throughout the County Borough. 1,300 trolley boxes have been delivered and are currently being assembled. These will be distributed throughout April, evenly across all of the County Borough wards in selected areas that are suitable, in that residents can store and present the trolleys easily. Another 6,250 trolleys have been ordered and will be delivered throughout the Spring and Summer, commencing on 7<sup>th</sup> May. These will again be distributed evenly over the County Borough wards and to properties suited to them. A recent trial of these trolley boxes identified that using this system was easier for the resident and provided an increase in recyclable material.
- 7.10 All flats and residential complexes are to be included on existing source separated recycling collection rounds in 2017. A vehicle has been purchased, funded by WRAP Cymru to provide a source separated collection service from farms and difficult access properties. Rollout of the service has commenced and planned for completion by June 2018.

## **8.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES**

- 8.1 Contributes to EW1 - Communities Protect, Enhance and Promote our Natural Environment and Countryside

**CHERYLLEE EVANS**  
**CHIEF OFFICER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**COUNCILLOR HOWARD BARRETT**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES, PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE**

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		<b>No</b>