

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	24 th August 2018
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Service Area	Waste Services
Committee Date	10 th September 2018

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Recycling / Landfill (Performance).

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.

3.2 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.

3.3 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.

- 3.4 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%.
- 3.5 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 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%. However, the provisional figure for 2017/18 has reduced to 62.74%.
- 4.4 The table below illustrates our performance and league position over the past 5 years.

Financial Year	Welsh Government Recovery Target	MTCBC Recovery Rate	LA Position/Rank
2012/13	52%	49.14%	18 th
2013/14	52%	48.22%	22 nd
2014/15	52%	51.20%	21 st
2015/16	58%	61.58%	9 th
2016/17	58%	65.09%	11 th
2017/18	58%	62.74% (TBC)	TBC
2018/19	58%		
2019/20	64%		
2024/25	70%		

5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

- 5.1 Since the introduction of the Kerbside sort system, performance has increased significantly. However, due to the change in wood reprocessor reporting, on the final destinations and recovery rates there has been a resultant drop of approximately 4% in the overall recovery rate.

- 5.2 The provisional recovery figure for 2017/18 is 62.74%. This is a reduction of 2.35% on the 2016/17 recovery rate. Confirmation of this figure, along with Qtr 4 data for 2017/18 and Qtr one of 2018/19 should be provided by WG in October 2018.
- 5.3 The quality of the source separated collected material is high with low levels of contamination. This clean, high quality, recyclate generates an income for the Authority of approximately £400k p.a.
- 5.4 With the majority of residual waste now being diverted to Energy from Waste in 2017/18 we landfilled just 1.93% of our total municipal waste.
- 5.5 For the first quarter of 2018/19 we have only landfilled 0.8% of our total waste arisings.
- 5.6 From April 2018 a new Key Performance Indicator has been developed that will supersede the landfill target. The new indicator will record the amount of residual waste generated in kilogrammes per person. Using residual waste projections that were developed for the EfW contract (Numerator) and population figures from Data Cymru (Denominator) we set an annual KPI as 188kgs/person for 2018/19. The reported figure for the first quarter of 2018/19 is 47.29 kg/person.
- 5.7 Additional funding was obtained through the WG CCP fund enabling us to provide another 6,250 trolley box recycling systems to residents of the County Borough. These are currently being distributed to residents with the roll-out completion deadline of September 30th 2018.
- 5.8 The management and Operation of the HWRCs (September 1st 2018) provides us with more control on the operational procedures, improved material contracts for recyclables, the ability to extract more recyclables from the residual stream and an improved service for site users.
- 5.9 Difficult access and outlying properties have all been included on source separated collection rounds, using a recently purchased bespoke collection vehicle. There are a number (approximately 20) that are still on the co-mingled service due to exceptional circumstances in relation to vehicle access. We are currently addressing these on an individual basis.

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, for example 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's investigation resulted in the percentage of wood waste sent to reprocessors that is recycled, being greatly reduced. 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%. Other waste streams such as mattresses and carpets are currently being investigated to inform WG on more robust recovery rates of these streams.
- 6.6 Increasing recycling services can result in additional resources being required.

7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

- 7.1 To progress phase 1 of the Re-use project an area has been identified within the Unit 20 depot in Pentrebach for the creation of a re-use storage area and shop. Re-useable items from the bulky collection service and HWRCs will be deposited at the new facility in 2019 and sold to residents through the shop at the same location.
- 7.2 Unit 20 in Pentrebach, recently purchased by the Council will house the Waste Management department early in 2019. The new depot will provide additional space and increase the capacity to deal with increased levels of recyclables.
- 7.3 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 October and November 2018. Where containers are deemed to be no longer required the bin will be replaced with the standard 140l container.
- 7.4 An exercise is currently underway to identify potential efficiencies on the recycling collection rounds by reducing the amount of rounds and increasing the amount of staff on each round.
- 7.5 On 1st October 2018 MTCBC in partnership and funded by WRAP Cymru will begin a trial of plastic film collections over a 10 week period. 2,500 properties have been selected, (One recycling collection round over 5 days) for the trial. Residents on the trial will be provided with plastic sacks to contain the film and place for collection alongside their other recycling containers. The collected material will be bulked at the Unit 4 depot and weighed at the end of the trial. This material will be sent to a local reprocessor (BPI, based in Rhymney) for recycling. Leaflets and bags will be provided to participating residents from the middle of September by the Waste & Recycling Wardens and WRAP appointed doorknockers.
- 7.6 From 1st October 2018 Parks waste will be included in Waste Data Flow reporting. This will allow us to increase the amount of recyclable material that we can count

towards our recovery rate. Green waste will be included in the existing Green waste contract and the recyclables such as wood, metal, plastics, along with an element of residual waste will be diverted through the HWRC contracts.

8.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES

8.1 Waste Services contributes to the Council’s environmental wellbeing objective; communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.

CHERYLLEE EVANS
CHIEF OFFICER (NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES)

COUNCILLOR KEVIN GIBBS
CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council’s Constitution?		