



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	8 th October 2018
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Service Area	Waste Services
Committee Date	22 nd October 2018

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC)

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report provides information on the management and operations of the Household Waste & Recycling Centres (HWRCs) following the expiry of the Private sector contract in September 2018 and subsequent in-house management of the sites.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S):

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

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 Since the provision of Household Waste & Recycling Centres became a statutory requirement (EPA 1990), in the early 1990s MTCBC have contracted to private sector companies to manage and operate the sites on our behalf.

3.2 Between September 2013 and September 2018 the HWRCs at Dowlais and Aberfan have been managed and operated by Potters Waste Management Ltd.

3.3 In 2016/17 it became evident that the current contract with Potters was costly and had limited control over the way that MTCBC needed it to operate.

3.4 Between January and June 2017 a business case was developed to consider options for the council on the expiry of the existing contract on 31st August.

3.5 Three options were considered:

Option 1 – Extend the existing contract for a further 2 years.

Option 2 – Tender for the provision of another private sector contract.

Option 3 – Manage and operate the service in-house.

3.6 Following evaluation of the options above, option 3 was selected as the preferred option. This decision was based on option 3 being identified as the most cost effective as well as providing the council with more control over management of the sites.

3.7 On 27th September 2017 the proposal to manage the HWRCs in-house was given Full Council approval.

4.0 WHERE WE WERE

4.1 Following the council approval an implementation plan was developed to ensure that from 1st September 2018 the council was ready to manage and operate the sites.

4.2 Critical areas of the plan were:

- Ensure that an effective exit strategy for Potters was in place.
- Obtain new waste management permits and Fire Mitigation Plans for each site.
- Develop an Environmental Management System for the sites.
- Appoint a sites manager and supervisor.
- Ensure that the council had the relevant qualifications to operate the sites legally.
- Procure plant & equipment.
- Procure markets for recyclable materials.
- Re-develop areas of the Dowlais site to comply with the permit requirements.

4.3 All of the points above were achieved within their relevant timeframes ensuring a good transition.

5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

5.1 The sites have been managed and operated efficiently from 1st September. Contractual arrangements with the material reprocessors are operating effectively. Ongoing dialogue continues with the contractors to ensure that material streams are clean and free from contaminants.

5.2 The sites are cleaner than they were under the previous contractor. A strict cleansing schedule has been implemented.

5.3 The new traffic management system that has been developed at the Dowlais site is working efficiently, providing a quicker throughput of traffic using the site as well as providing site users with an easier system for depositing their materials.

- 5.4 The new site layouts, including the provision of sorting stations at both sites ensures that we are able to maximise the amount of recyclable materials we collect and reduce the amount of residual waste.
- 5.5 As all of the tonnage data required to report the percentage of materials recycled has not yet been provided, the recovery rates for September for each site hasn't been collated. Monthly recovery figures will be available for each site/month by the end of the subsequent month.
- 5.6 Negotiation with the Potter's staff are ongoing in relation to their TUPE transfer. The staff that expressed a wish to transfer over to MTCBC are currently working to the Potters terms and conditions.
- 5.7 An additional site operative has been appointed and the use of agency staff to cover leave and sickness has been implemented.

6.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE

- 6.1 To provide compliant, user friendly sites, making improvements where necessary.
- 6.2 To effectively contribute to our overall recovery performance targets.
- 6.3 To attain a high level of recovery at the sites aiming to achieve and exceed wales government's collections blueprint figure of 90%.

7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

- 7.1 The council is legally required to ensure continued compliance with the site's waste management permits which are being attained but may require future improvements in line with any changing legislation.
- 7.2 Finalise the TUPE transfer of Potter's staff.
- 7.3 Maintain and improve on high quality material for recycling.
- 7.4 Amend and improve the current van permit scheme.
- 7.5 Investigate the opportunity to accept trade recyclables at the sites.
- 7.6 Develop a system to collect re-useable items for re-sale at the proposed re-use shop in Pentrebach.

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
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
List the Background documents which have been relied on in preparing the report. E.g. previous minutes of relevant committees		
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		