

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	15 th May 2021
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Service Area	Waste Services
Committee Date	14 th June 2021

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Absorbent Hygienic Products (Nappy) Recycling

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report aims to provide the pros and cons of collecting and treating Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHPs), from residents of the County Borough who would potentially use the service, from the kerbside.
- 1.2 Although there is currently no infrastructure in place, the report provides a brief overview of what would be needed to facilitate this.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 To consider and debate the information contained in the report.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following a fact finding exercise into the possible benefits of collecting AHPs separately from residual waste, carried out by the Scrutiny Committee, Waste Services have been asked to provide this report on the pros and cons of providing this service.

4.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

- 4.1 We currently collect AHPs mixed with residual waste in resident`s 140l or additional capacity 240l wheeled bins, which is sent to an Energy from Waste facility which provides us with 20% recycling from bottom ash and metals recovery.

4.2 We do not currently have a waste permitted site for this material that we could utilise. This would mean hauling the AHPs to Ammanford at the end of each collection round.

5.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE

5.1 To ensure that we are maximising recycling of all possible waste streams, where practicable, in line with the waste hierarchy and to achieve Welsh Government's targets for Preparation for re-use, recycling and composting.

6.0 PROS AND CONS OF RECYCLING AHPs

6.1 Identified 'pros and cons' include:

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHPs would be treated in a more sustainable manner in line with the waste hierarchy • Reduced need to provide additional capacity bins • Possible increase in recycling rate. Current rates are between 17% - 40% of the AHPs recycled • Recycled tonnage may be (40%), 272 tpa possibly, depending on the amount of residents that participate in the scheme. This equates to a 1% increase on our overall recycling rate • An AHP treatment facility contract is currently being procured by WG and should be operational at Amgen in 2022 • Potential funding available for the purchase of vehicles and containers • Potential to provide this service at a charge to trade customers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of recycling AHPs is approximately £60 per tonne more than EfW costs which equates to approximately £41k per annum additional budget requirement for treatment. • A new secure permitted site would be required with a competent officer to oversee the permit. • Additional mileage and haulage costs to nearest facility in Ammanford at present. The approximate cost of this is £16k per year. • The service would require two RCV's to operate there will an initial capital cost of approximately £280k. There will be associated revenue costs such as maintenance. • 20% of AHPs are recovered at present from EfW bottom ash recycling so if there is only a 17% recycling rate from AHPs this would result in a 21t decrease on our recycling tonnages • Current vehicles for other material collections would not accommodate the collection of AHPs separately • An additional 2 staff would be required at a cost of £60k/annum plus holidays and sickness absence would have to be budgeted for • An additional container would be required for residents to use and to be

	<p>placed at the kerbside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of re-useable nappies would be the more sustainable option in certain circumstances • A risk of the additional capacity left in the wheeled bin will be filled with recyclables to the detriment of our Waste recovery target • Additional costs for replacement recycling (AHP) containers
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6.2 COST ELEMENTS OF PROVIDING THE SERVICE

- Vehicles - depending on tonnage 2 vehicles approx. £280k
- Haulage – depending on tonnages approx. £16k
- Staff – at least two members of staff approx. £60k
- Containers – two containers £20k
- Containers – for residents approx. £4k
- Waste permit – permit approx. £5k
- Depot – to bulk AHP (unknown cost)
- Security – approx. £40k
- Disposal costs - £60 per tonne extra
- Competent officer - £5k
- A suitable site £?

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the scrutiny committee discusses and comments on the issues set out in the report.

**JUDITH JONES, CHIEF OFFICER FOR
PLANNING & NEIGHBOURHOOD
SERVICES**

**COUNCILLOR DAVID HUGHES
PORTFOLIO MEMBER FOR PLANNING &
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

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?		NO