

Committee: **Executive Committee**
Date of meeting: **17th July 2019**
Report Subject: **Waste and Recycling Performance**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. G. Collier, Deputy Leader / Executive Member, Environment**
Report Submitted by: **Clive Rogers, Head of Community Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
04/06/19	11/06/19				27/06/19	17/07/19		

1. Purpose of the Report

To provide the Members of the Executive Committee with an update of waste and recycling performance outcomes for 2018-2019.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 The report summarises the waste and recycling performance data for 2018-19.

2.2 All local authorities are required to report their waste data to the Welsh Government. The data reported is for all the waste which the Local Authority collects, known as municipal waste.

2.3 Waste data is collected via various methods (Contract monitoring, weighbridge tickets) on a monthly basis and is collated and validated internally by the Corporate Performance Team. All waste is reported where possible until it has reached a compliant final destination through the various contractors and processes required.

2.4 Waste data is reported to Welsh Government quarterly via Waste Data Flow. Waste Data Flow is the web based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government.

2.5 Waste Data Flow is designed for local authorities:

- to allow faster and more accurate data collection of municipal waste statistics, more regularly and efficiently;
- to enhance their local data management for reporting and strategic planning purposes; and
- to offer them streamlined access to performance benchmarking with other authorities.

2.6 Waste Data Flow allows the Welsh Government:

- to monitor progress towards national and local targets;
- to produce National Statistics on municipal waste; and
- to provide an evidence base to guide government policy.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

- 3.1 Option 1 to accept the information in the report.
- 3.2 Option 2 to consider the information contained within the report and provide challenge and/or further action for consideration to make improvements.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny Committee agreed to **option 2** and recommended the following:
- Wider roll out of 'on the go' recycling bins [Ward members to be consulted on locations].
 - Investigate options around animal waste recycling
 - Scope possibility of grass collection following cutting of open spaces
 - Green waste collections from CAT organisations on a request basis
 - Wider scope for Roadshows to target low performance areas

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

Council Priorities

The improvement of waste and recycling performance supports the Council Priority '*Strong and Environmentally Smart Communities*' in particular '*to increase rates of recycling to enable us to achieve national targets*'.

Statutory Responsibilities

Local Authorities in Wales have been set statutory recycling targets through the Wales Waste Measure 2010, and failure to meet the targets will result in a financial penalty from Welsh Government.

Well-being Plan

Waste and recycling services support the Well-being objective '*Blaenau Gwent wants to look after and protect its natural environments*' by using our resources in a fair and sustainable way.

5. **Implications**

5.1 **Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)**

The Local Authority may continue to face financial penalties from the Welsh Government if it fails to achieve the statutory recycling targets. These are currently £200 per tonne below the recycling tonnage required to achieve the target, 58% for 2018-19, rising to 64% for 2019-20.

The Local Authority currently pays for the treatment and disposal of black bag waste. As residents recycle more of their waste, the money spent on waste treatment and disposal will reduce and the income gained from the sale of recyclate may increase. In 2018/19, approximately £320,000 has been saved on black bag waste disposal. It should be noted that the savings achieved against black bag disposal have been utilised to pay for the additional resources required to introduce side waste enforcement at kerbside and the black bag sorting at the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC).

5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**

There is a risk that the Local Authority will continue to face financial penalties from the Welsh Government if it fails to achieve the statutory recycling targets.

Failure to ensure that there is robust monitoring of Council services carries with it a number of significant risks:

- Undetected and unaddressed decline in service performance and the quality of provision; and
- Negative impact on the reputation of the Council.

Regular monitoring of waste and recycling performance is a key element in ensuring that the Council knows its services well and is able to support and intervene appropriately.

5.3 **Legal**

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no Human Resources issues associated with this report.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

In direct comparison with 2017/18 data, 2018/19 data shows that in general there has been a reduction of residual waste collected at the kerbside and at the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) and an increase of recycling collected at the kerbside and the HWRC.

Recycling Targets

Overall there has been an increase in Blaenau Gwent's recycling rate in 2018/19 and more noticeably since the introduction of side waste enforcement and black bag sorting at the HWRC towards the end of Q1. Trend analysis shows that there is always a reduction in Quarter 3 each year. This is mainly due to reductions in garden waste and HWRC recycling.

	2017/18	2018/19
Quarter 1	59.47%	56.58%
Quarter 2	58.25%	62.78%
Quarter 3	53.44%	58.89%
Quarter 4	52.30%	59.22%
Annual	56.00%	59.26%

A cumulative comparison between 2017/18 shows an increase of 3.26 percentage points in 2018/19.

Residual Waste

There has been a significant decrease in residual waste collected at the kerbside and the HWRC in 2018/19.

Kerbside

	2017/18	2018/19
Quarter 1	3040.555	2953.002
Quarter 2	2912.116	2431.310
Quarter 3	2891.740	2653.383
Quarter 4	3185.981	2714.096
Annual	12030.392	10751.791

In comparison there has been a reduction of 1278.601 tonnes (10.63%) of residual waste collected at the kerbside in 2018/19.

HWRC (New Vale)

	2017/18	2018/19
Quarter 1	809.725	642.771
Quarter 2	761.851	149.621
Quarter 3	666.300	129.424
Quarter 4	701.320	149.475
Annual	2939.196	1071.291

In comparison there has been a reduction of 1867.905 tonnes (63.55%) of residual waste from New Vale HWRC in 2018/19.

Composting Recycling

There has been an increase in food and garden waste collected at the kerbside in 2018/19.

Food

	2017/18	2018/19
Quarter 1	551.64	630.78
Quarter 2	571.11	691.66
Quarter 3	560.50	752.01
Quarter 4	650.58	783.98
Annual	2332.83	2858.43

In comparison there has been an increase of 525.60 tonnes (22.53%) of food waste collected in 2018/19.

Garden Waste

	2017/18	2018/19
Quarter 1	526.86	621.661
Quarter 2	547.08	523.48
Quarter 3	204.058	293.58
Quarter 4	100.28	109.921
Annual	1378.278	1548.642

In comparison there has been an increase of 170.364 tonnes (12.36%) of garden waste collected in 2018/19.

Dry Recycling

There has been an increase in kerbside dry recycling, noticeably a significant increase in the tonnages of absorbent hygiene products (AHP) collected in 2018/19.

Kerbside

	2017/18	2018/19
Quarter 1	1049.01	1053.61
Quarter 2	1061.42	1252.02
Quarter 3	1053.16	1173.70
Quarter 4	1162.24	1475.10
Annual	4325.83	4954.43

In comparison there has been an increase of 628.60 tonnes (14.53%) of dry recycling collected at the kerbside in 2018/19.

Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP)

	2017/18	2018/19
Quarter 1	80.12	91.90
Quarter 2	79.96	113.28
Quarter 3	84.38	125.40
Quarter 4	88.28	125.26
Annual	332.74	455.84

In comparison there has been an increase of 123.10 tonnes (37.00%) of absorbent hygiene products (AHP) collected at the kerbside in 2018/19.

HWRC (Recycling)

	2017/18	2018/19
Quarter 1	1087.131	1217.727
Quarter 2	1001.560	1035.93
Quarter 3	682.965	754.212
Quarter 4	671.612	878.813
Annual	3443.268	3886.682

In comparison there has been an increase of 443.414 tonnes (12.88%) of dry recycling from the HWRC.

HWRC (Reuse)

	2017/18	2018/19
Quarter 1	8.86	16.110
Quarter 2	7.473	17.230
Quarter 3	7.97	26.952
Quarter 4	7.531	22.274
Annual	31.834	82.566

In comparison there has been an increase of 50.732 tonnes (159.36%) of reuse from the HWRC.

It is recognised that there is a discrepancy between the decrease in the number of tonnes of residual waste collected and the increase in the number of tonnes of recycling collected. There are a number of possible reasons for this including waste reduction activity in the household and waste transferring across the border to other HWRCs. It should be noted that many of our neighbouring local authorities either operate black bag sorting operations or various methods of residency checks at their HWRCs. As a result, this may drive Blaenau Gwent residents and tonnages back to the borough.

The statutory recycling target increases to 64% for all Welsh local authorities in 2019/20. Therefore, the continued support of residents and businesses is required to continue to reduce the amount of non-recyclable waste sent for disposal and increase the amount recycled in Blaenau Gwent.

6.2 Expected outcome for the public

Increased involvement from our communities as residents recycle in line with service requirements to achieve national targets.

6.3 Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)

Through the public engagement sessions, the public have been consulted and their views have been sought regarding the impact of the side waste enforcement policy.

- 6.4 **Thinking for the Long term** (*forward planning*)
By ensuring that waste is disposed of correctly, long term sustainability through the recovery of recyclable materials is encouraged.
- 6.5 **Preventative focus**
Improved waste management at a local and national level can help reduce our Ecological footprint, greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impact, therefore preventing problems from getting worse.
- 6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working**
Waste Services continue to receive strategic, technical and financial support from Welsh Government and Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) through the Collaborative Change Programme to further develop and improve the service to achieve future targets. WRAP and Welsh Government support the implementation of side waste restrictions.
- 6.7 **Integration** (*across service areas*)
- 6.8 **EqlA** (*screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed*)
7. **Monitoring Arrangements**
- 7.1 The performance of the waste and recycling service will be monitored by the service on a monthly basis, including, but not limited to:
- Changes in residual waste tonnage collected;
 - Changes in tonnage of recyclables and food waste collected;
 - Recycling performance;
 - Financial position;
 - Number of residents presenting side waste;
 - Number of residents issued with Section 46 notice;
 - Number of residents issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice; and
 - Survey results.

Highlight reports on progress will be provided through the internal CCP Board Meetings.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

N/A