<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Report to</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Report Subject</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Report Author</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Report date</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Directorate</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Portfolio</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Date of meeting</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Date signed off by Monitoring Officer</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Date signed off by Section 151 Officer</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Key words</strong></td>
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## Report Information Summary

### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To review the options around the redevelopment of the New Vale Household Waste Recycling Centre and discuss the provision of a second Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) within the Ebbw Fach Valley in order to improve the service provision to local residents and increase the recycling rates in line with Welsh Government targets.

1.2 The objective of the review is to provide suitable sites that can manage waste growth associated with housing development and economic growth and provide facilities that can enable the residents to recycle as much of its waste as possible.

### 2. Scope of the Report

2.1 This report provides an update on the progress for the redevelopment of the existing HWRC at New Vale, Waun-y-pound Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale and also evaluates the proposals for the development of a second HWRC in the Ebbw Fach Valley.

2.2 The options include opportunities for reuse facilities and trade waste controls in order to improve the recycling performance at the sites and contribute towards an improved recycling rate for the Authority.

2.3 Finally, opportunities for accepting commercial waste at the Silent Valley waste transfer station have been reviewed.

2.4 At this stage in the project, the outline capital costs associated with the options provided for the redevelopment of New Vale and a second HWRC have been estimated. The preferred option will be subject to a business case which will include a detailed design and therefore preparation of detailed capital costs.

2.5 Similarly, the revenue costs have been estimated. The revenue implications that have been estimated cannot at this stage take into account the impact of the detailed designs, accurate waste flows or the final throughput that will be managed at the sites. These factors will also impact upon the required transport and haulage, staffing levels and waste and recycling disposal costs.
2.6 The main report presents an overall summary of the review and the designs that are being developed. It provides an “in principle” recommendation in order for the Authority to agree to a policy for its HWRC provision within Blaenau Gwent. The agreement of this strategic direction is critical in order to inform the future of recycling service provision across the County Borough.

2.7 It should however be noted that a further report setting out the business case for HWRC provision will be required to be presented to the Executive Committee to agree the final project, capital and revenue costs and design.

3. **Contribution to the National Well-Being Goals – Detail attached as Appendix 1**

4. **Recommendation(s) / Endorsement by other groups, e.g. CLT/Committees/Other groups**

   4.1 A Waste Collaborative Change Programme Board is established within the Environment and Regeneration directorate. The board includes representatives from departments across the Council, Welsh Government and Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP). The future HWRC provision is a work package within this programme.

   4.2 The members of the Waste CCP board have been involved in developing the report and endorse the proposals / recommendations contained within this report, subject to a final business case being prepared and presented for approval.

5. **Recommendation/s for Consideration**

   5.1 It is recommended that the Executive Committee consider the options in paragraph 6 of the report, taking into consideration any feedback from Scrutiny Committee and recommend approval at Council.

   The preferred Option identified to Scrutiny was 2: Improvement to New Vale HWRC site and development of a second facility at Roseheylworth South, subject to the following:

   - A business case is developed and prepared for the redevelopment of the New Vale HWRC and a second facility in Ebbw Fach Valley at the south of the Roseheylworth Industrial Estate.
The final business case which is presented for approval by the Executive Committee will contain the detailed design, waste flow modelling and financial implications for developing and operating both sites.

The final business case will also provide a detailed programme plan for the implementation of the proposals at both sites.

### Why this topic is a priority for the Council?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single Integrated Plan (SIP)</th>
<th>Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP)</th>
<th>Performance Management Improvement Framework (PMIF)</th>
<th>Operating Model</th>
<th>Transforming Blaenau Gwent (TBG Programme)</th>
<th>Other (please state)</th>
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### Reporting Pathway

<table>
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<th>Directorate Management Team (DMT)</th>
<th>Corporate Leadership (CLT)</th>
<th>Audit</th>
<th>Democratic Services Committee</th>
<th>Scrutiny</th>
<th>Executive</th>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Other (please state)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15/11/17</td>
<td>21/11/17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>04/12/17</td>
<td>04/12/17</td>
<td>07/12/17</td>
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# Main Report

## 1. Background and Context

### Strategic Context

1.1 The Waste Framework Directive 2008 is the primary legislation which sets the requirements in The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. The Waste Framework Directive requires the UK to take measures to promote high quality recycling. This includes a specific requirement, by 1st January 2015, to set up separate collections of paper, plastic, metal and glass as a minimum.

1.2 The Wales Waste Strategy (Towards Zero Waste) then sets out the Statutory Recovery Targets that all local authorities in Wales must comply with up to 2024/25. These are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Target</th>
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<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024/25</td>
<td>70%</td>
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1.3 In 2016/17, Blaenau Gwent achieved a recycling rate of 57% which was below the target of 58%. This means that the Council must increase recycling performance by 7% over the next three years (2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20) if it is to meet the next Statutory Recovery Target of 64%.

1.4 The Overarching Strategy highlighted above is supported by a series of Section Plans. The Municipal Sector Plan: Part One (March 2011) only covers waste collected by Welsh Local Authorities. This was accompanied by the ‘Collections Blueprint’ which describes the recommended service profile for Local Authority collection of waste from households.

1.5 The ‘Collections Blueprint’ is intended to help Local Authorities to operate services that will achieve the recycling targets set out within the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010 and provide the best overall service for the people of Wales and future generations.

1.6 Household Waste Recycling Centre services have the potential to increase (if managed effectively) the Council’s recycling rate. The role that HWRCs play in maximising the contribution to the 70% target is a key consideration for local authorities across Wales. Indeed, the Welsh Government Collections Blueprint sets an 80%
recycling rate target for HWRC’s in addition to the statutory recovery targets.

1.7 By failing to achieve the targets highlighted in section 1.2, the Council can be fined £200 for every tonne it is below the target. In BGCBC this is approximately £100,000 for each 1% under the target.

1.8 In 2011, Welsh Government established the Collaborative Change Programme (CCP) with the aim of supporting Waste Services Teams across Wales to meet the challenge of the Statutory Recovery Targets.

1.9 The Council worked with Welsh Government to consider the ‘Collections Blueprint’ and how services could be delivered in Blaenau Gwent in the future ensuring that it was best placed to work towards the Statutory Recovery Targets highlighted in section 1.2.

1.10 As a result of the above, Welsh Government has commissioned through WRAP a number of technical reports since 2012, that have considered the Household Waste Recycling Centre Provision within Blaenau Gwent.

**Household Waste Recycling Provision in Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (1994 – 2017)**

1.11 Between the period of 1994 and 2013 the Authority through its contractor, Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd, operated three household waste recycling centres.

1.12 In July 2013, following a number of reports considering options for minor improvements to the sites, the Authority took the decision to close two HWRC facilities (one based at Silent Valley and one in Bournville). This decision was based on a number of factors including the very poor recycling performance at the sites (overall recycling rate for the three sites was 45%), contaminated land issues and a lack of expansion opportunities on the Bournville site; these issues contributed to a financial case to close sites.

1.13 The Authority currently operates one HWRC which continues to be operated by Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd and is based on the Waun-y-Pound Industrial Estate in Ebbw Vale. The site, named “New Vale” achieved a recycling rate of 69% during 2016/17.
1.14 In May 2016, Council considered a report which reviewed the existing HWRC provision (supported by a technical report commissioned by WRAP) and considered the options available to improve performance and also review the longer term options of an additional HWRC in the lower Ebbw Fach Valley.

1.15 Council agreed that full business cases be developed for the redevelopment of two options at the New Vale HWRC and that the development of additional HWRC provision in the Lower Ebbw Fach Valley be considered as a priority and this was set as an immediate task for the working group to develop.

1.16 Following Council approval, in November 2016, Welsh Government agreed to commission WRAP who then engaged consultants Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd (Eunomia) to undertake a follow up review of the work completed in July 2015 in order to model the options agreed.

1.17 Through the cross party working group that was established at this time, a number of designs were considered for the New Vale site to improve performance, efficiency and customer experience which, in turn, resulted in a shortlist of options which have been developed further by Eunomia.

1.18 In addition, following the long listing and deselection of sites in the Ebbw Fach Valley, two sites were shortlisted for further development.

1.19 The designs for New Vale and two sites in Ebbw Fach have been considered within the follow up work undertaken.

1.20 The main objectives of this review were to:
  • Provide updated capital and operation cost estimates for the reviewed designs alongside expected waste flows and performance;
  • Provide an implementation plan for the development of each option;
  • Investigate and set out opportunities regarding the development of reuse facilities and Trade Waste controls;
  • Evaluate the site options for developing a second HWRC site at two locations in Roseheynworth.
  • Investigate opportunities for accepting commercial waste at
1.21 In January 2017, Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) carried out an interventions modelling exercise to establish what the Authority could potentially do to reach further recycling targets that the Welsh Government have set. The improvement of the HWRC provision is a key element of the interventions required to provide sufficient infrastructure to meet current and future needs.

1.22 In September 2017, the Council adopted amended household waste policies which included a Domestic Kerbside Collections Policy, Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) Operational Policy and an Enforcement Policy. The adoption and implementation of these policies has been identified as a recommendation by the technical consultants that have supported the reviews over the past few years. When the policies are implemented, improved site performance should be seen at New Vale from April 2018 onwards.

1.23 The current follow up review completed by Eunomia considers improving access to facilities, improved recyclate capture across the County Borough and responding to public demand for an additional facility, particularly within the Ebbw Fach Valley.

**New Vale Household Waste Recycling Centre**

1.24 Following the closure of the Silent Valley and Bournville HWRCs in 2013, New Vale has seen an increase in vehicle movements and additional waste being deposited through the site, the total waste arisings managed at the site have also increased since the introduction of the three weekly refuse service in 2015. The need to consider an additional HWRC has become more apparent during recent years as New Vale is currently struggling to manage the 8,000 tonnes throughput each year whilst also trying to increase the recycling performance at the site (69% in 2016/17).

1.25 A health and safety review carried out by the council in 2015 highlighted concerns (many have been addressed), however, there is a general concern in relation to the suitability and safety of the site in its current operational layout. This is primarily due to the location of existing containers, the two way flow of traffic and subsequently the impact on the public entering the site during peak times.
1.26 The New Vale site is permitted by Natural Resource Wales (NRW), the permit currently allows for 4999 tonnes to be managed at the site. At present, the site has a throughput of nearly 8000 tonnes per annum. Natural Resources Wales are aware of the extra tonnage throughput, and are in agreement with SVWS that due to the review of the HWRC provision a concession has been allowed due to the intention that an agreed way forward will result from the outcomes of this report. A revised permit is required for the New Vale site; however, if a second HWRC were to be developed the current throughput within the permit may be sufficient.

1.27 The review carried out by WRAP in 2015 concluded that due to the existing layout/arrangements at the site any significant recycling improvements are unlikely and this will continue to impact negatively on the overall Council recycling/recovery rate.

Additional Household Waste Recycling Centre Provision

1.28 Following a long listing of site options, two potential sites within the Ebbw Fach Valley have been identified and short listed as potential areas of land for the development of a new HWRC. These sites are areas of undeveloped land in the North and South of the Roseheyworth Industrial Estate.

Commercial Recycling Provision

1.29 The Council does not currently have any provision for businesses within Blaenau Gwent to deposit their waste or recycling. The Silent Valley Waste Transfer Station will however accept waste from businesses for a gate fee which is chargeable based upon the amount of waste that they bring to site.

1.30 The opportunity for the provision of a commercial waste facility at the Silent Valley site will be considered as a part of the future development opportunities for the site.

2. Performance Evidence and Information

2.1 The HWRC contributes approximately 11% towards the overall recycling rate for the Council. In order to contribute towards the statutory target of 70%, the Welsh Government Collection Blueprint sets a target for HWRC performance at an 80% recycling rate.

2.2 New Vale achieved a recycling rate of 69% during 2016/17. Under
each new design configuration modelled for New Vale, the effective implementation of strict residual policies alongside the levels of resourcing proposed should be sufficient to achieve HWRC recycling rates over 80%. Local conditions could affect the performance of the sites and this would be closely monitored.

2.3 The current modelling undertaken by WRAP shows that a 1% increase in the Authority’s recycling rate would be achieved by providing a new site, however there is potential to exceed this current estimate. The modelling to date makes assumptions about waste flows in and out of both sites and further more detailed waste flow modelling is required following the detailed design phase.

2.4 If the preferred option is progressed to an operational phase, then the performance improvements will be dependent upon effective management of both sites. The operatives will need to ensure that all waste that can be recycled is put into recycling skips and containers, ensure that trade waste customers do not use these sites and that they are only used by residents of Blaenau Gwent (this can be achieved through vehicle recognition systems and on site monitoring by site attendants).

3. Risk Implications

3.1. **Option 1 - A “do nothing” approach.**

There is a risk that if a “do nothing” approach were adopted for the HWRC provision across the County Borough that the Authority would not be able to improve its recycling performance and achieve the statutory recovery targets set by Welsh Government. The consequence of this would be that the Council could face financial penalty of £200 for every tonne that it fails to achieve the targets. In BGCBC this is approximately £100,000 for each 1% under the target.

3.2 Based upon the current configuration all options to reduce the risks at the New Vale site have already been implemented and minor works have been completed (funded by WG) to improve the site and maximise performance within the constraints identified.

3.3 **Option 2 – Progress with the redevelopment of New Vale and develop a second facility at Roseheyworth South.**

There is a risk that any changes to HWRC provision do not result in
the levels of increased recycling performance that have been modelled. There is a risk that the HWRC recycling rate needed to achieve the overall 1% increase in the Authority’s recycling rate will not be achieved. Each percentile point is critical to the Authority in order to achieve the statutory targets.

3.4 By failing to achieve the statutory recovery targets the Council is liable for a fine of £200 for every tonne that it fails to achieve the targets. In BGCBC this is approximately £100,000 for each 1% under the target.

3.5 If tonnages at New Vale HWRC do not decrease we will continue to be in breach of the Environmental Permit and there is a risk that Natural Resources Wales may seek to take enforcement action. Dialogue with NRW will continue to ensure that the likelihood of this risk is monitored.

3.6 There is a risk that the Authority will be unable to fund the development of a new site and redevelopment of the existing site along with the increased revenue implications. The likelihood of this risk occurring may be reduced by identifying and securing external funding to support the projects. Actions to reduce this risk will therefore include the submission of funding bids to WG prior to the submission of the business case to the Executive Committee.

3.7 There is a risk that existing businesses at the Roseheyworth industrial estate may be concerned about being located near to an operational HWRC facility. In order to mitigate this risk, engagement with the local businesses will commence in line with the planning process.

4. **Financial Implications**

4.1. Please note that all of these figures are initial indicative figures that have been prepared through the revised modelling undertaken by Eunomia or through an initial assessment by officers. Further investigations will be carried out in order to develop detailed costs for the business case.

4.2. **Option 1– A “do nothing” approach**

The current layout of New Vale inhibits residents to recycle or dispose of waste in an easy manner. An improved layout and redesign would help increase the recycling performance of the site.
4.3. Further waste segregation is required on site and a better traffic flow system. As outlined in the report considered by Council in 2015, ‘do nothing’ is not considered to be an option. All minor works have been funded by WG and have been implemented. The next phase of works required at the site will be to redevelop the site.

4.4. It is likely that the failure to improve the HWRC provision across the County Borough will result in the Authority not reaching the statutory recycling targets and financial penalties being imposed. This would be approximately £100,000 for each 1% under the target.

4.5. **Option 2 – Progress with the redevelopment of New Vale and develop a second facility at Roseheyworth South.**

Designs were considered for the redevelopment of the existing HWRC at New Vale. All of the options include opportunities for reuse facilities and trade waste controls in order to improve the recycling performance at the site.

4.6. A number of designs were considered, and were discounted as they did not provide sufficient capacity at the site or did not enable the site to operate effectively.

4.7. The development of a facility at Roseheyworth North has been discounted due to the highways engineering requirements that would be needed for the site and the constraints that the site presents due to engineering restrictions.

4.8. The options are detailed further in section 6 but the indicative revenue and capital costs (Table 2) include adequate resourcing to manage the residual waste policy for the site and subsequent waste flows that could be expected; additional material streams that could be considered, trade waste controls and a reuse shop at the sites.

4.9. The current revenue budget (2017/18) for HWRC management within the Environment Portfolio is £256,815 pa. This budget does not include the costs of waste disposal and recycling disposal that arises from the site as these are captured within their respective budgets.

4.10. There is no provision within the Capital Programme for the redevelopment works or the development of a new facility in Ebbw Fach.
4.11 The indicative revenue budget suggested through the modelling for a redeveloped and improved facility at New Vale is approximately £308,000. Revenue costs at the new site have been modelled at £210,000 p.a. this is as a result of the modelling, which currently assumes throughput at this site and therefore less staff will required to manage it. These assumptions will be tested through the development of the business case.

4.12 Within the next phase of the project detailed waste flow modelling will be undertaken and assessment upon the impact against different material streams and therefore the impact on income and disposals costs will be completed.

4.13 Roseheyworth Business Park South is anticipated to require a total capital investment in the region of £2,085,000 in order to develop HWRC facilities at the site. However some costs such as accommodation facilities have not been included within the table so the total cost for a completely new build has been estimated at £2,500,000. Further breakdowns of the estimated costs for a new HWRC are shown in table 2 below.

Table 1: Estimated capital costs for a new HWRC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of works</th>
<th>Estimated cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drainage Works</td>
<td>£250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retaining wall / platform</td>
<td>£400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carriageway work</td>
<td>£575,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete slab area</td>
<td>£375,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities ( electric / water)</td>
<td>£60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting (only 4 units directly over slab area included)</td>
<td>£50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental / landscaping / bunds</td>
<td>£75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation ( not been included within this estimate)</td>
<td>Not been included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminaries</td>
<td>£150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>£100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingencies</td>
<td>£50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£2,085,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.14 The estimated capital and revenue implications for redeveloping the New Vale HWRC and the construction of a site at Roseheyworth
South are summarised in Table 2. These estimated costs have been verified and/or amended by Technical Services where appropriate.

### 4.15 Table 2: Estimated capital and revenue costs for improvements at New Vale HWRC and development of a second facility at Roseheyworth South.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Vale Redevelopment</td>
<td>£750,000</td>
<td>£308,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New HWRC – Ebbw Fach Valley</td>
<td>£2,500,000</td>
<td>£210,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£3,250,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>£518,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget available</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£256,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shortfall</strong></td>
<td><strong>£3,250,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>£261,185</strong></td>
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The Council does not have any capital or revenue funding identified or earmarked for the options considered as part of this report. The following section discusses potential capital funding options however; these would be subject to funding applications being prepared and further detailed costs being developed.

The revenue shortfall of **£261,185** p.a. for the operational costs will need to be reassessed and modelled along with any implications for the waste disposal and recycling disposal budgets.

Through improved recycling and reduced residual waste at the sites, in addition to improvements that are anticipated within the kerbside services (as a result of the implementation of enforcement policies) there may be financial efficiencies through the service which could contribute to this revenue shortfall.

The redevelopment of the existing infrastructure and the development of a new site will provide the residents of Blaenau Gwent with accessible and improved recycling facilities. The sites will also help the Authority to ensure that there is sufficient provision for managing waste growth associated with housing development and economic growth. This will however have an impact upon the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the Authority and will add to the financial pressures.
4.20 **Capital Funding Options**

Should the Council wish to consider prudential borrowing for elements or all of the required works, it would have to identify budgetary savings within its current revenue budgets. Examples of the level of savings that would be required is presented below:

**Table 3: £2.5 million Capital Investment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Savings/Income Required</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>£193,691 p.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 years</td>
<td>£156,306 p.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 years</td>
<td>£135,070 p.a.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.21 It should be noted that the period for prudential borrowing would need to be linked to the useful life of the asset.

4.22 **External Funding Opportunities**

An expression of interest for funding will be submitted to the Welsh Government for the capital infrastructure towards the build of a new site and the improvements towards New Vale.

4.23 If the ‘in-principle’ decision to proceed with the preferred option is agreed then detailed design, capital and operational costs will be further modelled. These costs will then be presented to the Executive Committee for further consideration alongside funding options.

5. **Staffing/Workforce Development Implications**

5.1 The review of the Household Waste Recycling Centre provision is being managed by the Strategic Projects Team within the Environment and Regeneration Directorate and is overseen by the collaborative change programme board.

5.2 A small Project Team shall be formed to deliver the outcomes of this report and shall include representatives from Public Services, Technical Services, Planning and Resources.

5.3 Additional resources will be required to operate a second HWRC and some additional resources may be required to operate the HWRC’s to a level that achieves an 80% recycling rate at New Vale.
6. Options for Consideration

6.1 As set out within section 1 a number of designs and options have been considered and modelled. This section of the report covers the options that are considered as viable in more detail.

6.2 From the options that have been considered for the New Vale site two of the options were considered to be suitable for the longer term vision and performance needs of the council and the other two options were discounted due to potential highways issues and will therefore not been considered further.

6.3 The development of a facility at Roseheyworth North has been discounted due to the highways engineering requirements that would be needed for the site and the constraints that the site presents due to engineering restrictions.

6.4 The establishment of a commercial recycling facility at Silent Valley was also considered as part of the report however due to the overall review of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd which is currently taking place this element will not be considered further as part of this report. This opportunity will be considered at a future date.

**Option One – A “do nothing” approach**

6.5 The tonnage throughput at New Vale HWRC is exceeding the current permit allowance and a permit variation is required if waste flows do not decrease. This needs to be carried out as soon as practicable; particularly when the business case for the HWRC’s is agreed and the projected throughputs at each site/s are identified and/or modelled.

6.6 Some minor improvements have been made at the site already, these include:
   a) Van Permit Scheme
   b) New Signage
   c) Clear road markings
   d) Skip/container relocations
   e) Meet and greet staff member at the entrance

6.7 The review of options for HWRC provision has identified that the introduction of a second HWRC within the Ebbw Fach valley and in particular at the site in Roseheyworth would improve service provision for residents in the south of Blaenau Gwent who are currently located closer to HWRC facilities outside the County
Borough. Additionally, this would reduce the burden on New Vale and reduce congestion at peak times. It would also increase the recycling rate of the HWRC network and support the segregation of recyclables.

6.8 Due to the constraints at the site which inhibits the ability of the site to maximise recycling performance, the progression of ‘do-nothing’ is not considered to be an option.

**Option 2 – Improvement to New Vale HWRC site and development of a second facility at Roseheayworth South.**

6.9 **Improvements and redevelopment of New Vale**

A number of designs were considered for the improvement of New Vale HWRC site, these included:

- the extension of and widening of the existing ramp
- the demolition or retention of the existing salt barn
- the inclusion of additional skips and containers;
- improved traffic flow systems.

6.10 **New HWRC in Ebbw Fach Valley**

The feasibility of a second HWRC facility in the Ebbw Fach Valley has been modelled. The option considered includes the following:

a) the impact on demand at New Vale that could be expected as a result of opening a new facility at Roseheayworth
b) likely impact upon waste flows and recycling rates that might be expected by opening a new facility
c) the proposed sites with reference to location, provision and size
d) capital and operational costs associated with the development of a new facility (see section 4)
e) the relative benefits of a second site

6.11 The second HWRC will include facilities that enable the site to achieve an 80% recycling rate.

6.12 The benefits of a second HWRC site have been considered and are set out as follows:

<p>| Ability to deliver an effective and efficient service according to the waste hierarchy | A second site will reduce the throughput at New Vale and research suggests that it is easier to |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ability to recover more value from residual waste and contribute to a more resource efficient Blaenau Gwent</th>
<th>achieve high performance at sites with a lower throughput. Within plans for a second site, reuse can explicitly be included; therefore ensuring more material is reused and recycled.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Impact on neighbouring businesses, residents and organisations (e.g. concerns regarding congestion and large vehicle movements)</td>
<td>There will be a positive impact on businesses and residents near New Vale due to the reduction in the number of vehicles, including large servicing vehicles associated with lower visitor numbers and throughput.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drive times or travel distances for householders</td>
<td>A second site will result in shorter travel distances and drive times for residents in the south of the county borough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliverability and timescales (to provide a high quality service)</td>
<td>A second site need not be over-engineered and therefore, subject to planning applications and consultation, could be built relatively quickly. This will enable BGCBC to provide a high quality service to residents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity to manage throughput now and in the future</td>
<td>Opening a second site will ensure BGCBC are planning for the future, by ensuring there is sufficient HWRC provision for managing waste growth associated with house building and economic growth. It should however be noted that no assessment has been made on anticipated distribution of housing growth throughout the borough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve and maintain public satisfaction</td>
<td>Reducing congestion and providing alternative disposal options should improve public satisfaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase public awareness of resource efficiency</td>
<td>Developing a new site is an excellent way to increase public awareness and focus attention on resource efficiency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to generate income (e.g. reuse)</td>
<td>BGCBC should consider the commercialisation of waste services and introducing reuse is an opportunity to generate both savings and income.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with a wider variety of local partners to recycle and reuse</td>
<td>Developing a new site could be undertaken with local partners (neighbouring authorities, parish councils, reuse organisations, higher education facilities or the private sector) in order to release wider social and economic benefits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>Having a new site in the Ebbw Fach Valley may reduce the level of fly tipping given that a HWRC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.13 For a new HWRC site to be developed there will be a requirement to progress through a two stage planning process. The first stage includes a Pre-application Consultation (PAC) report and the determination by the Planning department on whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is needed.

6.14 The second stage of the planning process includes the planning application and planning determination. The planning application will include the following:
   a) Completed planning application form
   b) Fee
   c) Site Location Plan with the application site outlined
   d) Existing and proposed plans: block plan, elevational plans of any structures, buildings etc., site sections
   e) Coal Mining Risk Assessment (CMRA) due to part of the site being in a defined High Risk area.
   f) Waste Assessment
   g) Planning Statement that clearly explains the proposal

6.15 There may also be the need for the following:
   a) Tree Survey
   b) Phase 1 Habitat Survey
   c) Traffic Management Plan
   d) Site investigation in relation to ground stability/contamination

6.16 If and when planning consent is awarded then Design Options for the new site will be explored with Technical Services to devolve the actual costs going forward.

6.17 There may also be further surveys/assessments/plans required while going through the application process.

**Preferred Option**

6.18 It is recommended that a policy decision is taken to progress with a two site strategy for Household Waste Recycling Centre provision within Blaenau Gwent (Option 2), subject to the following:
• A business case is developed and prepared for the redevelopment of the New Vale HWRC and a second facility in Ebbw Fach Valley at the south of the Roseheyworth Industrial Estate.

• The final business case which is presented for approval by the Executive Committee will contain the detailed design, waste flow modelling and financial implications for developing and operating both sites.

• The final business case will also provide a detailed programme plan for the implementation of the proposals at both sites.

7. Impact Assessment Against Proposals / Options

7.1 Thinking for the long term

The Authority has operated one HWRC for a number of years and it has become evident that the one site cannot manage the annual tonnage throughput as it is. The Authority therefore now needs to provide suitable HWRC facilities going forward which take into account the capacity to manage throughput now and in the future.

• Taking a preventative approach

Developing infrastructure that is capable of recycling 80% at the sites and delivering a two site strategy for HWRC provision in Blaenau Gwent will enable the Authority to prevent future issues of exceeded capacity, further public dissatisfaction and issues with congestion at the current facility.

• Collaborating

Blaenau Gwent is working in collaboration with Welsh Government and WRAP as part of the Collaborative Change Programme Board to develop this project.

7.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)
See Appendix 2

8. Conclusion

8.1 In conclusion the current HWRC provision within Blaenau Gwent is under significant pressure from a capacity and design perspective. It is therefore necessary for the Authority to take steps to improve and redevelop the current facility and consider the future provision to meet the needs of its residents, provide suitable sites that can
manage waste growth associated with housing development and economic growth and provide facilities that can enable the residents to recycle as much of its waste as possible.

8.2 The Authority must also ensure that it is best placed to meet the current and future Welsh Government Statutory Targets and the HWRC provision is a critical part of its ability to achieve them.
## Appendix 1

Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of the Well-being goals</th>
<th>How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?</th>
<th>Is there anyway to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **A prosperous Wales**
An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work. | Increase recycling at New Vale if a better layout/experience is created for residents, less travelling for residents from Abertillery/Blaina if a new site was developed. Projected 1% increase in overall recycling rate with new HWRC. | Providing residents with more suitable facilities for the future to achieve 70% recycling rate by 2025 |
| **A resilient Wales**
A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change). | Less likely flytipping around New Vale if layout/access is better for residents. Less chances of flytipping in Ebbw Fach Valley if a new site is developed. | Less visual impact on area around New Vale and new site. Less damage to environment/ecosystems in the area, especially if hazardous waste is illegally tipped. |
| **A healthier Wales**
A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood. |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                 |

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A more equal Wales</strong>&lt;br&gt;A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</td>
<td>New site and improvements can help provide a site that accommodates everyone’s needs</td>
<td>Improvements to New Vale and a new site will allow alterations to be made in order to accommodate everyone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Wales of cohesive communities</strong>&lt;br&gt;Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</td>
<td>Allows residents that have struggled to get to New HWRC for various reasons would be able to access a new site much closer to them.</td>
<td>Improvements to New Vale will help provide a safer facility for the HWRC and a new one will allivate the pressures at New Vale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</strong>&lt;br&gt;A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</td>
<td>All signs on both HWRCs provided in Welsh.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A globally responsible Wales</strong>&lt;br&gt;A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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