

Committee: **Places Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **13th December 2022**

Report Subject: **Waste Management and Recycling Strategy Review**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr H. Cunningham, Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member, Place and Environment**

Report Submitted by: **Matthew Stent, Service Manager, Neighbourhood Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance and Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
15.11.22	23.11.22	07.12.22			13.12.22	18.01.23		

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 To provide Members of the Places Scrutiny Committee with an update of the progress made to date and the three-year review of the Waste Management and Recycling Strategy 2018-25, and for Members to provide comments, suggestions and/or improvements.
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 The production of a Waste Management and Recycling Strategy has been undertaken to ensure the Council achieves the 70% recycling target set for 2024/2025. Blaenau Gwent has made great improvements in its recycling rate and recently released data from Welsh Government shows an achievement of 64.9% in 2021/22.
 - 2.2 The Waste Management and Recycling Strategy was adopted in 2019. As the strategy covers such a significant time period and as external factors such as changes in the financial markets, developments in technology and developments within Blaenau Gwent itself, it was agreed that it would be sensible to undertake a more significant review every three years.
3. **Options for Recommendation**
 - 3.1 Option 1: The Places Scrutiny Committee considers the progress made to date and the reviewed Waste Management and Recycling Strategy and recommends it to Cabinet for approval.
 - 3.2 Option 2: The Places Scrutiny Committee considers the progress made to date and the reviewed Waste Management and Recycling Strategy and provides specific comments, suggestions before recommending it to Cabinet for approval.
4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**
 - 4.1 The Waste Management and Recycling Strategy contributes to the key priority in the Corporate Plan 'Respond to the nature and climate crisis and enable connected communities.'

5. Implications Against Each Option

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

There are financial implications if the authority does not achieve the statutory recycling target of 70% in 2024/25 it could face financial penalties from Welsh Government of £200 per tonne for every tonne under the target. The following table details the approximate fines based on the current 2021/22 Municipal Waste Arisings of 30,866.41 tonnes:

Performance	Tonnes below target of 70%	Potential fine 2024/25
65%	1543.32	£308,664.10
66%	1234.66	£246,931.28
67%	925.99	£185,198.46
68%	617.33	£123,465.64
69%	308.66	£61,732.82

There are potential capital and revenue funding requirements associated with some of the actions as outlined in the activity plan and as such these will be evaluated prior to their implementation. It is the expectation that some actions will need to be delivered within agreed budgets and some actions may be subject to the award of relevant grant funding.

5.2 *Risk including Mitigating Actions*

There is a risk that if the authority does not achieve the statutory recycling target of 70% in 2024/25 it could face financial penalties from Welsh Government of £200 per tonne for every tonne under the target. This strategy sets out how Blaenau Gwent aims to meet challenging Welsh Government targets, to avoid possible fines, whilst delivering improved services within existing revenue budgets.

5.3 *Legal*

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.

5.4 *Human Resources*

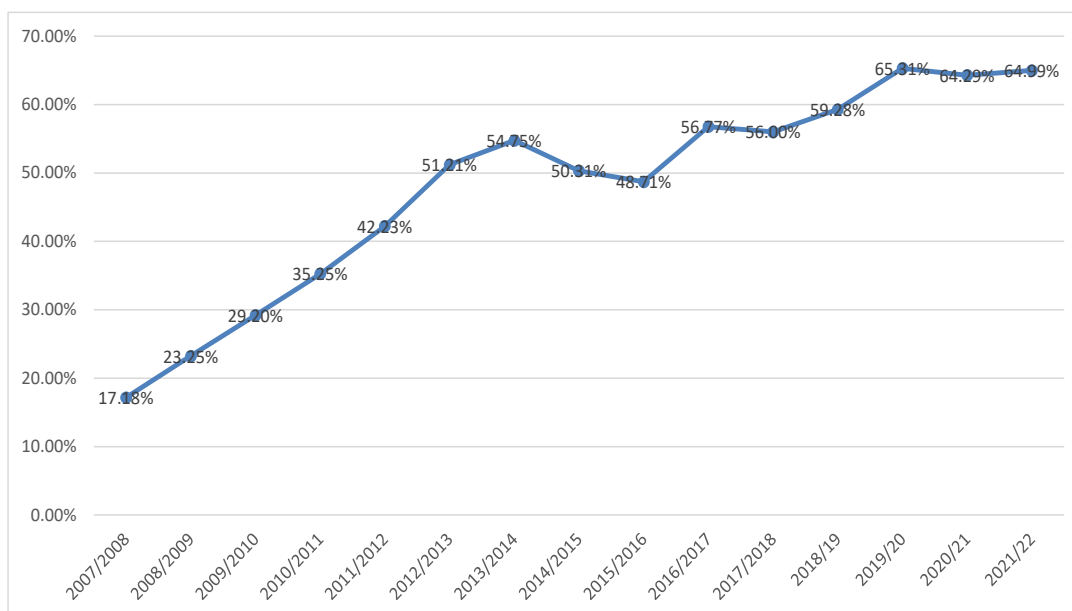
There are no human resource implications associated with the development of this strategy. However, there may be human resource implications associated with some of the actions as outlined in the activity plan and as such these will be evaluated prior to their implementation.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 *Performance Information and Data*

Annual performance is shown below. Performance has increased since the introduction of the Strategy in 2018/19 but has plateaued since then. This

review sets the direction of travel for the next three years as we work towards 70%.



Performance in relation to all Welsh Local Authorities 2021-22 (Stats Wales)

	LA	Total (%)
1	Pembrokeshire County Council	74.3%
2	Bridgend CBC	72.6%
3	Vale of Glamorgan Council	70.2%
4	Conwy CBC	70.2%
5	Ceredigion County Council	69.6%
6	Monmouthshire CC	69.5%
7	Wrexham CBC	67.9%
8	Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC	67.2%
9	Newport City Council	67.1%
10	Merthyr Tydfil CBC	66.8%
11	Powys County Council	66.8%
12	Neath Port Talbot CBC	66.0%
13	City and County of Swansea	65.1%
14	Blaenau Gwent CBC	64.9%
15	Denbighshire County Council	64.8%
16	Gwynedd Council	64.2%
17	Torfaen CBC	62.6%
18	Isle of Anglesey CC	62.3%
19	Carmarthenshire County Council	61.8%
20	Flintshire County Council	60.1%
21	Caerphilly CBC	59.7%
22	Cardiff County Council	58.2%

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

Through the strategy, service users and stakeholders will have a clear understanding of the Council's future plans to meet its aspirations and statutory requirements and how it will work together with residents, partners and neighbours to meet wider goals and agendas.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Blaenau Gwent will be part of a programme of public engagement and invest in communications and resources to support this Waste Strategy.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

This strategy reflects Blaenau Gwent's commitment to protect and sustain the environment and provide all Blaenau Gwent residents, local businesses and visitors with an efficient, smart and modern waste management and recycling service for now and into the future.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

Blaenau Gwent will explore opportunities to divert waste from disposal by increasing the levels of re-use, recycling and composting. Ensure that all households have either a regular collection service or a convenient alternative arrangement available to them.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

Blaenau Gwent will work together with its residents, contractors, community groups and the third sector to increase the range of materials able to be recycled, maximise recycling and value, and increase the opportunity for re-use.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The consolidation of the enforcement activities into one team in Community Services has changed the way we deliver our services in this area with a more joined up and coordinated response.

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

Two of the transition pathways identified within the Decarbonisation plan directly relate to waste:

- Transport direct – transition to ultra-low emission vehicles and the related infrastructure;
- Waste – working towards zero waste and a circular economy.

Ultra-low emission vehicles have been trialled with front line services and will be considered with the fleet replacement programme. However, the new Centre of Operations is integral to Blaenau Gwent achieving a low carbon fleet as we cannot transition to a low emission fleet without the appropriate infrastructure in place to support it. Significant funding will, however, be required in order to deliver the transition to ultra-low emission vehicles.

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment***

An EqIA has been undertaken on the Waste and Recycling Strategy and no negative impacts against the protected characteristics have been identified

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 **Annual Review** - Blaenau Gwent Waste Team regularly review the outputs of the strategy and action plan. Officers and members monitor costs and also progress against waste and recycling targets. Officers will work within Blaenau Gwent's scrutiny process to ensure that members are aware and have the opportunity to examine progress against the Strategy.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 – Waste Management and Recycling Strategy for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council 2018 -25, Interim Review