

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**
 Date of meeting: **11th November 2019**
 Report Subject: **Waste Management and Recycling Strategy 2018-25**
 Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. G. Collier, Deputy Leader / Executive Member, Environment**
 Report Submitted by: **Matthew Perry, Service Manager, Neighbourhood 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)
x	x				11.11.19	13.11.19		

1. Purpose of the Report

To provide Members of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee with a copy of the draft Waste Management and Recycling Strategy and for Members to provide comments, suggestions and/or improvements prior to the adoption of the Strategy.

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. Whilst the Council has been successful in achieving the 58% target in 2018/2019, it now must meet the ambitious target of 64% for 2019/2020. Blaenau Gwent has made great improvements in its recycling rate and when compared with both English and Welsh Local Authorities for 2018/19, Blaenau Gwent currently lies 32nd out of 114 authorities.
- 2.2 Blaenau Gwent Officers have worked in collaboration with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to produce the draft Strategy.
- 2.3 WRAP is a not for profit organisation who, within Wales, work with both Welsh Government and Local Authorities. Their services include assisting in a number of ways by providing subject experts in matters related to recycling and waste services, assistance in operational matters such as route optimisation or infrastructure development and the production of waste strategies.
- 2.4 The focus of the Strategy Brief to WRAP was that the Strategy would be for the long term, outline realistic and sustainable actions to meet future targets and support existing Council priorities as outlined in the Well Being Plan and the Corporate Plan. WRAP has responded to this brief, and there has been continuous interaction between WRAP and Council Officers to produce the draft Strategy.

2.5 The draft Strategy has been prepared for the period 2018-2025 and is presented as Appendix 1. The structure of the Strategy is in two parts. The Strategy itself provides the vision, context, objectives and methods of delivery and an Action Plan populated with actions and timeline which reflect the objectives and delivery requirements. The Strategy is not envisaged to change significantly over the seven year life of the Plan as its timeframe reflects that of Welsh Government current target focus. The Action Plan however will be reviewed and updated as actions are completed, and/or new opportunities arise.

2.6 This strategy sets out a long-term vision for waste management and recycling services, and goes beyond simply meeting Welsh Government targets, and identifies a single integrated strategy which sets out how Blaenau Gwent will:

- Achieve its' vision;
- What infrastructure is required to do this;
- How it will work together with others;
- How it plans to firstly engage with residents and where appropriate take fair and equitable enforcement action; and
- Place the Well Being and Future Generations goals and ways of working at the heart of all that it does.

2.7 Blaenau Gwent's vision for its waste and recycling service is

'Working together to build strong and environmentally smart communities.'

2.8 Five key objectives, aligned to the Corporate Plan, have been identified to ensure the Council continues to improve services for all stakeholders.

Objective 1 – Working Together - 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.

Objective 2 – Engagement First - Blaenau Gwent will be part of a programme of public engagement and invest in communications and resources to support this Waste Strategy.

Objective 3 – Ambitious Targets to Maximise Recycling - 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.

Objective 4 – Strong Community - Blaenau Gwent will continually review its services and seek new ways to work with residents and communities to ensure best practice is implemented and services are retained locally where possible.

Objective 5 – Fair and Equitable Enforcement - Blaenau Gwent will implement a programme of Enforcement that is both fair and consistent to enable those residents who are not participating in the recycling schemes to participate.

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 Option 1: The Community Services Scrutiny Committee considers the draft Waste Management and Recycling Strategy and recommends it to Executive Committee for approval.

3.2 Option 2: The Community Services Scrutiny Committee considers the draft Waste Management and Recycling Strategy and provides specific comments, suggestions before recommending it to Executive Committee for approval.

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

4.1 The Waste Management and Recycling Strategy supports the following Well-Being objectives:

- Blaenau Gwent wants to look after and protect its natural environment; and
- Creating a vibrant area that lives in harmony with its natural environments, using resources in a fair and sustainable way.

4.2 The Waste Management and Recycling Strategy contribute to the key priority in the Corporate Plan of Strong and Environmentally Smart Communities. The five core values as set out in the Corporate Plan:

- Proud and Ambitious
- Trust and Integrity
- Working Together
- Raising Aspirations
- Fair and Equitable

run through the Waste Strategy to ensure that the service is provided for everyone, that residents are listened to through engagement and work together and are effective through focusing on continuous improvement.

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)

There are potential capital and revenue funding requirements associated with this strategy in development and implementation.

Capital Options

- a) Internal bids into the Council's capital programme;
- b) Continue to bid each year into Welsh Government's Capital programme; and/or
- c) Potential to seek to use revenue savings to prudential borrow for capital money.

Revenue Options

- a) Reduce other frontline services to compensate for additional revenue demands on waste services;
- b) Explore more efficient route optimisation to save on fleet.

5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**

The risk of not taking forward a Waste Management and Recycling Strategy is that Blaenau Gwent will not have a clear plan to support improvement which shows how the Council will work towards achieving current and future statutory waste performance targets.

5.3 **Legal**

Any waste strategy must be aligned with current European and Welsh Government policies and numerous legislative acts relating to sustainable development, improved environment outcomes and addressing climate change. These include, but are not limited to the, following:

- EU Waste Framework Directive;
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011;
- Towards Zero Waste;
- Waste (Wales) Measure 2010;
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016;
- EU Renewable Energy Directive;
- EU Energy Efficiency Directive;
- EU 2030 Climate Framework; and
- Climate Change Strategy for Wales.

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**

Headline targets for Municipal Waste from Welsh Government – Towards Zero Waste

Target Year	2010/11	12/13	15/16	19/20	24/25
Min. levels of reuse & recycling/composting (or AD)	40%	52%	58%	64%	70%
Min. proportion of reuse /recycling /composting from source separation *	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
Max. level of landfill	-	-	-	10%	5%
Max. level of energy from waste	-	-	42%	36%	30%
Min. levels of preparing for reuse (excluding Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE))	-	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	1.0%

*kerbside, bring and/or civic amenity (CA) site

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)**

6.8 **EqlA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)**

An EqlA 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 will regularly review the outputs of the strategy and action plan. Officers and members will 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 this action plan.

As the strategy covers such a significant time period it is also likely that other external factors such as changes in the financial markets, developments in technology and developments within Blaenau Gwent itself, mean that it is sensible to undertake a more significant review every three years, or before a significant policy decision point.

Post Service Change Review and Monitoring and Measurement

To understand the impact of any change of service key metrics should be captured to reflect the baseline position and also the position post service change. This information will be captured and analysed by the waste and recycling team and reported to the Executive Member for Environment. The recommended monitoring data to be captured can be found in the Waste Strategy.

In addition, Blaenau Gwent will carry out a Service Quality Survey, every two years, to ask stakeholders if it has delivered what it said it would.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 – Waste Management and Recycling Strategy for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council