*Executive Committee and Council only*
Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A
Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **21ˢᵗ September 2020**

Report Subject: **Waste and Recycling Performance 2019-20**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr. J. Wilkins, Executive Member Environment**

Report Submitted by: **Matthew Stent, Team 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)** |
| 26/08/20 | 27/08/20 | 07.09.20 | | | 21/09/20 | 14.10.20 | | |

1. **Purpose of the Report**
   To provide the Members of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee with an update of waste and recycling performance outcomes for 2019-20.

2. **Scope and Background**
2.1 The report summarises the waste and recycling performance data for 2019-20 **[APPENDIX 1]**. In 2018/19 we exceeded the WG statutory recycling target of 58% for the first time ever [achieving 59.26%], this year, we have built on that success and exceeded the new [higher] target of 64%, attaining 65.31%. This has been achieved through the hard work and dedication of the Waste Team [officers, wardens and the frontline staff], in partnership with WRAP and with support from the Communications Team, Performance Team, Senior Management, The Elected Leadership and most importantly, the residents of Blaenau Gwent. This year on year success has seen us move from 22nd in 2017/18 to 11th in 2019/20 when compared to all other Welsh Local Authority's, this is as a direct result of the significant improvement we have accomplished in the collection of dry recycling materials at the kerbside.

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 **[Preferred option].**

3.2 Option 2 to consider the information contained within the report and provide challenge and/or further action for consideration to make improvements.

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

**Corporate Plan 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.

**Blaenau Gwent 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 Against Each option**
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, 64% for 2019-20, rising to 70% in 2024-25.

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. It should be noted that any savings achieved against black bag disposal have been utilised to pay for the additional resources required to continue with the side waste enforcement at kerbside, the black bag sorting at the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) and the introduction of the "Keeping up with the Jones's" behaviour change campaign.

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 2018/19 data, 2019/20 data shows significant improvement with an increase of 6.03 percentage points. The total municipal waste figure has increased by 1199.79 tonnes, this increase is due to an increase in reuse, recycling and composting tonnages and a reduction of residual tonnage.

## Recycling Targets

Overall there has been an increase in Blaenau Gwent's recycling rate in 2019/20 and more noticeably since the introduction of side waste enforcement and black bag sorting at the HWRC.

|  | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|---|---|---|
| Quarter 1 | 56.58% | 62.24% |
| Quarter 2 | 62.78% | 64.95% |
| Quarter 3 | 58.89% | 69.69% |
| Quarter 4 | 59.22% | 63.66% |
| **Annual** | **59.26%** | **65.31%** |

## Residual Waste

There has been a significant decrease in residual waste collected at the kerbside and the HWRC in 2019/20.

### Kerbside

|  | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|---|---|---|
| Quarter 1 | 2953.002 | 2436.66 |
| Quarter 2 | 2431.310 | 2449.503 |
| Quarter 3 | 2653.383 | 2424.583 |
| Quarter 4 | 2714.096 | 2488.803 |
| **Annual** | **10751.791** | **9799.549** |

In comparison there has been a reduction of 952.242 tonnes (8.86%) of residual waste collected at the kerbside in 2019/20.

### HWRC (New Vale)

|  | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|---|---|---|
| Quarter 1 | 642.771 | 215.013 |
| Quarter 2 | 149.621 | 211.025 |
| Quarter 3 | 129.424 | 180.445 |
| Quarter 4 | 149.475 | 176.708 |
| **Annual** | **1071.291** | **783.191** |

In comparison there has been a reduction of 288.10 tonnes (26.89%) of residual waste from New Vale HWRC in 2019/20.

## Composting Recycling

There has been an increase in food and garden waste collected at the kerbside in 2019/20.

## Food

|  | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|---|---|---|
| Quarter 1 | 630.78 | 747.14 |
| Quarter 2 | 691.66 | 737.82 |
| Quarter 3 | 752.01 | 846.95 |
| Quarter 4 | 783.98 | 893.54 |
| **Annual** | **2858.43** | **3225.45** |

In comparison there has been an increase of 367.02 tonnes (12.84%) of food waste collected in 2019/20.

## Garden Waste

|  | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|---|---|---|
| Quarter 1 | 621.661 | 593.163 |
| Quarter 2 | 523.48 | 756.564 |
| Quarter 3 | 293.58 | 241.02 |
| Quarter 4 | 109.921 | 128.40 |
| **Annual** | **1548.642** | **1719.147** |

In comparison there has been an increase of 170.505 tonnes (11.01%) of garden waste collected in 2019/20.

## 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 2019/20.

## Kerbside

|  | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|---|---|---|
| Quarter 1 | 1053.61 | 1184.04 |
| Quarter 2 | 1252.02 | 1246.63 |
| Quarter 3 | 1173.70 | 1089.918 |
| Quarter 4 | 1475.10 | 1569.82 |
| **Annual** | **4954.43** | **5090.408** |

In comparison there has been an increase of 135.978 tonnes (2.74%) of dry recycling collected at the kerbside in 2019/20.

## Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP)

|  | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|---|---|---|
| Quarter 1 | 91.90 | 129.32 |
| Quarter 2 | 113.28 | 146.84 |
| Quarter 3 | 125.40 | 137.68 |
| Quarter 4 | 125.26 | 139.40 |
| **Annual** | **455.84** | **553.24** |

In comparison there has been an increase of 97.4 tonnes (21.37%) of absorbent hygiene products (AHP) collected at the kerbside in 2019/20.

## HWRC (Recycling)

|  | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|---|---|---|
| Quarter 1 | 1217.727 | 1167.869 |
| Quarter 2 | 1035.93 | 1270.199 |
| Quarter 3 | 754.212 | 2406.361 |
| Quarter 4 | 861.889 | 816.639 |
| **Annual** | **3869.76** | **5661.068** |

In comparison there has been an increase of 1791.31 tonnes (46.29%) of dry recycling from the HWRC.

## HWRC (Reuse)

|  | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|---|---|---|
| Quarter 1 | 16.110 | 26.628 |
| Quarter 2 | 17.230 | 28.553 |
| Quarter 3 | 26.952 | 21.901 |
| Quarter 4 | 22.274 | 20.532 |
| **Annual** | **82.566** | **97.614** |

In comparison there has been an increase of 15.048 tonnes (18.23%) of reuse from the HWRC.

# Welsh Local Authority Comparison

## 2018/19 Overall

| Rank | Local Authority | % |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Isle of Anglesey CC | 69.86% |
| 2 | Bridgend CBC | 69.39% |
| 3 | Flintshire County Council | 68.73% |
| 4 | Vale of Glamorgan | 67.09% |
| 5 | Wrexham CBC | 65.73% |
| 6 | Caerphilly CBC | 65.08% |
| 7 | Conwy CBC | 64.92% |
| 8 | Denbighshire CC | 64.28% |
| 9 | Monmouthshire CC | 63.37% |
| 10 | City & County of Swansea | 62.88% |
| 11 | Gwynedd Council | 62.31% |
| 12 | Pembrokeshire CC | 61.96% |
| 13 | Merthyr Tydfil CBC | 61.59% |
| 14 | Powys County Council | 61.45% |
| 15 | Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC | 61.00% |
| 16 | Neath Port Talbot CBC | 60.81% |
| 17 | Torfaen CBC | 60.53% |
| 18 | Ceredigion CC | 60.34% |
| 19 | Blaenau Gwent CBC | 59.28% |
| 20 | Cardiff County Council | 59.19% |
| 21 | Newport City Council | 58.95% |
| 22 | Carmarthenshire CC | 58.95% |

## 2019/20 Overall

| Rank | Local Authority | % |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pembrokeshire | 71.65% |
| 2 | Ceredigion | 71.57% |
| 3 | Vale of Glamorgan | 70.35% |
| 4 | Wrexham | 69.62% |
| 5 | Conwy | 69.32% |
| 6 | Isle of Anglesey | 68.00% |
| 7 | Bridgend | 67.58% |
| 8 | Newport | 66.36% |
| 9 | Flintshire | 65.58% |
| 10 | Monmouthshire | 65.57% |
| 11 | Blaenau Gwent CBC | 65.31% |
| 12 | Merthyr Tydfil | 64.99% |
| 13 | Swansea | 64.97% |
| 14 | Rhondda Cynon Taff | 64.78% |
| 15 | Denbighshire | 64.76% |
| 16 | Gwynedd | 64.74% |
| 17 | Carmarthenshire | 64.66% |
| 18 | Torfaen | 64.40% |
| 19 | Powys | 63.05% |
| 20 | Caerphilly | 62.51% |
| 21 | Neath Port Talbot | 61.74% |
| 22 | Cardiff | 58.14% |

## 2018/19 Dry Recycling Only

| Rank | Local Authority | % |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Caerphilly CBC | 49.93% |
| 2 | Bridgend CBC | 45.96% |
| 3 | Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC | 45.01% |
| 4 | Neath Port Talbot CBC | 44.86% |
| 5 | Blaenau Gwent CBC | 43.78% |
| 6 | Merthyr Tydfil CBC | 43.47% |
| 7 | Vale of Glamorgan | 42.79% |
| 8 | Isle of Anglesey CC | 42.07% |
| 9 | Torfaen CBC | 42.07% |
| 10 | Gwynedd Council | 41.84% |
| 11 | Carmarthenshire CC | 41.61% |
| 12 | Newport City Council | 41.29% |
| 13 | City & County of Swansea | 41.28% |
| 14 | Monmouthshire CC | 40.06% |
| 15 | Ceredigion CC | 40.05% |
| 16 | Pembrokeshire CC | 40.03% |
| 17 | Denbighshire CCC | 39.57% |
| 18 | Cardiff County Council | 38.96% |
| 19 | Flintshire County Council | 36.64% |
| 20 | Conwy CBC | 36.62% |
| 21 | Powys County Council | 34.42% |
| 22 | Wrexham CBC | 31.63% |

## 2019/20 Dry Recycling Only

| Rank | Local Authority | % |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ceredigion | 50.72% |
| 2 | Caerphilly | 49.75% |
| 3 | Blaenau Gwent | 49.42% |
| 4 | Rhondda Cynon Taff | 49.30% |
| 5 | Wrexham | 49.06% |
| 6 | Merthyr Tydfil | 47.97% |
| 7 | Newport | 46.47% |
| 8 | Pembrokeshire | 45.74% |
| 9 | Bridgend | 45.05% |
| 10 | Torfaen | 44.82% |
| 11 | Neath Port Talbot | 44.27% |
| 12 | Vale of Glamorgan | 44.13% |
| 13 | Carmarthenshire | 44.13% |
| 14 | Gwynedd | 43.93% |
| 15 | Flintshire | 42.37% |
| 16 | Swansea | 42.11% |
| 17 | Conwy | 41.75% |
| 18 | Monmouthshire | 40.43% |
| 19 | Denbighshire | 40.37% |
| 20 | Isle of Anglesey | 39.55% |
| 21 | Powys | 38.66% |
| 22 | Cardiff | 37.55% |

**2018/19 Composting Only**  **2019/20 Composting Only**

| Rank | Local Authority | % | Rank | Local Authority | % |
|------|-----------------|-----|------|-----------------|-----|
| 1 | Isle of Anglesey CC | 27.78% | 1 | Isle of Anglesey | 28.43% |
| 2 | Conwy CBC | 27.73% | 2 | Conwy | 26.77% |
| 3 | Powys County Council | 24.49% | 3 | Vale of Glamorgan | 25.44% |
| 4 | Vale of Glamorgan | 23.83% | 4 | Pembrokeshire | 25.13% |
| 5 | Denbighshire CC | 23.79% | 5 | Monmouthshire | 24.74% |
| 6 | Monmouthshire CC | 22.98% | 6 | Denbighshire | 23.45% |
| 7 | City & County of Swansea | 21.31% | 7 | Swansea | 22.63% |
| 8 | Pembrokeshire CC | 21.26% | 8 | Flintshire | 22.03% |
| 9 | Bridgend CBC | 20.87% | 9 | Powys | 21.51% |
| 10 | Gwynedd Council | 20.33% | 10 | Bridgend | 21.02% |
| 11 | Cardiff County Council | 20.00% | 11 | Ceredigion | 20.84% |
| 12 | Wrexham CBC | 17.99% | 12 | Gwynedd | 20.66% |
| 13 | Flintshire County Council | 17.76% | 13 | Cardiff | 20.24% |
| 14 | Torfaen CBC | 17.45% | 14 | Carmarthenshire | 20.12% |
| 15 | Merthyr Tydfil CBC | 17.11% | 15 | Wrexham | 19.89% |
| 16 | Carmarthenshire C | 16.99% | 16 | Newport | 18.74% |
| 17 | Newport City Council | 16.70% | 17 | Torfaen | 18.41% |
| 18 | Neath Port Talbot CBC | 15.71% | 18 | Neath Port Talbot | 17.22% |
| 19 | Ceredigion CC | 15.70% | 19 | Merthyr Tydfil | 16.09% |
| 20 | Blaenau Gwent CBC | 15.17% | 20 | Blaenau Gwent | 15.55% |
| 21 | Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC | 15.01% | 21 | Rhondda Cynon Taff | 14.24% |
| 22 | Caerphilly CBC | 14.89% | 22 | Caerphilly | 12.56% |

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 for all Welsh local authorities is set at 64% for the next 4 years. **The efforts of the residents of Blaenau Gwent have been instrumental in our improved recycling performance**, 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)*
In line with the Councils agreed Waste Management and Recycling Strategy 2018-2025, we will continue to seek to identify actions needed to ensure that not only are fines avoided but crucially that service users and stakeholders have a clear understanding of the aims of the service, the actual services to be provided by the Council, the education and engagement activities it can undertake to promote these, 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.

6.5 **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 and behaviour change campaigns.

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

6.8 **EqIA***(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**
   - *Waste & recycling Performance Annual Report 2019/20 [Appendix 1]*