

Committee: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: **21<sup>st</sup> 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.

	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Quarter 1	56.58%	62.24%
Quarter 2	62.78%	64.95%
Quarter 3	58.89%	69.69%
Quarter 4	59.22%	63.66%
<b>Annual</b>	<b>59.26%</b>	<b>65.31%</b>

### **Residual Waste**

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

#### **Kerbside**

	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Quarter 1	2953.002	2436.66
Quarter 2	2431.310	2449.503
Quarter 3	2653.383	2424.583
Quarter 4	2714.096	2488.803
<b>Annual</b>	<b>10751.791</b>	<b>9799.549</b>

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)**

	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Quarter 1	642.771	215.013
Quarter 2	149.621	211.025
Quarter 3	129.424	180.445
Quarter 4	149.475	176.708
<b>Annual</b>	<b>1071.291</b>	<b>783.191</b>

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
<b>Annual</b>	<b>2858.43</b>	<b>3225.45</b>

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
<b>Annual</b>	<b>1548.642</b>	<b>1719.147</b>

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
<b>Annual</b>	<b>4954.43</b>	<b>5090.408</b>

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
<b>Annual</b>	<b>455.84</b>	<b>553.24</b>

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
<b>Annual</b>	<b>3869.76</b>	<b>5661.068</b>

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
<b>Annual</b>	<b>82.566</b>	<b>97.614</b>

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	<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC</b>	<b>59.28%</b>
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	<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC</b>	<b>65.31%</b>
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	<b>Blaenau Gwent CBC</b>	<b>43.78%</b>
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	<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	<b>49.42%</b>
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 **EgIA** (*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]*