

## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
<b>Report Subject</b>	Changes to the Waste Collection Rounds and the New Operating Arrangements at the Council's Household Recycling Centres
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene And Transportation)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2011 Flintshire introduced its Managed Weekly Collection service (MWC) which changed waste collections in the County from a weekly, black sack and back door service to weekly recycling and food collections with fortnightly collections of non-recyclable waste alternating with garden waste - with all of the various waste streams being collected at the kerbside.

This change significantly improved the Council's recycling performance and the Council have since met all of the statutory targets set by Welsh Government (WG), with the next significant targets being 64% in 2019/20 and 70% in 2025. The Council continues to perform well and the performance for 2016/17 was 67%, which is already ahead of the scheduled 2019/20 target but without further operational and policy changes, it is likely that the performance will now level off.

This reports provides an update on the previously approved changes to the waste collection rounds, which will help improve recycling levels and provides an update on the Councils Household Recycling Centres (HRC) redevelopment programme, which will also contribute significantly to future recycling levels. The report also seeks approval for the updated Household Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Operations policy, which has been amended to reflect the above changes.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	That Cabinet approves the changes to the Council's Household Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Operations policy. <b>(Appendix1).</b>
2.	That Cabinet approve the changes to the waste and recycling rounds, due to be implemented in September 2017.

## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE CHANGES TO THE POLICY</b>
1.01	In 2010, Welsh Government (WG) published its policy for dealing with municipal waste in Wales 'Towards Zero Waste' (TZW). This policy set out statutory recycling targets for all Councils in Wales to meet.
1.02	In June 2010, the Council adopted its own Municipal Waste Strategy. The strategy contained a number of key actions which were required to meet the challenging targets set out in TZW.
1.03	In 2011, WG published its Municipal Sector Plan which was a partnering document to TZW which provided guidance to Welsh Councils in the form of a blueprint describing WG's recommended service delivery for Councils to follow.
1.04	WG are currently reviewing their national policies with a view to revising future targets with further incremental targets increasing up to 100% by 2050.
1.05	In 2011 the Council's Executive formally approved the Household Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Operations policy which supported the introduction of its MWC service to help deliver higher recycling performance to achieve WG's statutory recycling targets. Further revisions of the policy were approved by the Council's Cabinet in December 2013 and again in April 2015 when 7 day collections were introduced.
1.06	In 2016, a WG funded review of the Councils waste and recycling collections service and HRC provision was carried out using the Blueprint set out in the 2011 Municipal Sector Plan. The outcomes of the review, in respect of the Councils waste and recycling collections, are set out further in this report.
1.07	In relation to HRC sites, the review recommended a three site strategy in the County as the optimum solution however this was deemed unacceptable and the Cabinet requested officers to explore a more localised solution for the service.
1.08	As a result a report was approved by Cabinet in October 2016 outlining the redevelopment of two of our existing sites (Buckley and Mold) and the development of a new site in Oakenholt to replace the out dated sites in Connahs Quay and Flint. This would then deliver a network of five modern user friendly HRC sites across the Authority.
1.09	A capital bid of £1.7 million, submitted by Flintshire County Council, was approved by WG from their Capital Change Programme fund. The funding has been used for the redevelopment of Mold and Buckley and a further £0.6 million capital funding has been provided by the Council to complete the redevelopment programme.

1.10	<p>Since the reports in October 2016, the sites at Buckley and Mold have been redeveloped into new modern and more user friendly facilities. Work began shortly after Christmas and the sites were opened to the public in time for Easter 2017 and both have been well received by the communities they now serve.</p>
1.11	<p>The next and final phase of the redevelopment programme will be the construction of a new facility in Oakenholt which will serve the towns of Connaught Quay and Flint and replace the existing sites in these two towns. The design work for the new facility has been completed and planning permission was granted for the scheme, by the Council in March this year.</p>
1.12	<p>The Oakenholt site is to be built on privately owned land and discussions with the landowner regarding a long term lease are reaching a conclusion with an agreement in principle already established. It is expected that the lease will be signed in the coming weeks and that works will shortly start on site, with an opening date for the new facility of September this year.</p>
1.13	<p>A further Cabinet report in February 2017 further explained that within the Portfolio Business Planning proposals for 2016/17 and 2017/18, revenue savings had been identified from the proposed rationalisation of HRC sites and that these savings would now need to be met through a new operating model and a need to meet a 90% recycling target across all HRC sites.</p>
1.14	<p>Although the 5 site strategy will deliver large modern facilities with a wider range of recycling skips on offer to the public, in order to meet our target of 90% recycling and achieve the revised budget, the following operational changes are proposed in the management and operation of the sites.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retention of the Resident Van Permit Scheme</li> <li>2. Introduction of new opening times.</li> <li>3. A review the management arrangements for the sites.</li> </ol>
1.15	<p><b><u>1. Resident Van Permit Scheme</u></b></p> <p>A van permit scheme has operated in Flintshire since 2005, which has been successful in reducing the amount of commercial waste that is deposited at the HRC sites. The current scheme restricts vans and twin axled trailers to 12 visits per annum and limits these visits to only 2 of the HRC sites at Greenfield and Mold. There are currently 530 van owning residents who use the scheme.</p>
1.16	<p>The arrangement will continue to operate and permit holders will still be required to satisfy the following criteria in order to gain a permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vehicle must be registered to the resident, not a business or other organisation.</li> <li>• The vehicle must be registered to an address in Flintshire.</li> <li>• The vehicle must not be sign-written or display advertising.</li> <li>• The vehicle must only be used to dispose of waste from the permit holders own household.</li> </ul> <p>Permit holders proven to be tipping trade waste will have their permit</p>

	revoked.
1.17	Following completion of the redevelopment work at all of the Councils HRC facilities, van permit holders will be able to use all sites instead of just Greenfield and Mold, thus reducing travel times for permit holders.
1.18	<p><b><u>2. HRC Opening times</u></b></p> <p>It is evident from the previous footfall surveys and waste tonnages received at the sites, when the majority of residents choose to visit the HRC's. It is therefore proposed opening hours of the sites will be brought in line to match the hours when the sites are most used, this being to 9am to 5pm (Winter) and 10am to 6pm (Summer)</p>
1.19	<p><b><u>3. HRC Management</u></b></p> <p>The Council's target for recycling at all sites is 90%. Whilst our sites are now both modern and more user friendly offering a greater range of recycling skips, this target will only be achieved through continual regular engagement with the residents who use the sites to encourage them to present their waste as recycling or reuse.</p>
1.20	Cabinet approved In April 2015 to contract the operations and management of the HRC sites via a performance based contract, which will guarantee the recycling levels and change the branding of the sites from a traditional 'skip site' to emphasise the wide ranging benefits of recycling. To deliver this change of emphasis, the proposal is to seek to engage a Business Partner with links to a social enterprise or charitable organisation on an incentivised contract, to manage and operate the sites in future.
1.21	The new contract will operate for a period of 5 years, with a possible extension of a further 2 years, subject to the satisfactory performance of the Business Partner. TUPE may apply and if appropriate, staff will transfer to the new Business Partner.
1.22	<p><b><u>Waste and recycling round changes</u></b></p> <p>The report presented to Cabinet in October 2016 outlined proposals to carry out a round review and obtained approval to purchase new modern recycling vehicles that would allow a wider range of recycling materials to be collected at kerbside. The report set out a deadline of September 2017 for the introduction of the new service.</p>
1.23	Since the report was presented, officers and workforce operatives within the waste service have been working to the September 2017 deadline when new waste rounds will begin across the Authority.
1.24	New rounds have been designed that accommodate the predicted housing growth in the County over the next 5 years. The round design and route-optimisation has inevitably led to changed collection days for some residents, but the numbers are relatively low with only 500 having a change of collection day and a further 5,000 properties where the collection week will change.

1.25	New Recycling Recovery Vehicles (RRV's) have been procured with delivery expected in August. These vehicles are lightweight and more fuel efficient and have multiple compartments which will allow us to now collect a wider range of materials. The workforce have been involved in the design of these new vehicles and also the livery which will be used on the vehicles themselves.
1.26	The wider range of materials will be collected from kerbside from September and will include : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixed plastic and waxed cartons*</li> <li>• Tin cans</li> <li>• Paper and cardboard</li> <li>• Glass bottles and Jars</li> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Household batteries</li> </ul> <p>*Mixed plastic now includes plastic bottles, food trays, yogurt pots and margarine tubs</p>
1.27	As the Council will now be offering a collection service for a wider range of recycling materials all of which would have been previously placed in the black wheel bins, the Council intends to continue to take a robust line with those residents who continue to present side waste with their wheeled bin.
1.28	The majority of households in Flintshire use the recycling services offered to them but there is still a small minority who do not and these properties inevitably generate additional bags of waste which are left out on collection day and often become a target for animals or are blown about in the wind resulting in the waste spilling out onto the streets.
1.29	Although we will continue to collect any side waste presented, those residents who choose to ignore the recycling services offered and repeatedly present side waste could be subject to enforcement action in the form of a fixed penalty notices under powers within the Environmental Protection Act. This will require evidence to be gained from within the side waste, indicating the source of the waste e.g. addressed envelope etc. This approach sends out a more consistent and fair message to the majority of residents who do recycle their waste each week.
1.30	A Communications Plan has been produced for the project and a County wide communication campaign to inform residents of the changes to the service will be undertaken before the new rounds are launched which will highlight both the additional materials that will be collected and the date the new collection service will commence.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	Engaging a Business Partner will result in the possible TUPE transfer of the staff that currently operate on the HRC sites. The staff will be entitled to apply for existing vacancies within the service if they wish to remain with the Council.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	A Members workshop was held in October 2016 seeking views on the proposed changes to waste services and the outcome has been built into the proposals detailed in the report.
3.02	The Workforce and Trade Unions have been consulted on the proposed changes to the waste and recycling rounds, a workforce group has been set up to help deliver the changes.
3.03	Further consultation is required on the engagement of the Business Partner and the subsequent staff transfers.
3.04	Environment Overview and Scrutiny considered the changes at their meeting in June 2017 and recommended Cabinet approve both the changes to the collection service and the operating arrangements at HRC sites.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	A project team is in place to monitor and oversee the changes to ensure the project stays on target.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – <b>Revised</b> Household Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Operations Policy 2017.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Stephen O Jones <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704700 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk">stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	WG – Welsh Government TZW – Towards Zero Waste MWC – Managed Weekly Collections HRC - Household Recycling Centres RRV – Recycling Recovery Vehicle