

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 5 th July, 2022
Report Subject	Recycling Bring Sites
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Regional Transport Strategy
Report Author	Chief Officer, Streetscene & Transportation
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A recycling bring site is a localised collection point where recycling containers (banks/igloos) are placed in places such as car parks and on streets so that residents have convenient access to facilities for the disposal of recyclable materials. Such facilities have been in place for many years and, at one time, they were the only option for residents to recycle in addition to the household recycling centres (HRCs).

The introduction of the kerbside sorting service has made recycling much more convenient for residents and is available to all households in Flintshire. Having banks at the bring sites for recyclable materials such as glass is now unnecessary, as an alternative kerbside collection service is available, in addition to the HRCs.

With the provision of weekly kerbside collections for recycling glass and the availability of textile banks at all five HRCs, there is an opportunity to review the provision of the bring sites in Flintshire and consider their ongoing suitability.

The purpose of this report is to present proposals to the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the removal of the recycling bring sites across the county.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Scrutiny Committee notes the issues and challenges around the continued provision of the recycling bring sites and increasing costs for such a provision.
2	That the Scrutiny Committee supports the proposed removal of the recycling bring sites across the county.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	Explaining the Background to the Recycling Bring Sites
1.01	<p>The recycling bring sites are the igloos and containers located on pub and local car parks for textiles and glass collections. Historically, the use of bring banks pre-dated kerbside collections and were an essential part of the Council's waste strategy to increase recycling at that time.</p> <p>Currently, there are 26 bring bank sites in place across the county for the collection of textiles and glass recycling only (see Appendix 1 for locations). The banks that are in place are predominantly located in pub car parks, supermarket car parks and local car parks. Many local authorities experience problems at their bring sites including fly-tipping, vandalism, illegal deposit of trade waste and the presence of unauthorised or 'rogue' banks.</p>
1.02	<p>Flintshire is not unique in this respect and the locations of the bring sites can cause issues with some people exploiting the opportunity to illegally dispose of waste. The sites often become a central point for localised fly tipping, with people leaving non-recyclable waste alongside the containers, which then incurs additional costs for collection and clean-up, as well as increased complaints. Removal of the bring bank sites could help to reduce fly-tipping and littering, encourage take-up of the kerbside recycling service and save money.</p> <p>Additionally, sometimes the sites can be misused by businesses, which can be identified by the large quantities of the same brand/batch of materials deposited in the containers, such as glass bottles from a particular brewery. Bring sites are for household recycling only. Any business should have its own commercial arrangements in place for the removal of any waste or recycling. Other issues experienced with the bring sites include people placing the wrong materials in the containers, which leads to contaminated loads that can be rejected, meaning that it can't then be sent for recycling.</p>
1.03	<p>Over the years, kerbside recycling collections have developed and we now offer a comprehensive doorstep weekly recycling collection service to the majority of Flintshire residents. The HRCs have also undergone significant investment and development, which has enabled the collection of over 30 different recyclable materials. As a result of these improvements, the use of bring sites by residents has declined steadily over the years.</p>
1.04	<p>The quality of the recycling collected via bring sites is much lower than that collected at the kerbside and at the HRCs. This is due to the fact that there is no supervision when recycling is being deposited into the containers. This results in the cost of the collection of glass increasing year on year, as non-conforming wastes are more costly for the disposal company to manage.</p>
1.05	<p>The volume of recycling collected via the bring sites is detailed in the table below, which accounts for approximately 0.08% of our overall recycling performance. Should the banks be removed the majority of this tonnage would be transferred to either the kerbside collections or the HRCs.</p>

Year	Glass	Textiles	Total
2021/22	198.967	53.614	252.581
2020/21	176.27	37.9255	214.1955
2019/20	204.42	39.687	244.107
2018/19	213.75	33.514	247.264
2017/18	215.50	43.285	258.785

As mentioned, putting the wrong material in a bring bank causes the waste in the bank to become contaminated, meaning that it can't then be sent for recycling. By removing the banks and encouraging people to recycle from the kerbside or at the HRCs, it is anticipated that the quality of recyclable materials will improve.

1.06 Recently, the costs for servicing the glass igloos has increased, which has changed the way we are charged and resulted in an increase from £11.53 per tonne (£200/month) to £700 per collection (one per month). This equates to an increase in cost of £500 per month. Therefore, by removing the bring sites altogether, there would be a potential annual saving of approx. £8,400 for the approved revenue budget.

The disposal of glass does offer a rebate per tonne of £15 which equates to an average income of £3,000 per year. Should the igloos be removed it is predicted that the glass income will be maintained as it will be collected via the kerbside or at the HRCs.

1.07 As an alternative, it is proposed that residents would be asked to utilise one of the following services:

- The weekly kerbside recycling service collects glass, paper, card, plastic bottles, tubs, trays and pots, cartons, cans and tins.
- One of five Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) offering alternative recycling collection points for glass and textiles.
- Textile collections offered via numerous charity bags collected at kerbside, along with reuse opportunities through charity shops and online selling (such as vinted, ebay, marketplace, freecycle).
- A funding bid has also been submitted to Welsh Government to pilot a doorstep collection service for textiles.

2.00 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

2.01 There is a potential saving of approx. £8,400 for the approved revenue budget should this service be removed.

2.02 Fly tipping and litter removal will be reduced allowing for the street cleansing team to focus on scheduled cleaning areas within the authority.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	With the removal of the bring banks there is the potential loss of approx. 200 tonnes of recycling (which equates to 0.08% of our recycling rate). However, it is anticipated that alternative disposal methods (kerbside, HRCs, charities) would be used by residents, which in effect would mean that recycling performance would not be affected.
3.02	We have considered the option of giving private business owners the opportunity to take over the management of the bring sites if they so wish, particularly where bring sites are located on business properties e.g. pub car parks or supermarkets. However, due to the risks and challenges around fly tipping and littering, this has been discounted and will not be pursued.
3.03	Full removal of the bring sites would improve street and environmental cleanliness, as the current sites can be a focal point for small scale, regular fly tipping, which in turn would improve the local environmental quality (LEQ) of the area.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	With the Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Transportation
4.02	Consultation will be required with the businesses which currently store the bring site banks/igloos on their private land.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Recycling bring site locations

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	N/A

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Gabrielle Povey (Waste Strategy Manager) Telephone: 01352 703347 E-mail: gabrielle.povey@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	HRCs - Household Recycling Centre, located at Buckley, Greenfield, Mold (Nercwys), Oakenholt (Rockcliffe), Sandycroft Recycling Bring Site - A recycling bring site is a localised collection point where recycling containers (banks/igloos) are placed in places such as car parks and on streets so that residents have convenient access to facilities for the disposal of recyclable materials