

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 15th October 2019
<b>Report Subject</b>	Waste Strategy Review Consultation
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene And Transportation)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

This change significantly improved the Council's recycling performance and due to the engagement and efforts of residents, the Council continues to perform well with the recycling performance for 2018/19 confirmed at 69.16%. This is already above the 2019/20 target of 64% with the next significant target being 70% in 2025.

The current recycling performance needs to be celebrated but without operational and policy change, it is likely that performance will now stabilise and any future improvements in performance will become difficult to achieve. Whilst the current waste strategy does not come to an end until 2025, the target set within the document of 70% has been almost achieved and it is important that the Council starts to plan for the future, considering what more could be done to increase recycling rates still further.

Therefore, on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the Council's Cabinet Committee approved the commencement of public consultation to gauge public opinion on the current recycling and waste services and explore options on alternative service delivery models.

This report outlines the recycling success to date and provides information on the consultation for discussion and feedback.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the Council's current recycling performance.
2	That Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee provides feedback on the points raised within the consultation programme and questionnaire.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>RECYCLING AND WASTE PERFORMANCE AND CONSULTATION</b>															
1.01	<p><b>Recycling Targets and Performance</b></p> <p>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 Council's in Wales to meet.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In 2011, WG published its Municipal Sector Plan which was a partnering document to TZW which provided guidance to Welsh Council's in the form of a blueprint describing WG's recommended service delivery for Council's to follow.</p>															
1.02	<p>Working to the Council Municipal Waste Strategy, recycling performance has exceed the statutory targets, with current performance almost at the level required by 2024/25.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Recycling Target</th> <th>FCC's Recycling Performance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>52%</td> <td>54.92%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>58%</td> <td>68.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>64%</td> <td>69% (projected)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024/25</td> <td>70%</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Council recycling success is to be celebrated, however, Welsh Government are currently reviewing their national policies with a view to revising future targets which could increase targets to 80, or even 90%.</p>	Year	Recycling Target	FCC's Recycling Performance	2013/14	52%	54.92%	2016/17	58%	68.2%	2019/20	64%	69% (projected)	2024/25	70%	
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1.03	<p><b>The need to review recycling targets</b></p> <p>Waste compositional analysis has shown that items such as steel cans, plastic bottles and food waste are still ending up in the residual waste bin and then inevitable in landfill or being incinerated - rather than recycled.</p>															
1.04	<p>It is widely recognised that the impact of not recycling our waste has substantial environmental implications that must be addressed to mitigate future impact on the planet.</p>															

	<p>Some of the most significant effects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of raw materials for the manufacture of new products destroys natural habitats and ecosystems.</li> <li>• Increased Carbon emissions from the mining, transport and manufacture of new products.</li> <li>• Increased pollution as non-recycled items enter the waste stream and pollute the natural environment. Plastic waste, specifically, has recently been highlighted as polluting our sea and oceans.</li> </ul>
1.05	<p>There is a lost financial opportunity by not recycling our waste. There is a cost for every tonne of waste which is treated or landfilled, whilst the sale of the recycled products raises a small amount of income for the Council.</p>
1.06	<p><b>Review of current waste strategy</b></p> <p>With the current Municipal Waste Strategy coming to an end in 2025, and the expectation that our current performance will plateau without further changes, now is an opportunity to review the current service provision to identify how recycling performance could increase further.</p> <p>Therefore, the Council's Cabinet Committee have approved the commencement of a public consultation from the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to the 31<sup>st</sup> October, to gauge public opinion on the current recycling and waste services and explore the potential of alternative service delivery models to assist with maximising recycling potential.</p>
1.07	<p>In order to deliver the consultation to as many key stakeholders as possible a programme has been developed, highlighting methods of communication and engagement <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p>
1.08	<p>Information has been collated and presented for residents to review before providing their individual feedback so that any concerns or questions can be answered. This information is available via a designated webpage created specifically for the consultation and includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informing service users on current successes</li> <li>• Informing service users on what the Council collects as recycling</li> <li>• Informing service users on what happens to collected recyclable items</li> <li>• Providing more information on services provided and dispelling misconceptions</li> <li>• Explaining the need for a review to be undertaken</li> </ul>
1.09	<p>The consultation feedback takes the form of a short Survey Monkey questionnaire in which a number of questions are asked <b>Appendix 2</b>, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the current recycling behaviours</li> <li>• What restricts a person's ability to recycle</li> <li>• What concerns are there about recycling</li> <li>• Consideration for future service change options that will maximise recycling potential.</li> </ul>

1.10	Potential alternative service provisions have been identified by looking to neighbouring Authorities and reviewing their current and future service models. Options for consideration are detailed in <b>Appendix 3</b> .
1.11	<p>Within the first week of the consultation in excess of 6000 responses have already been received, demonstrating the importance of the recycling and waste services to our residents.</p> <p>The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee are now invited to comment on the consultation programme and stakeholder engagement, the content of information provided to services users and provide feedback on the questions presented in the consultation survey.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	There are no additional resource implications for undertaking the public consultation.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	Member workshops were held in June 2019 to seek views on the future provision of the collection service.
3.02	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside.
3.03	Town and Community Council's – invitation for written response/comment.
3.04	Elected Members – invitation for written response/comment.
3.05	Assembly Members – invitation for written response/comment.
3.06	Members of Parliament – invitation for written response/comment.
3.07	Flintshire residents.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	A project team is in place to manage and support the consultation to ensure Countywide engagement.
4.02	An Integrated Impact Assessment has begun to assess the impact of any potential service changes.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Consultation Programme Appendix 2 – Consultation Questions Appendix 3 – Service change considerations

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Consultation web page  <a href="https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Bins-Recycling-and-Waste/Waste-Strategy-Consultation/Recycling-and-Waste-Consultation.aspx">https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Bins-Recycling-and-Waste/Waste-Strategy-Consultation/Recycling-and-Waste-Consultation.aspx</a></p> <p>Survey  <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RecyclingHaveYourSay">https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RecyclingHaveYourSay</a></p> <p><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></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	WG – Welsh Government TZW – Towards Zero Waste MWC – Managed Weekly Collections