

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 10th March 2020
Report Subject	Waste Permitting and Data Flow
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member Streetscene and Countryside
Report Author	Chief Officer for Streetscene And Transportation
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Waste management is one of the most heavily regulated services operated by the Council. This is to ensure the protection of the natural environment and address public health concerns and strict guidelines and procedures are necessary within the service, backed up by legislation, for the transportation, acceptance, processing and disposal of all waste materials.

There is a statutory requirement for Council's to report on the types of municipal waste they collect, how they collect it and where that waste is set to be reprocessed or disposed of.

Following a request from Scrutiny this report provides the Committee with an overview of waste permitting and waste data reporting activities within the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1. | That Scrutiny notes the information provided on the management of waste arising's, waste permitting and waste data reporting. |
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW OF GARDEN WASTE CHARGES
1.01	<p>Waste Permitting</p> <p>An environmental permit is a document issued by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) which sets out specific conditions on how a waste operation (Landfill Site, Transfer Station, Household Recycling Centre) must be carried out. The conditions include what type of waste can be taken to the site, limits on the amount of waste that can be accepted and stored, and measures that need to be put in place to control site operations with the purpose of protecting the environment.</p>

	<p>To gain an environmental permit a complex application process is undertaken and assessed by NRW. This is to ensure that the site operator is capable, operationally and financially, to undertake the operation. A permit is issued dependant on the type waste activity with more complex permits required for operations such as landfill sites and energy recovery plants than Household Recycling Centres.</p> <p>There are initial costs to gaining an environmental permit and then ongoing annual fees, payable to NRW, to cover the cost of regulation. The permitted site is regularly inspected by Regulatory Officers of NRW to ensure compliance. Where breaches occur, and dependant on the severity of that breach, financial penalties through to prosecutions can occur.</p>
1.02	<p>To hold an environmental permit the organisation must employ Technically Competent Managers (TCM) who are qualified to manage a waste site. Flintshire employ a number of TCM with the Service Delivery and Regulatory Services teams.</p> <p>A control system has to be in place to provide robust management of any environmental impacts therefore, waste services are accredited to ISO 14,001 (environmental management system) and ISO 9,001 (quality management system). These are externally audited twice a year for compliance.</p> <p>The Council currently hold a number of waste permits coving the operations of landfill sites (x2) Waste Transfer Stations (x2) Composing facility (x1) and Household Recycling Centres (x5).</p>
1.03	<p>Duty Of Care Waste duty of care applies to household, industrial and commercial premises. Everyone (residential or business) has a responsibility to take all reasonable steps to ensure that when their controlled waste is transferred to another waste holder, that that waste is managed correctly throughout its complete journey to disposal or recovery.</p> <p>When transferring waste the following steps must be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that the next waste holder is authorised to take the waste. • Ask the next waste holder where the waste is to be taken to, and checking that the intended destination is authorised to accept that waste • It is best practice to undertake additional checks if it is suspected that the waste will not be handled in line with the duty of care, e.g. requesting evidence that your waste has arrived at the intended destination and that it has been accurately described. <p>A waste transfer note or hazardous waste transfer note must be used to capture the information and this document must be retained for a statutory length of time. NRW or a Local Authority can request to see this documentation at any time, and failure to provide it could result in enforcement action.</p>
1.04	<p>Waste Carrier All trade waste carriers must be registered with NRW to gain a Waste Carriers Licence. This is a legal requirement for any business whether</p>

	<p>providing a service to residential or business premises. Failure to hold a valid licence could result in prosecution and an unlimited fine.</p>
1.05	<p>Waste Reporting</p> <p>Every kilogram of waste collected and disposed of has to be closely monitored and recorded for the purposes of reporting to both NRW and Welsh Government.</p> <p>Operators with an environmental permit must complete ‘waste returns’ to inform NRW about the waste they have received or removed from their site. The information provided is based on each permitted site, which includes details of the waste facility or operation (landfill site, Household Civic Amenity Site etc.), waste received, waste removed (both in tonnages) and the correct type of waste using the European Waste Catalogue. These returns are submitted on a quarterly basis</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales uses this information to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor a site’s compliance with their environmental permit conditions • maintain a public register • compile national statistics about waste
1.06	<p>All waste produced and handled by the Local Authority has to be reported through a national reporting tool called WasteDataFlow. This is a web based system for municipal waste data reporting used by all UK Local Authorities with the purpose of having an accurate and consistent reporting tool to Government.</p> <p>It is designed for Local Authorities to allow faster and more accurate data collection of municipal waste statistics; to enhance local data management for reporting and strategic planning purposes; and to offer streamlined access to performance benchmarking with other Authorities; and</p> <p>It also allows Governments to monitor progress towards national and local targets; to produce National Statistics on municipal waste arising; and to provide an evidence base to guide government policy.</p>
1.07	<p>The type of data required for reporting via WasteDataFlow is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types and numbers of containment methods; • Frequency of collections; • Tonnages, types and destinations of waste collected, rejected and sent for recycling/re-use from kerbside, bring and civic amenity sites and from streetscapes and parks and grounds; • Tonnages and destinations of residual waste collected; • Tonnages and destinations by waste management method; and • Financial costs (these are included under the annual questions and are completed by the finance team). <p>Local Authorities are required to submit this data on a quarterly basis.</p>
1.08	<p>Documents and information relating to the contents of this report are held on public register and the waste data flow website.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The cost of operating the permitted waste facilities is covered by the Councils revenue budget.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	The management of waste is within the portfolio risk register

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
4.01	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Waste Data Flow: https://www.wastedataflow.org/ Public Register: https://publicregister.naturalresources.wales/

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER
7.01	Contact Officer: Stephen O Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	NRW – Natural Resources Wales European Waste Catalogue – Description and classification of waste types