

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Monday, 26 th September 2022
Report Subject	Recycling Bring Sites
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council & 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 seek Cabinet approval for the removal of the recycling bring sites across the county.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet approves the recommended removal of the textile recycling bring sites across the county.
2	That Cabinet notes that the current glass contractor will be removing all glass igloos from 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 and encourage take-up of the kerbside recycling service.</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 become more sophisticated, 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 reliance on bring sites to provide recycling facilities for our residents has decreased 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 table 1 below, which accounts for approximately 0.08% of our overall recycling performance. The data shows that glass tonnage has been slightly decreasing over the past five years. 2020/21 did see a larger decrease than average which was due to the COVID pandemic and the restriction on non-essential travel. Textile tonnage has fluctuated and has increased in 2021/22. This will be in part to the promotion of reuse and upcycling rather than a throw away culture.</p>

Should the banks be removed the majority of this tonnage would be transferred to the kerbside collection service, the HRCs, or local charitable collections. There will also be a proportion of glass recycling disposed of via approved waste contractors from businesses that have used the igloos illegally in the past.

Table 1 – bring site tonnage data

Year	Glass	Textiles	Total
2021/22	198.967	53.614	252.581
2020/21	176.27	37.9255	214.195
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 In recent times, the costs for servicing the glass igloos has been increasing, which has changed the way that we are charged and has resulted in an increase in cost 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. The increasing costs to service the bring sites was one of the catalysts that prompted a review of the provision this service and it was identified that the removal of the sites would have brought an annual saving of approx. £8,400 for the approved revenue budget.

1.07 In July 2022, a report was presented to the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee detailing the issues and challenges faced with the continued provision of bring sites within the County, along with increasing operating costs. Support for the proposal to remove the igloos and containers was sought and gained from the Committee.

1.08 However, in the intervening time, the glass collection contractor has notified us that they will no longer be providing a glass collection service for bring sites in Wales and will be removing all banks and igloos over the coming months. Resource shortages within the industry have been cited as a key contributing factor in making their decision.

It is important to note that this change does not affect glass collections made at the kerbside or at the HRCs, as different arrangements are in place with other contractors for glass collected in this way.

1.09 It is proposed that, once the recycling banks or igloos are removed, no alternative bring site service will be provided. A programme for removal has been requested for the sites from the contractor so that liaison with local residents and businesses can be undertaken to allow time for them to make their own arrangements and ensure advanced communication before their

	<p>removal. A communications plan will be drawn up and signage will also be placed on site in advance of the changes.</p> <p>It is proposed that the textile containers are removed in January 2023 to allow time for further communication to take place with residents, businesses and charities on alternative recycling options. Again, a communications plan will be drafted to ensure that advanced communication takes place before the changes take effect.</p>
1.10	<p>In response to the removal of the bring sites, it is proposed that residents will be encouraged to utilise the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly kerbside recycling service for the collection of 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 the kerbside, along with reuse opportunities through charity shops and online selling (such as vinted, ebay, marketplace, freecycle). <p>A funding bid has also been submitted to Welsh Government to pilot a doorstep collection service for textiles; however, we are still awaiting the outcome of the bid.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There will be a saving of approx. £8,400 per annum for the approved revenue budget if the bring sites are removed.
2.02	The disposal of glass does offer a rebate per tonne of £15, which equates to an average income of £3,000 per year. It is anticipated that the removal of the bring sites would not impact the income levels, as residents would use alternative collection services instead, such as the weekly kerbside collections or HRC sites, and the income would transfer to these services.
2.03	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	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 Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Regional Transport Strategy
4.02	With the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee
4.03	A communications plan is being drawn up and will involve consultation 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: Ruth Tulley (Regulatory Services Manager) Telephone: 01352 704796 E-mail: ruth.tulley@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>HRCs - Household Recycling Centres, located at Buckley, Greenfield, Mold (Nercwys), Oakenholt (Rockcliffe) and Sandycroft.</p> <p>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.</p>