



**To/
Councillor Mark Thomas
Cabinet Member for Environment
and Infrastructure Management**

BY EMAIL

*Please ask for:
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Overview & Scrutiny

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19th September 2018

Summary: This is a letter from the Service Improvement and Finance Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure Management after a meeting of the Panel on 11th September 2018. The letter concerns the Recycling and Landfill Annual Performance Monitoring Report.

Dear Councillor Thomas,

On the 11th September 2018 the Panel met to discuss the Recycling and Landfill Annual Performance Report 2017/18.

We are grateful to the Head of Waste Management and Parks and the Group Leader of Waste Management for presenting the report and providing detail.

We heard that overall, Swansea Council exceeded its recycling target for last year but it was a slight dip on the year before due to the reclassification of wood recycling.

We heard how Swansea Council are 10th in the league of performance for the whole of Wales. This is very positive considering some restrictions which Swansea face, for example; a large commercial sector creating waste, high levels of students and student accommodation and high density housing (including flats) which have limited space for recycling facilities.

We heard how the recycling target for year (2019/2020) will increase from 58% to 64% in advance of the 70% target Welsh Government are aiming for and if these targets are not met, there is potential for Welsh Government to issue fines. We were encouraged to hear that there are plans in place to try and meet these targets.

It is also good to hear that the introduction of recycle only sites has reduced the amount of black bag waste, however, there is still work to be done to reduce black bags at the kerbside.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

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There are still ongoing issues (nationally) with recycling 'flimsy' plastics and we were informed that the sorting and classifying of the types of plastic is complex and often labour intensive. It is important that this issue receives the appropriate attention and we work closely with Welsh Government, retailers and residents to try and do as much as we can to reduce both the use of flimsy plastic and the incorrect disposal of it.

It is very encouraging that nappies are now recyclable and can be taken to recycling centres, and collected if separately if required through the Exemption Policy, however there is generally no kerbside collection as this is not affordable.

We heard about the long term plans for Tir John Landfill and its expected closure by 2022 and landscaping by 2024. It is reassuring to know that the service has already started looking at other options for waste disposal for the future and we will look forward to hearing of the developing ideas including the potential for a South West hub.

The Panel are grateful to the team for answering questions and providing useful information and congratulate them on their achievements to date.

There is no requirement for you to respond to this letter but we would welcome any feedback you may wish to give.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Chris Holley
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