



Waste Strategy

2022-25

January 2022

Contents		Page No.
1.0	Purpose	3
2.0	The Waste Agenda	
2.1	The National Context	3
2.2	The Future National Context	4
2.3	The Local Context	6
3.0	History of Waste Management in Swansea	7
4.0	Our Vision and Strategy	8
5.0	Existing Waste Management Provision	9
6.0	Service Improvement Plan 2022/25	12
7.0	Financial Implications	14
8.0	Potential Future Challenges/Options	15
Appendix 1 – Service Improvement Action Plan		

1.0 Purpose

To review and update the Council's Waste Strategy to meet the Welsh Government (WG) overall Waste Strategy and its' statutory recycling target, currently set at 70% recycling in 2024/25.

To agree a 3 year Service Improvement Plan to achieve the 70% recycling target, and to understand options available into the longer term.

2.0 The Waste Agenda

2.1 The Current National Context

Any waste strategy must be aligned with the relevant, current UK and Welsh Government policies and legislative acts including:

- Waste Framework Directive
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- Towards Zero Waste
- Waste (Wales) Measure 2010
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- Climate Change Strategy for Wales

It is considered that there will be a significant increase in demand for waste services over the next decade particularly having regard to the targets being set by the Welsh Government, outlined below. Specifically, the Welsh National Waste Strategy – “Towards Zero Waste” was launched in 2010. The strategy sets out the long-term framework for resource efficiency and waste management between now and 2050.

Welsh Government's intermediate priorities and principles for collection are summarised as:

1. Provision of kerbside collection services that reduce residual waste arisings, collect high levels of clean recyclables and is at lowest overall financial cost;
2. Collection services are delivered in a way that helps elicit the desired behavioral changes amongst householders whilst at the same time providing convenience;
3. Provision of kerbside collection services that can provide source segregated food wastes to anaerobic digestion facilities that produce renewable energy and soil fertiliser; and

4. Provision of well signed, equipped and staffed Household Waste Recycling Centres that enable as many people as possible to access facilities for recycling as wide a range of materials as possible.

By 2024/25, the strategy expects that 70% of what is produced will be recycled. Of the remaining 30% a maximum of 5% can go to landfill with the remaining fraction to Energy from Waste

The target brings with it substantial financial penalties of £200 per tonne, for not meeting the required levels of recycling. Missing a target by 1% would result in a fine of circa £250,000.

2.2 The Future National Context

The Welsh Government's Towards Zero Waste Strategy has been reviewed and supplemented by a new strategy document titled "Beyond Recycling - A strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality"

This review has aspirations to move towards a circular economy to:

- Become zero waste by 2050
- Reduce emissions
- Realise our economic potential
- Make resource efficiency part of our Welsh culture

Welsh Government are proposing eight ambitious headline actions to accelerate the journey towards a circular economy:

1. **Become the world leader in recycling:** We will work to achieve the highest rates of household recycling in the World, working with local government, and transform the recycling of commercial, and industrial and construction waste.

2. **Phase out single use plastic:** We will make Wales the first country to send zero plastic to landfill. We will press ahead with game-changing reforms including introducing Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging, a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, and applying bans or restrictions to phase out the use of unnecessary, highly littered, single use plastic.

3. **Invest in clean technology for materials collection:** We will modernise the way we collect the material from our homes and businesses to reduce transport emissions of carbon dioxide and improve air quality, by introducing zero emission vehicles and investing in the infrastructure to renewably charge and power them.

4. Make more efficient use of our food: We will lead the way in eradicating avoidable food waste by looking at the whole supply chain and working with businesses from farm to fork to minimise waste and maximise resource efficiency.

5. Prioritise the purchasing of wood, remanufactured and recycled content: We will prioritise the use of wood and recycled content as well as prioritising re-used and remanufactured content in the goods that the public sector purchases.

6. Enable communities to take collective action: We will support citizens and communities to do the small things that add up to making a big difference. We will engage young people so they can actively learn about and be part of resource efficiency action through the education sector and beyond.

7. Create the conditions for business to seize the opportunities: We will support all businesses in Wales to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient. This will enable our businesses to save and make money, as well as being more resilient and able to compete in new and emerging markets whilst also achieving positive environmental outcomes.

8. Take full responsibility for our waste: We will take full responsibility for our waste in Wales, ensuring that we do not export waste to be a problem elsewhere. We will work in partnership with other parts of the globe to help them to tackle their waste issues

Welsh Government have long had an objective to reach zero waste by 2050 and this goes hand in hand with their goal of a net zero carbon Wales. With this in mind, there is a strong likelihood that further statutory recycling targets in excess of 70% will be introduced. A future target of 80% would not be unexpected, although specific proposals have not been determined by WG yet.

2.3 The Local Context

The City and County of Swansea is a mainly urban Authority with rural areas to the west and north.

It has approximately 112,000 properties with a significant level of ongoing housing growth, and a population of around 250,000.

The Authority has a thriving tourism industry, two large Universities, and a large commercial sector. The area also has a significant proportion of high density housing in the form of terraced/town houses, houses in multiple occupation, and flats.

The area currently has 72 Elected Members covering 36 Electoral Wards, although this has been the subject of a reform, which will amend these numbers to 75 and 35 respectively.

The City & County of Swansea published its well-being statement before 31st March 2017 as required by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

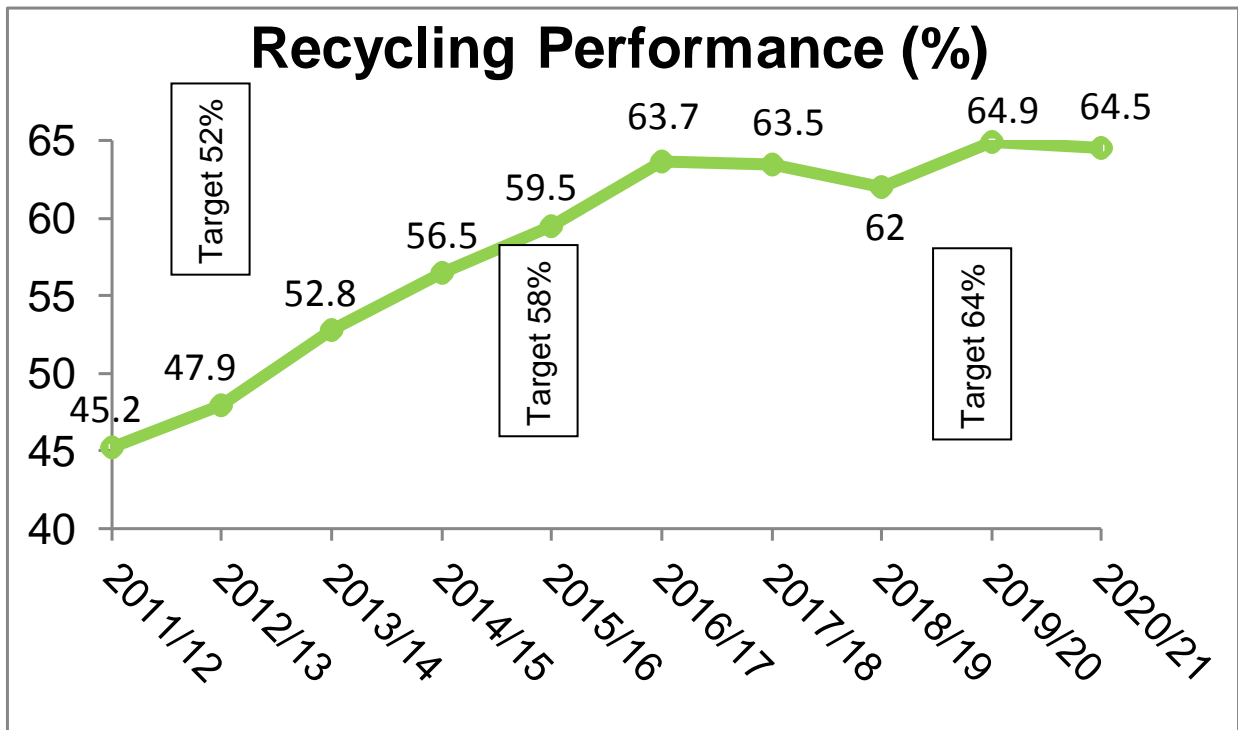
Swansea's Corporate Plan 2017-22 clearly states its commitment to the environment through its Corporate Priority **Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's Natural Resources and Biodiversity** – so that we maintain and enhance biodiversity, reduce our carbon footprint, improve our knowledge and understanding of our natural environment, and benefit health and well-being. This also is likely to change to tackle climate change and nature emergency.

The Corporate Plan also recognises the importance of supporting prosperity through **Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure** – so that Swansea has a thriving mixed use City Centre and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.

3.0 History of Waste Management in Swansea

The following graph shows Swansea's recycling rates from 2011 up to 2021.

Recycling has a long history in Swansea and has gone through many changes.



However, there was a clear rapid increase in the recycling rate once a Sustainable Waste Management Grant from the Welsh Government was made available in the early 2000's. This grant has reduced significantly over the last 10 years.

The following timeline gives a summary of the various service and operational changes, undertaken over the last 17 years, and shows significant progress in moving forward waste minimisation, recycling, and composting.

Since 2006/07, the Authority's non-recyclable waste has reduced from 100,000 tonnes per annum to 41,400 tonnes per annum, a reduction of 59%.

Year	Initiative
2004	Kerbside Recycling Collections expanded to cover whole County of 110,000 properties.
2005	Garden Waste Collections to 35,000 homes introduced.
2006	Kitchen Waste collections to existing Garden Waste Areas introduced.
2008	Inclusion of cardboard to Kerbside Collections
2009	Kitchen Waste and Garden Waste expanded to cover whole of County and Kitchen Waste changed to weekly collection.
2010	Plastic Collections introduced to whole of County on opposite week to green bags.
2011	Alternate Weekly Collections (AWC) of black bags introduced .
2014	Introduction of 3 black bag limit
2016	Black bag skips restricted to Llansamlet and Clyne HWRCs, and recyclables prohibited from black bag skips.
2017	Re-useable pinks introduced for plastics
2018	Re-use shop expanded
2019	Recyclables prohibited from black bags at the kerbside
2020	Re-use shop further expanded

4.0 Our Vision and Strategy

4.1 Vision - The purpose of the Waste Management Service is to provide a cost effective, legally compliant, and well managed service; and offer expertise and guidance to our customers.

4.2 Mission - Waste, Parks and Cleansing will strive to deliver first class services to all of its internal & external customers to support an attractive place to live, work, & visit, and allow equal opportunity for all of its employees to develop, treat them with respect and value everyone's contribution to the organisation

4.3 Core Objectives - In line with the Circular Economy principles and the Waste Management Hierarchy, our key Core Objectives are:

1. Upscaling prevention and re-use
2. Building on our recycling record
3. Investing in infrastructure
4. Enabling community and business action

5.0 Existing Waste Management Provision

5.1 Domestic Collections

Domestic Waste from residents is currently collected primarily using Twin Pack Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs), with narrow access areas collected using transit tippers. Each household receives the following collections, all wastes collected once a fortnight apart from food waste which is collected every week.

	Week 1	Week 2
RCV 1	Residual waste (Black Bags)	Cans & Glass / Paper & Card
RCV 2	Plastic / Food waste	Garden waste / Food waste

The Service also provides collections from the door step, Assisted Lifts, for households with no-one who is able to present waste at the kerbside.

Replacement recycling containers are primarily provided by the Collection Crews through a tag system, supported by a network of outlets which stock recycling containers for collection.

A comprehensive comparison of Swansea's collection methodology against WG's Collection Blueprint was undertaken by WRAP in 2017 and it did not demonstrate a clear advantage of moving towards the Blueprint at that time.

5.2 Bulky Collections

A collection service is available for domestic bulky furniture and other items including beds, carpets, fridges, freezers and wardrobes. The collection is chargeable, with a 50% discount for residents in receipt of a variety of support schemes. Every effort is made to put items collected back into use, recycle single material products such as wooden furniture, or break down mixed material items for recycling where practicable such as bed bases and mattresses.

5.3 Commercial Waste Collections

The Service has a statutory requirement to provide a waste collection and disposal service to businesses when asked to do so. This must be a chargeable service which at least covers its costs.

All waste collected through this service is included in our recycling performance, so recycling by our commercial customers is essential to minimise the negative impact on our performance. We currently offer separate collections for cardboard, cans & glass, paper & card, food, plastics (bottles, tubs, & trays), and residual or non-recyclable waste.

Whilst some private waste collection operators collect recyclables all mixed together as a comingled service, WG legislation is due to prohibit this type of collection and require separate collections of recyclables.

We usually have approximately 1,500 commercial customers, which mostly comprise of smaller, local businesses with the larger national chains serviced by national waste contractors. It should be noted that the current commercial recycling rate of around 57.6% adversely impacts our overall recycling rate.

5.4 Recycling Centres

The Authority has a statutory duty to operate at least one Household Waste Recycling Centre. We currently have five Recycling Centres at Llansamlet, Clyne, Garngoch, Penlan, and Tir John.

The recycling performance of the sites improved from 65% to 89% when, in 2016, the receipt of non-recyclable waste was channelled to just Llansamlet and Clyne Recycling Centres and recyclables mixed with the black bag waste was not accepted. This diverted over 8,000T a year of waste from landfill.

The prevention of recyclables mixed with black bags being accepted, needs to be reinvigorated as the recycling performance of Llansamlet and Clyne Recycling Centres has started to deteriorate. This will be achieved through increased training, support, and monitoring.

A booking system was implemented for visiting Llansamlet Recycling Centre to managing excessive peak demand following the re-opening of the sites after being closed due to Covid. This has proved extremely popular due to the prevention of queues, even at peak times, and there are currently no plans to remove it.

5.5 Waste Minimisation and Reuse

Significant Welsh Government Grants have facilitated a number of improvements in waste minimisation and reuse projects. Our Reuse Shop, Tip Treasures, has been expanded and improved. It now encompasses a new clothes reuse/sales section, and provides a space to facilitate a Repair Café and a Library of Things once these are set up.

A wood reprocessing area has been set up to reuse waste wood for park benches, planters, garden sleepers, fire wood, and other wood products. Waste wood and part used tins of paint are also being set aside at the Llansamlet Recycling Centre for visitors to take and use, to save buying new.

Opportunities are also being explored internally and with the private and third sectors to maximise reuse and recycling of bulky items.

5.6 Transfer Station

The Authority's Baling Plant Transfer Station continues to be extremely busy accepting, processing, bulking, and transferring wastes for further processing or disposal.

Non-recyclable waste is either sent for landfill or thermal treatment, with recyclable wastes sent to a variety of recycling outlets.

Mixed cans and glass are mechanically separated on site into aluminium cans, steel cans, and glass, prior to onward transfer for recycling.

Mixed paper and card is sent to a processor for debagging and separating into the different materials for recycling.

Food waste is transferred to an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility in Bridgend for composting to produce renewable energy and soil conditioner/fertiliser.

Separately collected cardboard is baled prior to onward transfer for recycling.

Plastic bottles, tubs, & trays are checked and any contamination removed before being sent to a processor for separating into the different materials for recycling.

Other functions undertaken at the Baling Plant include the Tip Treasures Re-use Shop, receipt of large scale commercial waste, the breaking down of bed bases and mattresses, and the recovery of recyclables from non-black bag residual waste.

5.7 Recycling Promotions and Enforcement

Recycling promotions and enforcement play a key role in achieving high recycling performance. The Service strives to achieve the optimum balance between the two, always initially seeking to encourage residents and businesses to recycling through the provision of information on the benefits of recycling and how to recycle, provision of facilities to recycle, and breaking down any barriers to recycle.

Initiatives include school visits, pop up information stalls in shopping areas, working closely with the Universities and student unions, use of social media platforms, specific promotion campaigns, and our Keep it Out campaign.

Enforcement is only used as a last resort when residents or business refuse to do their part in responsibly managing their waste.

5.8 Residual Waste Disposal

The Authority's non-recyclable or residual waste has traditionally been landfilled at Tir John, with only relatively small amounts sent for thermal treatment to recover more recyclables.

Tir John is due to close in February 2022, and the Authority is due to send all its residual waste for thermal treatment for the production of electricity. The ash produced during the process is also then used as an aggregate, increasing our recycling performance.

6.0 Service Improvement Plan 2022/25

6.1 Action Plan

Whilst the current WG Statutory Recycling Target of 64% is being met, action is required to improve recycling performance to meet the next Statutory Recycling Target of 70% by 2024/25.

A summary of the proposed Action Plan, and its route to 70% recycling, is contained in Appendix 1. Further details of the most significant actions are given below.

6.2 Thermal Treatment of Residual Waste

The closure of Tir John landfill site has necessitated the procurement of an alternative disposal option for the Authority's residual waste. Welsh Government's Collections Blueprint provides a clear strategy direction from landfill to Energy from Waste for the disposal of residual waste.

The ash produced from the power generation process can also be recycled, increasing our recycling performance by 4% to 5%.

The Authority is initially procuring a 3 year contract, due to commence in February 2022, with the option to extend, year on year, for a further 4 years. This strategy provides the optimum balance of a cost effective solution, with the flexibility to adapt should technology and/or market conditions change.

6.3 Keep It Out Campaign

Residual tonnages at the kerbside have increased by around 4,000T per year through changing behaviours during the Covid pandemic. It is intended to reinvigorate the Keep it Out Campaign in conjunction with the next round of Waste Management Operational Trainees in 2022. If this reduces residual tonnages by 1700T per year, with increases in recycling, recycling performance will increase by 1%.

Recent analysis has shown that there is still a considerable proportion recyclable materials in black bag wheeled bins at flats. This is despite considerable focus from the Recycling Promotion team attempting to prioritise the individuals that aren't recycling. Due to the prevalence of new high rise construction in the city centre it will be beneficial to target these issues now.

6.4 Recovery of Recyclables

It has been identified that there is still a significant amount of bulky recyclable material mixed in with non-recyclable waste brought to the Baling Plant. This material is destined for landfill or thermal treatment, so we have undertaken trials to seek to recover the recyclable materials such as wood, metals, electrical goods, mattresses, hard plastics, and cardboard from the mixed material. Over the first 5 months of the trial, we recovered over 200T of recyclable material. The Service is planning to expand the recovery operation with an aim of recovering 1200T per year and increasing our recycling performance by 1%.

6.5 Sorting Line Rejects

Sorting and removing contamination from recycling streams results in rejects, although the proportion of rejects is dependent upon the efficiency of the sorting and the material specification required for the destination recycling process.

We have recently procured an alternative paper and card recycling processor which will result in significantly less waste from the sorting and recycling process, and are exploring options to further refine our cans and glass sorting process to reduce rejects.

It is predicted that these two improvements will reduce rejects by approximately 2,000T per year, which would increase our recycling rate by 1.5%.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1** As detailed in Paragraph 2.1 above, not meeting WG's statutory recycling target can come with financial penalties amounting to £200 for every tonne that the targets is missed, which represents £250k for every 1% short of the target.
- 7.2** In 2021/22 the service has a circa £12.5m annual budget comprising of £19.3m costs and £6.8m income generated primarily through commercial contracts or the sale of certain recyclables. £1.1m of the income currently comes via grants from Welsh Government. The £19.3m costs principally comprise of staff, vehicles and waste/recyclable treatment/disposal costs.
- 7.3** The new thermal treatment contract required following the closure of Tir John landfill site, and to meet the WG's landfill diversion and recycling targets, comes with increased costs, however this increase will be substantially offset by reduced management costs at Tir John after capping and landscaping by 2024.
- 7.4** It is understood that as part of the budget setting process for 22/23 an adjustment will be made to the core waste budget to reflect a variety of accumulated unbudgeted pressures and the move away from the current landfill process to the new disposal methodology. As such there are no additional financial implications arising out of the new strategy.
- 7.5** The volume of black bag waste generated at the kerbside has increased since the pandemic started, with around 4,000T of additional black bag waste per annum. In the short term, this further increases the cost in disposal of residual waste until our Keep it Out campaign can be reinvigorated to reduce this tonnage.
- 7.6** Reinvigorating the Keep it Out Campaign will require an injection of resources for a communication campaign and for increased checking, public engagement, and enforcement activities on the street. The intention is that these additional costs will be covered, once the campaign takes effect, by the cost benefits of increased recycling and reduced residual waste going forward.
- 7.7** The Recovery of Recyclables trial has been operated on a cost neutral basis, and the expansion of this process is anticipated to remain cost neutral.
- 7.8** Whilst the market value of recyclables, such as paper and card remains volatile, the reduction of Sorting Line Rejects through a new Paper and Card processing contract will save costs.

8.0 Potential Future Challenges/Options

8.1 A Changing World

8.1.1 The requirements for the management of waste are varying rapidly through legislative, regulatory, and technological changes. This requires an element of early consideration of potential options to meet a range of potential scenarios going forward. This Waste Strategy has been developed as a short term strategy to meet recycling targets currently in place, allowing flexibility for a future strategy, which may need to take into account some of the following issues as further information and clarity of direction becomes available.

8.1.2 New Recycling Targets – As outlined in paragraph 2.2 above, there is a strong likelihood that WG will introduce further statutory recycling targets in excess of 70%. A future target of 80%, or even higher, would not be unexpected.

Increasing recycling targets could also be made even harder to achieve should some material, currently contributing to our recycling performance, be excluded due to:

- i. Regulatory changes – for example National Resources Wales have recently determined that certain waste woods cannot be considered for recycling, and have stopped waste wood being used for certain products
- ii. Changes in WG definitions – it is possible that WG could decide review definitions of recycling meaning that some waste materials, such as wood, rubble, incineration ash etc., could no longer be included in our recycling performance figures.
- iii. Deposit Returns Scheme – Such a scheme, which is covered in more detail below, could reduce our recycling performance by up to 2%, depending on how it is managed.

8.1.3 Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) – A DRS is where consumers have to pay a deposit for the container their product comes in, in addition to the usual purchase price, with that deposit only being recouped when they return the empty container.

A DRS is under consideration by WG, as it is by all nations across the UK, and whilst a scheme is reasonably certain to be implemented, the scope and method of operation are still to be determined. Current indications are that the scheme will include at least metal, glass, and plastic drinks containers, including large family sized containers and multipacks. The full range of products covered is not yet known, and could be expanded upon following initial implementation.

The method of operation is also key to the impact such a scheme could have on our recycling performance and income from recyclables. A model which relies on the public returning all their cans and plastic and glass bottles to a reverse vending machine to recover their deposit, would remove all that valuable, recyclable material from our waste streams, reducing our recycling performance and the income we receive for those materials. Unfortunately it wouldn't reduce our collection costs as we would still need to collect food tins, glass jars, and plastic tubs and trays. It is extremely difficult to quantify the potential impacts, however we consider that this model could reduce our recycling performance by over 2% and reduce our income by around £200k-400k

An alternative model which has been trialled, with each container having its own individual label which a resident can scan with their phone when they put it into their recycling container, and recover their deposit that way. The Council would then still collect the material and have the income from it, although there are undoubtedly some technological issues to resolve such as how each container is given a unique label.

The benefits of a DRS is that it should further encourage recycling, and discourage littering of these containers. The current estimate for the implementation of a DRS is 2024.

8.1.4 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – This is based on the principle of the producer of a product pays for the collection, processing, and recycling or disposal of its packaging, and where relevant, the product itself when it reaches the end of its life. The current types of items in scope include:

- Packaging
- Drinks containers
- Electrical Goods
- Batteries
- Textiles
- Vehicles

WG have advised that this scope could be expanded going forward to include additional items such as:

- Absorbent Hygiene Products
- Mattresses
- Furniture
- Building Products
- Carpets
- Paints

The scheme would require producers to reimburse Councils a fair cost, for collecting/receiving, processing, and disposing of those items within the scope of the scheme.

The aim of EPR is to encourage end of life considerations in the designs of products and packaging to facilitate reduced waste and products and packaging which is easier and cheaper to recycle, although there is a risk that Producers' increased costs will be borne directly by the consumer.

Issues still to be understood include how a "fair cost" will be determined, and whether this will then result in a corresponding reduction in WG core funding?

It is currently anticipated that such a scheme will be in place by 2024.

8.2 New Recycling Streams

In order to achieve potentially increasing WG Recycling Targets it will become essential to be able to recycle material which are currently not practicably recyclable. These could include items such as plastic film, carpets, and mattress flock.

Either new technology, a change in composition of those items driven through the EPR Scheme, or a combination of both, will be required to enable some of the difficult materials to be practical to recycle.

8.3 Welsh Government's Collection Blueprint

In March 2011 the Welsh Government published a 'Collection Blueprint' for affordable and sustainable local authority services for recyclable, compostable and residual waste following consultation undertaken as part of the Municipal Sector Plan.

The Collections Blueprint describes the Welsh Government's recommended service profile for the collection of waste from households, to provide high rates of high quality recycling, an efficient service, and improved sustainable development outcomes, and includes the following central policies:

- weekly separate collection of dry recyclables via 'kerbside sort', with material being collected separately in boxes and/or in re-usable sacks, with two or more boxes provided per household, and recyclables being sorted into separate compartments on the collection vehicle by the collection staff;
- weekly separate collection of food waste;
- the use of lightweight, multi-compartment vehicles for a single pass collection of dry recyclables and food waste; and

- fortnightly collection of residual waste, from collections with a reduced residual waste capacity of 140 litres (equivalent of 2 black bags), where 'no side waste' policies are enforced.

A review of the Blueprint in 2015/16 supported its collection principles and added that "emerging evidence from operational schemes and collections options appraisals regarding further restriction of residual waste capacity (e.g. through a move to three-weekly or four-weekly collections) strongly indicates that this could result in further improvement in terms of recycling performance (in particular for food waste) and in cost reduction."

Whilst the comparison of Swansea's collection methodology against WG's Collection Blueprint undertaken in 2017 did not demonstrate a clear advantage of moving towards the Blueprint at that time, the move towards increased recycling targets may change this position.

WG continues to heavily promote the transition to their Collections Blueprint through consultancy support, funding conditions, and policy direction.

WG are currently considering the introduction of legislation to require commercial waste to be presented and collected as separated streams in line with their Blueprint for collections from households. This could have a significant impact on the street scene in our city and town centre areas.

Should, as expected, increased statutory recycling targets be introduced by WG, consideration will have to be given to a transition to the WG Blueprint which could include a change of fleet to deliver a weekly collection of food and dry recycling using kerbside sort system, combined with increased residual waste restrictions and/or reduced collection frequencies.

8.4 Residual Restrictions

The WG Collections Blueprint, as outlined above, originally recommended residual waste collections were restricted to 140 litres, the equivalent of 2 black bags, per household per fortnight. The subsequent review highlighted the recycling and cost benefits of moving to a 3 or 4 weekly collection frequency for residual waste.

Whilst it is considered that the existing 70% recycling target can be achieved without further residual waste restrictions, future consideration will need to be given to increased restrictions if WG introduce higher recycling targets to move towards their Zero Waste aspirations.

8.5 Garden Waste

Charging for Garden Waste collections is also a recommendation of WG's Collections Blueprint, and whilst this has an obvious financial benefit, it would also result in a significant reduction in recycling performance. We currently collect around 7,000 to 8,000T of garden waste per year, with approximately 3,000T taken at our Recycling Centres. If a charging scheme reduced our overall annual tonnage by 5,000T, that would reduce our recycling performance by over 2%.

It is recommended that charging for garden waste not introduced until there is clarity on our progression towards the 70% recycling target, and a clear understanding of future WG recycling targets.

8.6 Beyond Recycling Strategy

The recent Beyond Recycling strategy indicates that Welsh Government expect a reduction in overall quantities of waste and also expect changes in the way that waste and recyclables will be treated. This should mean that new technologies are developed at the same time as existing waste material types and quantities fluctuate in volume. The Council's collection fleet will need to be sufficiently flexible to allow it to cope with both changes in tonnages and the types of materials being collected.

Appendix 1 – Service Improvement Action Plan

Recycling Improvements Strategy - 2021 to 2025																	
Initiatives	2020 / 21	2021 / 22				2022 / 23				2023 / 24				2024 / 25			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Thermal Treatment Contract					0.8%	3.5%	Increased bottom ash from EIW										
Push on Keep it Out Campaign					0.5%				0.5%	A further 800T recycled and 900T removed							
HWRC Residual Reductions										0.1%	A further 10T per month moved to recycling						
Trade/Skip Waste Review										0.1%	A reduction of 240T of residual waste						
Loss of Carpet Recycling Outlet		-0.7%															
Recovery of Recyclables		0.2%	0.2%		0.2%	0.4%	23T per week										
Increased Bulky Reuse/Recycling						0.1%	A further 10T per month										
Green Waste from Meadows					0.1%	240T per season											
Paper Line Reject Reductions					0.5%	1.0%	Reduced by 150T per month under new contract										
Forecasted Cumulative Quarterly Recycling Rate		64.1%	64.3%	64.9%	65.9%	71.4%	71.4%	71.4%	71.4%	72.1%	72.1%	72.1%	72.1%	72.1%	72.1%	72.1%	72.1%
Forecasted Annual Recycling Rate					65.9%				71.4%				72.1%				72.1%
WAG Target	64%				64%				64%				64%				70%
Actual Cumulative Quarterly Recycling Rate	64.6%	64.6%	64.6%														
Adjusted Cumulative Quarterly Recycling Rate		62.1%	62.6%														
Actual Annual Recycling Rate	64.6%				0.0%				0.0%				0.0%				0.0%
End of Year Forecast		63.9%	64.2%														
Seasonal Adjustments		2.5%	2.0%	1.5%	0.0%	2.5%	2.0%	1.0%	0.0%	2.5%	2.0%	1.0%	0.0%	2.5%	2.0%	1.0%	0.0%