



**Report of the Cabinet Member for Community Services**  
**Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance Scrutiny**  
**Panel**  
**12<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Recycling and Landfill Annual Performance**  
**Monitoring Report 2022/23**

<b>Purpose</b>	To monitor and challenge performance and action plan for meeting statutory targets.
<b>Content</b>	This report explains the statutory recycling target, performance to date and actions to meet statutory target.
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	Consider the report
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Councillor Cyril Anderson, Cabinet Member for Community Services
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**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Waste (Wales) Measure 2010 and the Welsh Governments National Strategy 'Towards Zero Waste' sets out a 70% recycling and composting target for 2025. It also sets out targets to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill.
- 1.2 Council adopted a new Waste Strategy in 2022 which sets out a range of principles and actions to achieve the statutory recycling targets set out in Welsh Governments plans by 2024/25. In addition, the Waste Strategy outlined upcoming issues and potential future options which may need to be considered.
- 1.3 In 2022/23 the Council exceeded the current statutory recycling target of 64% by achieving 71.8%, this was an increase of 6.7% on the previous year. This increase was principally due to switching black bag

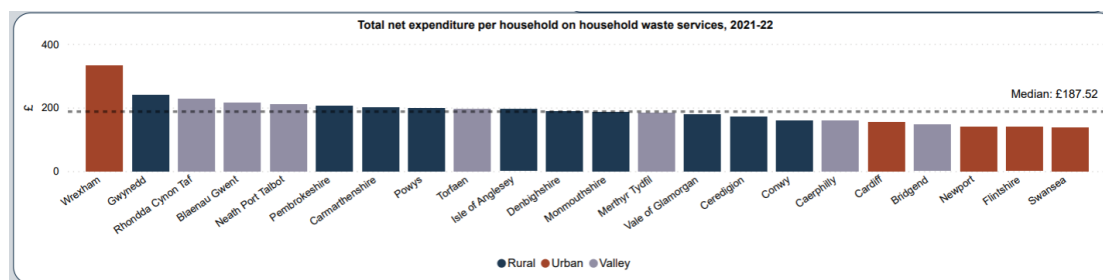
disposal from landfill to Energy from Waste (**EfW**), with the ash from the EfW process being recycled.

1.4 This performance meant that the Council sits 1<sup>st</sup> in a league table of performance for the whole of Wales. This is admirable performance as there are a number of factors which adversely affect our recycling rate, these include:

- A large commercial sector being a city authority
- A large student population
- A large number of flats and other high density housing with less room to recycle.

1.5 It is worth noting that should the Council miss the Welsh Government Statutory Recycling Target the Council could face fines of £200 for every tonne that the target is missed, which represents £250k for every 1% short of the target.

1.6 In the most recent set of WLGA financial benchmarking from 2021-22, the Council was shown to have the lowest net expenditure per household on household waste services of the 22 local authorities in Wales. See figure below.



## 2 Progress on the Waste Strategy 2022-25

2.1 The significant actions from the Service Improvement Action plan have been successfully implemented, which have led to the increased recycling performance indicated above.

2.2 We can always improve, and potential areas to enable the Council to increase its recycling and reuse will include:

- Reviewing our commercial waste operations in line with any new legislative requirements.
- Increasing reuse of products.
- Continuing to promote recycling through the Keep Recyclables Out campaign.
- Waste minimisation
- Exploring options for the collection and/or receipt of new waste streams for recycling
- Ongoing review of material sorting rejects

- 2.3 The Service will continue to monitor recycling performance and levels of residual waste and is reviewing our Waste Strategy, including new recycling technologies and markets to ensure it maximises recycling performance within available budgets.

### **3 Welsh Government Policy Future Direction**

- 3.1 Following the publication of Welsh Government's Towards Zero Waste in 2019, and Beyond Recycling in 2021, WG has clear aspirations for increased recycling and a move towards a circular economy.

- 3.2 WG state "*To maintain our trajectory towards zero waste by 2050, we will commit to setting out interim targets on a trajectory towards zero waste.*" WG are highly likely to set increased recycling targets post 2025.

- 3.3 WG are also considering the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (**DRS**) in October 2025, where purchasers of products included in the scheme, such as beverage cans or bottles, will have to pay a deposit up front and then claim it back when they return the empty container. This could have a negative impact on Council's recycling rates and incomes from recyclable materials depending upon which products are included and how the scheme is administered.

- 3.4 Extended Producer Responsibility (**EPR**) is another scheme WG are intending to implement in 2025. This operates under the principle of the producer of packaging which eventually becomes waste, pays for the cost of dealing with that waste.

- 3.5 WG are introducing Workplace Recycling legislation from April 2024, which will impact all businesses and non-domestic premises in Wales. Preparing for this new legislation has delayed the start of the service undertaking a trade waste review, which is one of the remaining activities in the Service Improvement Action Plan.

### **4.0 Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
  - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
  - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
  - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 4.3. Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language. An IIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required. This report relates only to the process of preparing the three strategies. The IIA screening form is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 4.4 This report provides an update only, and there are no significant risks associated with this project, the project has been scored as 'low risk' and the outcomes are all deemed positive, therefore a full IIA is not deemed necessary

## **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no additional legal implications to those already set out in the report.

## **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The service has a circa £14.6M annual budget comprising of £22.8M costs and £8.1M 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 £22.8M costs principally comprise of staff, vehicles, purchase of recycling containers and waste/recyclable treatment/disposal costs.

**Background papers:** None

**Appendices:** IIA Screening 22-23 Recycling Scrutiny