

Cabinet Member Briefing Note (Environment & Transportation) – November 2016

WASTE PARKS & CLEANSING

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Recent Progress/Key Achievements

The current statutory recycling and composting target is 58% and will remain at that level until 2019 when it will rise to 64%. Our recycling performance last year was 59%, achieving the statutory target for 2015/16.

Our current recycling and composting rate for the first half of this year is around 64% which should see the Authority achieve a full year (2016/17) rate of around 60% once seasonal adjustments have been taken into consideration.

The Commissioning review recently undertaken was approved by Cabinet in June. The main focus of the review was to prevent recyclable material being disposed of in black bags at the kerbside or residual waste skips at the Household Recycling Centres. This will increase recycling performance and reduce landfill costs to achieve budget savings.

Work has now been completed to improve the recycling facility at Garngoch Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) and the residual waste skip has been removed with minimal disruption. Clyne HWRC has also had major improvements carried out and the challenge to residents bringing black bags to the site has been successful in reducing the amount of this waste being disposed of there. Penlan HWRC improvements are also underway and will be completed shortly prior to ceasing the black bag provision at this location.

Plans are also underway to expand the trial reusable pink bags for plastic kerbside collection, across the Authority, and will be rolled out next year.

Other initiatives arising from the Commissioning review are;

- Developing a revised pricing plan for Commercial waste
- Introducing Route Optimisation software for collections
- Reviewing Baling Plant operations
- Expanding the Re-use Shop

The main risks to the service continue to be, loss of experienced staff, reducing Welsh Government Grant funding, aging fleet, reducing internal budgets and increasing recycling targets.

PARKS & CLEANSING

With regards to the Cleansing functions, we continue to target a weekly cleanse for every street in Swansea, by mechanical and/or manual means, removal of all dog fouling and have dealt with in excess of 8,000 service requests.

Recent Key Achievements

- Commissioning Options Appraisal Report presented to Corporate Management Team 26/10/16
- Continue to remove fly tip material within 5 working days
- Work with colleagues in Highways on weed removal across City
- Creation of 'project' team to enhance areas of City, including cleansing of bus shelters
- Continued collaborative working with Fforestfach Day Centre and employment of services users (learning difficulties) to develop their social skills and wellbeing
- Hand over of public toilets at Pennard to local café owner
- Continue with 24 hour emergency cover

The Commissioning Report is scheduled to go to Budget Performance Review Group 22/11/16, Scrutiny on 12/12/16 and Cabinet 15/12/16.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

The Highways and Transportation service is a diverse service providing a large number of frontline services. The service is responsible for maintaining 1100kms of roads, 1500kms of footway, 28,000 street lights, 216 bridges and structures and 39,000 drainage assets. The estimated value of the highway assets is in excess of £1.3billion and the current estimated backlog of highway maintenance is estimated at around £130 million. The condition of the principle roads is in the upper quartile (currently around 2 of 22 in Wales). The service has robust maintenance policies and approaches which means that the Council has a very good success rate in defending 3rd party claims. The service is currently undergoing a commissioning review which will be looking at the entire service including interdependencies.

The service is responsible for;

- Highways Maintenance (including planned, reactive and winter maintenance)
- Out of hours emergency service 24/7
- Flood management (land drainage and costal defence)
- Bridge and structures maintenance
- Highway and capital Improvements
- Traffic and Road Safety
- Telematics and transport modelling
- Parking
- Highway development control
- Construction works for highway improvements
- Street lighting
- Transportation functions
- Marina and Tawe Barrage
- Fleet management and maintenance

Recent Key Achievements;

A number of initiatives and schemes have been delivered across the service recently including;

- Implementation of the 48hr pothole initiative which has been extremely successful
- Response to two major flood events in July
- Contract let and works started with the completion of the Morfa Distributor Road
- Significant progress in the delivery of the Westway Improvement Scheme
- Produced new guidance for developers to increase percentage of roads offered for adoption
- Average speed camera scheme introduced on North Gower Road
- Secured design commission for new link road to Morriston Hospital
- Installed improved traffic signal system (MOVA) on some key routes to improve traffic flow and management
- Continued delivery of road safety training in schools, colleges and for older drivers
- Work underway to develop and outline business case for the Fabian Way Corridor in partnership with Welsh Government and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Developed and delivered several Community Budget Schemes for members
- Retendered approximately 60 home to school transport routes generating a saving of approximately £300k per annum (£1.5m over the 5 year contract period)
- Reviewed park and ride provision which has led to the closure of the heavily underutilised Fforestfach park and ride site saving £200k per annum
- Production and preparation of the commissioning review