

OSMC Waste Strategy - Recommendations Monitoring

Committee Recommendations	Officer Response
<p>The Group could not support the introduction of three weekly collection at this time, as there were existing problems being experienced by the public with the existing service. These have not been addressed and the introduction of a change to the service would exacerbate these problems.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low recycling rates certain areas/wards with people not engaging with the current recycling scheme; • Issues with the storing of recycling / waste materials in flats and urban / city areas; • The need for better communication with the public on the scheme and what assistance / services is offered within the current scheme; • Issues with fly tipping / littering, particularly within urban areas; <p>The group noted that without introducing three weekly collection, the Council would not be in a position to reach the necessary targets for recycling and would be subject to the associated fines from the Welsh Assembly. This represents a significant risk to the Authority over the next 5-10 years.</p> <p>Should the Council chose not to proceed with three weekly collections, the savings to fund the expenditure within</p>	<p>Recommendations from Scrutiny Committee were taken into account and three weekly collections were not pursued by the Service area. However, as the Committee recognised in their report, without changes to the household collections the Council would not be in the position to meet the statutory target, hence being liable to a fine every year the target is missed, plus would not generate any savings that could help balance the budget or fund the other activities proposed as part of the Waste Strategy. Also, more than 50% of the waste currently people put in their wheelie bins can be recycled, so there is a big margin for improvement.</p> <p>Therefore, the Service Area have explored other options and also carried out a consultation with residents on recycling and provision of services. As a result, a proposal to restrict residual waste capacity by introducing smaller bins was sent to the Cabinet Member for Streetscene and City Services. This proposal does not involve a change in the service provided – residual collections continue being carried out fortnightly, with recycling collections on a weekly basis, but the reduction in size of bins will help residents to segregate their waste correctly. The Service Area is aware that communication is key so residents understand what can and cannot be recycled, so as part of the changes a wide communications campaign is included. Also, a new team of engagement and enforcement officers will be available to offer assistance and provide advice to residents, including home visits to explain people how to segregate correctly. For those who still refuse to recycle after liaising with the officers, the Council have implemented fines under the Environmental Protection Act – seeing the effort a majority of residents is making, it is only fair those who are not willing to comply with the scheme are penalised, after they have been given assistance and a chance to understand the system.</p>

<p>Scenario 5 (expansion of trade waste, improvements to the HWRC site and the development of a new HWRC site) would need to be found from elsewhere within the Council's budget.</p>	
<p>Further work was needed to specifically look at the issue of recycling in flats, to establish baseline data on flats in Newport and their recycling facilities, and how we can use our strategic relationship with Newport City Homes and other Registered Social Landlords to improve facilities and make it easier for flats to recycle.</p>	<p>Recycling in areas of flats is challenging by nature as those residents face different problems; hence this will be tackled separately to ensure the right engagement and sufficient resources are in place. The Service Area is in conversations with Newport City Homes and separate activities will be developed.</p> <p>However, it's worth noting that recycling performance in flats in Newport is high, and that flats only make up approximately 9% of the properties in Newport and tonnage collected from them only amounts to 5% of the total recycling tonnage collected at the kerbside, so any activity carried out in areas of flat is likely to have a very low impact on the overall performance, whilst may have a high cost. Options will be considered in the future and rationalised against the available budget.</p>
<p>The Group support the option within scenario 5 for an additional site to be built and to develop the existing site at Docks Way. In developing the existing site, the Council should address the issues with the access currently being experienced to make it safer and easier for people to use and include a reuse shop for recycled materials.</p>	<p>A proposal to develop a second Household Waste Recycling Centre in Newport was included in the Cabinet Member report for consideration and approved by the Cabinet Member of Streetscene and City Services, and it is also part of the Newport 2020 plan.</p> <p>The Service Area will develop this project and report back to the relevant boards and committees on progress.</p> <p>Also, works to improve access to the existing Household Waste Recycling Centre are underway and to be completed before the end of March 2019.</p>
<p>It is suggested that the viability of developing a number of smaller recycling only sites within communities be explored and assessed as to whether it has worked in other authorities and could be a viable option for Newport.</p>	<p>The Service Area will take this suggestion on board for future projects that can help with further increased recycling, although it is important to note that currently there is no budget available for additional activities, so budget availability will need to be determined too.</p>
<p>The group supported the recommendations within Scenario 6 in relation to trade waste and supported in</p>	<p>This proposal was also included in the Cabinet Member report for consideration and approved by the Cabinet Member of Streetscene. The Service Area will liaise with Welsh Government on new regulations on</p>

<p>principle that trade recycling be commissioned to a third party.</p>	<p>waste requirements for commercial activity and will work on adapting recycling focused commercial waste collections accordingly</p>
<p>The Group suggests that the following is explored and addressed within the development of a Waste strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how the Council can work with local groups and facilities to develop an approach to increase recycling, including how contracts and clauses within funding /grant agreements can be utilised. • Consider developing a pilot scheme with small / medium Newport based business to develop an approach for how the council can support businesses to recycle and reduce waste. • Work with sports clubs and schools to develop how they can be encouraged or supported to recycle. • Set an example by ensuring that all Council buildings reduce waste, and recycle as much as possible, including consistent recycling stations within civic offices, including the public areas and office areas. 	<p>The Council is currently reviewing the recycling policy and waste provisions in different Council buildings to ensure recycling is maximised.</p> <p>Suggestions will also be taken on board for future projects that can help with further increased recycling, with involvement from other Council departments that can have a more direct influence such as Procurement or Facilities</p>
<p>The Council should consider undertaking a short consultative exercise to establish why the public do not recycle. There are many assumptions as to why recycling rates are not higher, but before making any change to services aimed at increasing this rate, the Council needs</p>	<p>Consultation with residents was carried out via survey between October and November 2018, and its results were used to inform the decision about the proposals linked to the Waste Strategy. Over 6,000 residents took part and main outcomes were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There is a clear recognition of the need to improve recycling, and information indicates a significant percentage of the population could

to establish the cause of the problem to ensure that any changes will have the intended effect.

do more to recycle or recycle more material, with close to half of participants stating they could manage if measures to restrict residual capacity were introduced. The responses evidence an overuse of the residual bin over the recycling streams, especially food waste, in line with the results of Newport's residual waste compositional analysis, that shows 58% of the waste in the residual bin is recyclable material.

- More information on what can be recycled and availability of recycling containers is needed, and there is support for the Council issuing fines for non-recyclers and for the Council to provide support to residents by reviewing the content of their bags with them. There are also concerns about a potential increase in flytipping and litter if restrictions are implemented, all of which can be addressed by developing a communications and engagement campaign, with dedicated officers that can provide support and, if need be, make use of enforcement powers.
- Usage of HWRC is high but on an occasional basis, and there is room for doing a review of current operations to consider opening times or a ban for non-residents
- There is also wide support for a littering campaign and to actively issue Fixed Penalty Notices to offenders.

Full report is available as part of the Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment that accompanied the Cabinet Member report.

The Council should consider discussing with WAG the need for a long term plan on a regional level to reduce the amount of waste being generated. This should include how businesses can be incentivised to reduce the amount of unnecessary packaging, especially non-recyclable packaging and improve sustainability from the source of the problem.

Waste reduction for businesses is outside the Council's competencies but we would welcome changes in this area and can include this as a suggestion for Welsh Government