



***ENVIRONMENT, REGENERATION AND
STREETSCENE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE***

10.00 AM FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2024

***MULTI-LOCATION MEETING - COUNCIL CHAMBER, PORT TALBOT
& MICROSOFT TEAMS***

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PART A

1. Chair's Announcements
2. Declarations of Interest

Part 1

3. To Consider items from the Cabinet Forward Work Programme
 - (a) Disposal of Off Street Pay and Display Car Parks (Capacity and Utilisation Review) (Pages 5 – 27)
 - (b) Improving Recycling Performance and Budget Delivery (Pages 29 – 143)
 - (c) Pilot of Access Approach to Formal Parks and Gardens (Pages 145 – 167)

Part 2

4. To consider items from the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
No scrutiny committee Forward Work Programme items to be considered.

Part 3

5. Performance Monitoring
No performance monitoring items to be considered.

Part 4

6. Selections of items for future scrutiny (*Pages 169 - 188*)
 - Cabinet Forward Work Programme
 - Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
7. Urgent Items
Any urgent items at the discretion of the Chairperson pursuant to Section 100BA(6)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

K.Jones
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

4th November 2024

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: **Councillor S.Pursey**

Vice
Chairperson: **Councillor T.Bowen**

Councillors: C.James, L.Williams, A.Dacey, R.Davies,
R.W.Wood, J.Jones, C.Clement-Williams,
G.Rice, B.Woolford and H.C.Clarke

Notes:

- (1) *If Committee Members or non-Committee Members wish to have relevant items put on the agenda for future meetings, then please notify the Chief Executive/Chair eight days before the meeting.*
- (2) *If non-Committee Members wish to attend for an item of interest, then prior notification needs to be given (by 12.00 noon on the day before the meeting). Non-Committee Members may speak but not vote, or move or second any motion.*

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL

Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Scrutiny Committee

8th November 2024

**Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport – David W.
Griffiths & the Head of Property & Regeneration – Simon
Brennan**

Matter for Decision

WARDS AFFECTED: Neath East, Neath North, Pontardawe and Port Talbot.

Name of Report: Disposal of Off-Street Pay & Display Car Parks Capacity Review

Purpose of Report:

To allow for pre-decision consideration Disposal of Off-Street Pay & Display Car Parks Capacity Review by scrutiny members.

Background:

The scrutiny committee have selected this item for pre-decision scrutiny ahead of presentation to Cabinet on the 13th November for decision.

Financial Impact

Not applicable.

Integrated Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

Valleys Communities Impacts

Not applicable.

Workforce Impacts

Not applicable.

Legal Impacts

Not applicable.

Risk Management Impacts

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder Impacts

Not applicable.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts

Not applicable.

Consultation

There is no requirement under the constitution for consultation on this item.

Recommendations

Following scrutiny, it is recommended that Members support the recommendation outlined in the draft cabinet report.

Appendices

Disposal of Off-Street Pay & Display Car Parks Capacity Review.

Officer Contract

Ian Rees, Parking Manager

Tel. No: 01639 763970

Mr Tom Rees – Scrutiny Officer
email: t.rees1@npt.gov.uk

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet
13th November 2024

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport – David W. Griffiths & the Head of Property & Regeneration – Simon Brennan

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected Neath East, Neath North, Pontardawe and Port Talbot.

Disposal of Off-Street Pay & Display Car Parks Capacity Review

Purpose of the Report:

To provide information in relation to car park usage within the three town centres and to consider their possible disposal for regeneration and or lease.

Executive Summary:

As part of the medium to long-term financial plan members requested a report be prepared providing information on car park usage and the possibility of disposing surplus requirements for potential regeneration, leasing or disposal.

Background:

The council currently operate and maintain thirteen-town centre pay and display car parks as outlined below.

Over the last decade, there has been a shift from high street shopping to on-line shopping at a national level. Further, the pandemic has caused a significant reduction in demand for spaces available in the council town centres car parks. The introduction of working from home by the private sector along with the introduction of hybrid working by the authority has further reduced the need for spaces currently provided.

The council has also received an informal enquiry from the Aberafan Shopping Centre owners (Signal Capital) about possibly taking over the running of Port Talbot multi-storey car park as an operator while the authority retain ownership of the asset.

A housing developer has approached the council's planning department to discuss access and development of an adjoining site and would wish to secure access through the Pontardawe by-pass car park, with a possibility of further enhancing their development providing much needed housing in the area.

Network Rail mostly owns Milland Road Car Park and forms part of the TFW franchise for Neath Railway Station and The Arch Co Company, from whom the council leases the land, owns the remaining car park.

Officers from the authority's Planning Department have reviewed the sites identified below to establish if any of the car parks would be suitable for regeneration purposes and suitability of the sites to help meet the future housing needs as part of the proposed Local Development Plan, initial feedback is set out below:

Existing car parks at Bethany Square, Pontardawe by-pass and Rosser Street have been considered for potential re-use for residential development. All of the sites are within existing settlement limits, in sustainable locations with good access to goods and services and have the potential to be redeveloped. Herbert Street by-pass and Rosser Street are both narrow sites and would therefore be more suited to flat / apartment development. Bethany Square is a larger area and would have the scope for a mix of housing types, however, given the pattern and nature of adjacent development, a flat / apartment development may be more appropriate at this location. Bethany Square and Pontardawe by-pass have some flooding constraints that would need to be overcome.

Car Park Data

Listed below are the current car parks in each town centre showing the income and expenditure over the last two years along with capacity levels of the car parks.

Neath

Car Park	Capacity	Income 2022/23	Expenditure 2022/23	Net Income 2022/23	Income 2023/24	Expenditure 2023/24	Net Income 2023/24
High Street	37	£40,274	£11,503	£28,722	£44,460	£6,995	£37,505
Milland Road	413	£93,859	£113,438	-£19,850	£122,401	£84,903	£37,498
MSCP	31	£198,693	£246,705	-£48,012	£337,911	£249,584	£88,328
Rosser St.	31	£10,485	£3,585	£6,900	£11,689	£1,873	£9,817

Pontardawe

It should be noted that income is lower in Pontardawe due to the first hour of parking being free of charge. Flooding has affected the income at Herbert Street Lower Car Park and remedial works are planned as part of the minor works program in 2024 to resolve the issue.

Car Park	Capacity	Income 2022/23	Expenditure 2022/23	Net Income 2022/23	Income 2023/24	Expenditure 2023/24	Net Income 2023/24
By-Pass	44	£2,518	£1,428	£1,090	£4,492	£1,428	£3,064
Herbert St Upper	37	£6,193	£2,380	£3,813	£8,765	£2,488	£6,277
Herbert St Lower	19	£4,018	£925	£3093,	£4,351	£8,345	-£3,993

Port Talbot

Car Park	Capacity	Income 2022/23	Expenditure 2022/23	Net Income/ Loss 2022/23	Income 2023/24	Expenditure 2023/24	Net Income/Loss 2023/24
Bethany Sq.	158	£65,877	£22,586	£43,291	£74,921	£7,764	£67,157
Civic Centre	74	£2,328	£3,797	-£1,469	£1,318	£3,796	-£2,478
Harbourside	164	£38,796	£19,652	£19,144	£55,848	£7,809	£48,038
MSCP	705	£118,743	£153,159	-£34,416	£136,823	£186,584	-£49,760
Station Rd	107	£53,241	£21,559	£31,682	£61,086	£7,541	£53,545
St Mary's	41	£34,288	£6,844	£27,444	£32,023	£6,041	£25,981

There is no evidence based statistical data available, as the council do not have any occupancy counters in any car parks. Subsequently the occupancy figures indicated below are based on visual inspections.

Neath

High Street is a very popular car park and is normally has between 80% and 100% occupancy levels.

Milland Road is mainly a commuter-based car park for train passengers and is normally 50% occupied.

Multi-storey is the most used car park in Neath especially since the opening of the new leisure centre. However, due to council staff working from home the occupancy level is still only around 60%.

Rosser Street car park is not very well utilised other than when there is an event on at the Gnoll Rugby ground and it usually only 10% occupied.

Pontardawe

By-pass car park is not very popular and is only 20% utilised.

Herbert Street Lower is normally 50% occupied.

Herbert Street Upper is the most used car park in Pontardawe and is normally between 90% and 100% occupied.

Port Talbot

Bethany Square is a very popular car park and is normally 60% occupied.

Civic Centre is only a pay and display car park on weekends and is very poorly utilised as members of the public do not realise they can use it on weekends and is normally 20% occupied.

Harbourside is mainly a commuter-based car park for train passengers and is normally 50% occupied.

Multi-storey car park despite being adjacent to the Aberafan Shopping Centre is not very well utilised because of the condition of the car park combined with council staff working from home the occupancy level is only 40%.

Station Road car park is not very popular and is only 30% utilised.

St Mary's car park is well utilised due to its proximity to the Aberafan Shopping Centre and bus station and is usually 80% occupied.

Options for disposal/alternative use.

In relation to the three town centres, there is scope to dispose of a car park in each town centre and retain enough capacity for visitor parking.

Neath

Milland Road car park is not owned by the council and is owned by Network Rail. Network Rail lease the lower half of the car park to The Arch Company Properties Ltd who in turn rent it to us. There is no lease in place for the top half of the car park; however, we have been operating it as a car park since 1997. It should be noted that income being generated in the car park comes from the land that we do not own or rent.

Network Rail have notified us that they wish to make a claim on income that we have received from their land which is currently being looked at by legal. We cannot afford to rent the land that Network Rail own as it would mean the car park running at a loss. Milland Road car park is currently making a small profit, however, should there be an increase by The Arch Company Properties Ltd in rental costs at the end of the year it would be running at a loss.

Further, due to structural issues with a retaining wall at this car park, urgent repairs totalling £75k has been spent from the Councils capital programme this year to facilitate the Neath Great Fair, which is run and operated by the Showman's Guild.

The current lease with The Arch Co ends in December 2024 and would be an opportunity for the council to exit the agreement. We would not recommend continuing with the arrangement, as the Council would incur expenditure with no income. The income comes from the land owned by Network Rail, leased to Transport for Wales who will operate that part of the car park themselves.

There is also further consideration required by members should they decide to withdraw from the current arrangement in terms of the impacts on the Great Neath Fair. If this process was embarked on, it should be noted that the Showman's Guild would need to negotiate directly with the two present landowners, namely Network Rail and the Arch Co. Limited for the continued use of the car park for the Spring and September Fairs.

Should members decide not to terminate the lease with the Arch Co Limited, then a financial pressure will exist that will need to be addressed as part of the on-going budget pressures.

Rosser Street car park is surplus to requirements and could be marketed for development.

Neath MSCP and High Street should be retained as part of the pay & display operational car parking portfolio.

Pontardawe

By-pass car park could be sold for development, as there is capacity in the remaining town centre car parks.

Herbert Street Upper and Lower car parks be retained as part of the pay & display operational car parking portfolio.

Port Talbot

Officers are currently in discussions with Signal Capital whom own the Aberavon Shopping Center about leasing the MSCP. This would generate a possible income stream to the council and more importantly would result in cost avoidance and future revenue and capital expenditure. The lessee would be responsible for all operational costs and enforcement. This arrangement would not result in any loss of car parking capacity in the town centre.

Bethany Square car park could be made available for development as part of the town centre regeneration.

St Mary's, Station Road, Civic Centre and Harbourside car parks be retained as part of the pay & display operational car parking portfolio.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No implications

Workforce Impacts:

It is important to note that consideration will need to be given to the long-term future of Port Talbot Civic Centre and Theatre in terms of designated parking for council staff in any disposal of the Port Talbot MSCP. We have been assured by the Aberavon Shopping Centre owners that they would be happy to accommodate this should they lease the car park which would be reflected in any lease agreement.

Legal Impacts:

The council will have to follow due process and procedure for the disposal or regeneration of council land.

Risk Management Impacts:

If a new operator takes over the running of the Port Talbot MSCP and their tariff charges are less than the authority-controlled car parks, then this could result in less people using the council car parks.

If the decision is taken not to sell or lease the Port Talbot MSCP the outstanding maintenance backlog and general condition of the car park and the associated health & safety implications will need to be addressed in the short to medium term (circa £1.6 million).

Consultation:

External consultation is not required for this report.

Scrutiny Observations:

The report will be considered at Environment, Regeneration and Street Scene Scrutiny Committee on 8th November 2024.

Recommendations:

Having due regard to the integrated impact assessment it is recommended that members authorise the Head of Property & Regeneration to:

- (1) Approve the instigation of disposal procedures for Rosser Street Car Park in Neath.
- (2) Enter negotiations with Arch Company Limited to clarify the cost of a new lease or withdrawing from the arrangement with a further report presented to cabinet for decision.
- (3) Continue negotiations and agree terms with Signal Capital to lease the Port Talbot MSCP and to bring a further report back to cabinet for a final decision.

(4) That Bethany Square Car Park be retained for now and its disposal be re-considered should future development opportunities arise as part of the Town Centres regeneration with further reports brought back to Cabinet for decision in the future.

(5) That the By-Pass Car Park in Pontardawe, also be retained for now and be re-considered as and when development opportunities come to fruition, with further reports brought back to Cabinet for decision in the future.

Reasons for Proposed Decisions:

To allow officers to enter into negotiation to dispose of surplus car parks for development and regeneration.

Implementation of Decision:

After the three day, call in period.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Integrated Impact Assessment Screening.

Appendix 2 Plan of Milland Road Car Park.

Appendix 3 Plan of Rosser Street Car Park

Officer Contact:

Ian Rees, Parking Manager

Tel. No: 01639 763970

Email: i.rees@npt.gov.uk

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Parking Capacity Review with a view to dispose of Assets
Service Area: Parking Services
Directorate: Environment

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	✓	
Staff		✓
Wider community	✓	
Internal administrative process only		✓

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age		✓				The initiative will still provide adequate town centre parking.
Disability		✓				The initiative will still provide adequate town centre parking.
Gender Reassignment		✓				The initiative will still provide adequate town centre parking.
Marriage/Civil Partnership		✓				The initiative will still provide adequate town centre parking.
Pregnancy/Maternity		✓				The initiative will still provide adequate town centre parking.

Race		✓				The initiative will still provide adequate town centre parking.
Religion/Belief		✓				The initiative will still provide adequate town centre parking.
Sex		✓				The initiative will still provide adequate town centre parking.
Sexual orientation		✓				The initiative will still provide adequate town centre parking.

4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		✓				All our pay and display machines conform with the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		✓				All our pay and display machines conform with the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
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To maintain and enhance biodiversity		✓				
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.		✓				

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	✓		By reducing our car park stock, it will be easier to maintain the remaining car parks enabling thriving communities.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	✓		By reducing our car park stock, it will be easier to maintain the remaining car parks enabling thriving communities.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative		✓	Following advice from legal a consultation process is not required.
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	✓		Discussion have been undertaken between Parking Services, Finance, property and Building Services.

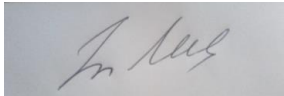

Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	✓		Will remove many maintenance issues.
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7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

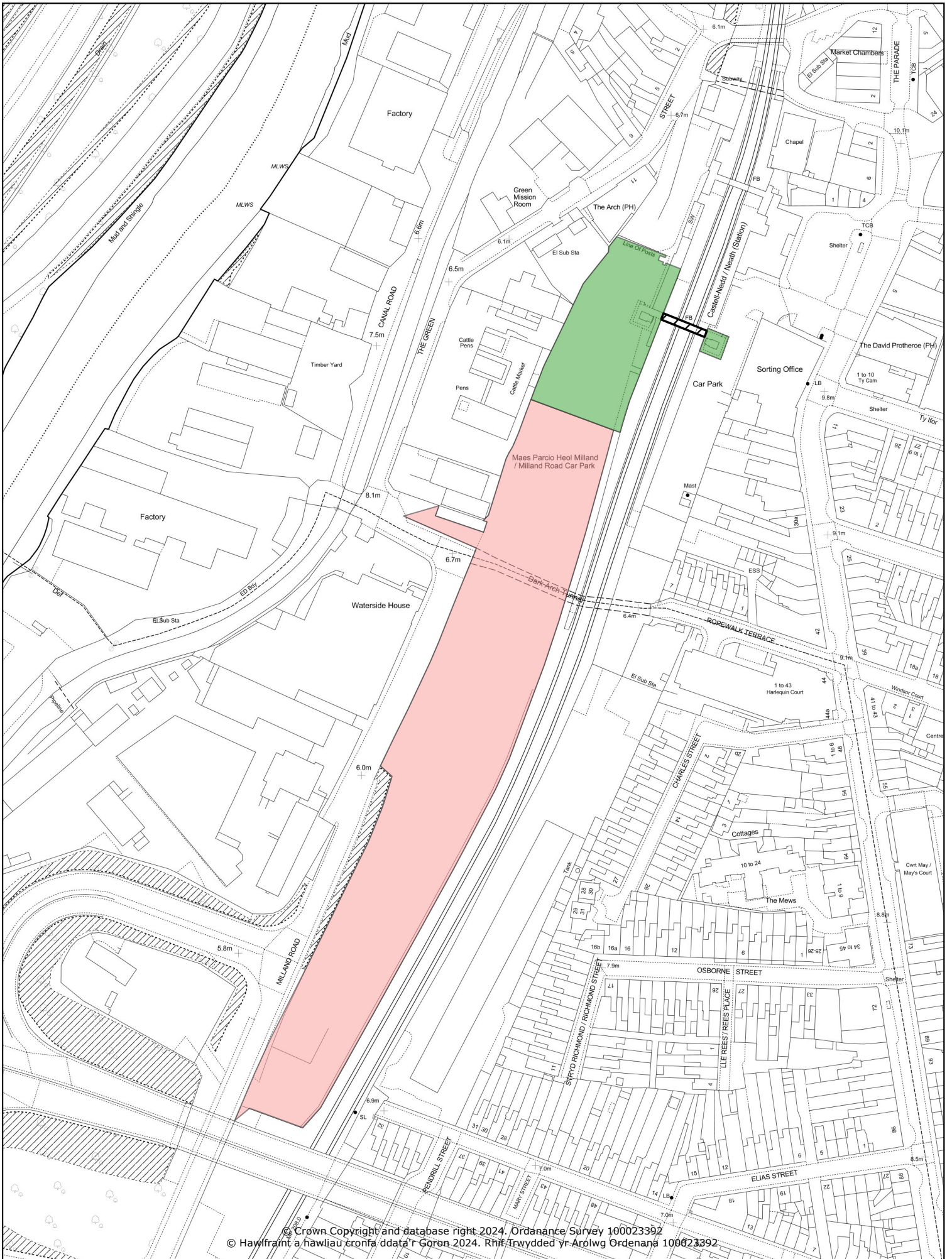
A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	✓
Reasons for this conclusion	
There is no reason for a full integrated impact assessment as the initiative will only result in a loss of surplus parking spaces and will not impact in any loss of needed parking spaces.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

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	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Ian Rees	Parking Manager		19.08.24
Signed off by	David W. Griffiths	Head of Engineering & Transport		19.08.24

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Project
 Milland Road Car park
 Neath



Scales
 A4 @ 1:2000
 Drawing No.
 24-0965

PROPERTY & REGENERATION
 Nicola Pearce BSC (Hons), Dip TP, MRTPI
 Corporate Director of Environment
 The Quay, Brunel Way, Baglan Energy Park
 Neath SA11 2GG
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 www.npt.gov.uk



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Rev	Details	Dr	Ch	Ap	Date

Client



JOHN S. FLOWER, B.Sc., C.Eng., C.Env., F.I.C.E., M.C.I.H.T
 CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT
 THE QUAYS, BRUNEL WAY
 BAGLAN ENERGY PARK
 NEATH SA11 2GG

Project
**Rosser Street Car Park
 Neath
 Location Plan**

File No.	Financial Code No.		
Drawn	Checked	Approved	
Date	Date	Date	

Scales **1:1250**
 Drawing No.



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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL

Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Scrutiny Committee

8th October 2024

Report of the Head of Streetcare – Mike Roberts

Matter: for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report title: Improving Recycling Performance and Budget Delivery

Purpose of Report:

To allow for pre-decision consideration of the Improving Recycling Performance and Budget Delivery report by scrutiny members.

Background

The scrutiny committee have selected this item for pre-decision scrutiny ahead of presentation to Cabinet on the 13th November for decision.

Financial Impact

Not applicable.

Integrated Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

Valleys Communities Impacts

Not applicable.

Workforce Impacts

Not applicable.

Legal Impacts

Not applicable.

Risk Management Impacts

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder Impacts

Not applicable.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts

Not applicable.

Consultation

There is no requirement under the constitution for consultation on this item.

Recommendations

Following scrutiny, it is recommended that Members support the recommendation outlined in the draft cabinet report.

Appendices

Improving Recycling Performance and Budget Delivery

Officer Contract

Nicola Thomas

Principal Officer, Waste Projects & Community Engagement

Email: n.l.thomas@npt.gov.uk

Mike Roberts

Head of Streetcare

Email: m.roberts@npt.gov.uk

Mr Tom Rees – Scrutiny Officer
email: t.rees1@npt.gov.uk

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NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

13th November 2024

Report of the Head of Streetcare – Mike Roberts

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Improving Recycling Performance and Budget Delivery

Purpose of Report:

To provide Members with proposals to both improve recycling performance and save money, the latter as required to meet a corporate request to identify 5% financial savings for 2025/26.

Executive Summary:

A Waste Strategy Action Plan was approved by Environment and Regeneration and Street Scene Cabinet Board in April 2023.

An update report on implementation of the action plan was presented to the Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Scrutiny Committee on 19th April 2024. The update report contained a briefing note and proposals further to Measure 11 in the action plan for conducting formal consultation on increasing recycling performance, including three weekly collections of non-recyclable residual waste

and improvements to the recycling service, alongside continuing weekly collections of food waste and recyclables. The consultation exercise has been completed and further actions need to be taken to ensure the council exceeds the current Welsh Government statutory recycling performance target of 70% which is required from the end of this year.

Since completing the consultation exercise work has commenced to deliver a balanced budget for 2025/26. This work has given rise to a corporate request for all services to identify a 5% financial saving for next year. Such a saving equates to a budget reduction of £739,000 for Waste Services.

This report therefore seeks to present proposals to both improve recycling performance and reduce expenditure. The main proposals include moving to three-weekly refuse collection, alongside improving the range of weekly recycling services, and introducing charges for green waste collections which are non-statutory. Given that eight of the Council's Refuse Collection Vehicles are now due for renewal, the question is also posed whether Members wish to consider adopting the additional measures of ceasing to provide black bags for households on black sack collections and dispensing with wheeled bins for collections, instead requiring household to present refuse in black bags at their own expense for collection. If so, these extra measures would need to be included in the budget consultation process, as they have not been consulted on.

Background:

A Waste Strategy Action Plan was approved by Environment, Regeneration and Street Scene Cabinet Board in April 2023 and an update report on implementation of the action plan was presented to the Environment, Regeneration and Street Scene Scrutiny Committee on 19th April 2024. The update report contained a briefing note and proposals further to Measure 11 in the action plan for conducting

formal consultation with respect to three weekly collections of non-recyclable residual waste and also increasing recycling performance in general. This consultation exercise has now been completed and details regarding the response are given in Appendix A. Some 3740 responses were received representing a response from around 5% of households.

There are two main levers for boosting recycling performance, that is, by restricting residual waste and expanding recycling services. In Neath Port Talbot, the incremental restrictions on residual waste alongside improved recycling services have been ongoing since the early 2000's with first the move from weekly to fortnightly residual waste collections, followed by the move from 240 litre wheeled bins to 140 litre wheeled bins in the early 2010's. The next step, to further reduce the frequency of non-recyclable waste collections alongside the continued weekly collect of food waste and other recyclables has already been taken by the majority of Council's in Wales (See Appendix A). It need be recognised however, as can be seen in Appendix B, the majority of the around 5% of households that responded to the consultation were in favour of improving recycling services but against anything that restricts their ability to freely dispose of waste material as refuse.

For ease of reference, some headlines from the consultation are as follows:

Question No.	Question Detail	Headline
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:		
9	As green/garden waste collections are not required by law, I would prefer to pay a reasonable charge for the service as it stands, i.e.	73% Disagree or Strongly Disagree

	fortnightly collection if it helps protect the service	
10	<i>Residents should be able to mix paper and cardboard, so that the Council can start collecting and recycling small electrical items (e.g. toasters, shavers, kettles)</i>	69% Agree or Strongly Agree
11	<i>If other measures fail to drive up recycling rates to meet the Welsh Government's targets, the council should reduce the frequency of non-recyclable waste collection (black bags/black bins) to once every three weeks to encourage more recycling</i>	84% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
12	<i>The Council should move to a paid-for, subscription service for green/garden waste collections. For those who choose to subscribe, green/garden waste would be collected weekly*</i>	76% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
13	The Council should make changes to ensure that we recycle all separately collected nappies (and other absorbent hygiene products) on the current fortnightly collection frequency **	25% Agree or Strongly agree (53% neither agree or disagree/Don't have an opinion)
14	<i>The Council should increase the collection frequency of nappies (and other absorbent hygiene products) to weekly, and recycle all of it ***</i>	39% Agree or Strongly agree (54% neither agree or disagree/Don't have an opinion)

* Weekly green collection would only be considered if there was a move to 3 weekly non-recyclable black bin/bag waste collection

** Without additional funding, this would only be achievable alongside a three weekly non-recyclable black bin/black bag waste collection service

*** Without additional funding, this would only be achievable if the service were run alongside weekly chargeable garden waste collections

The service is currently reviewing the feedback in relation to the reported barriers to recycling identified within the consultation to inform improvements to our overall education and communications plan.

An issue for the Council is that restricting the disposal of refuse is effective at helping to drive up recycling, whilst improvements to recycling performance and cost savings are only deliverable if both residual waste is restricted and charges are made for green waste collections. Unless something changes, the service is in the position where in order to meet both its statutory waste and financial obligations, plus be in a position to deliver improvements in recycling collection that people want, it needs to increase restrictions on waste disposal and introduce charges that those responding to the Council's consultation generally would prefer not to have.

Whilst actions taken to date have had a positive impact on the Council's recycling performance, the council is still not achieving the latest statutory Welsh Government Target of 70% required from the end of this financial year. If the target is missed, as is anticipated, the Minister can be expected to ask for the council's action plan to resolve the situation to avoid the application of Welsh Government fines.

A table showing current performance is shown below:

	Q1 3 month performance	Q2 3 month performance	Q3 3 month performance	Q4 3 month performance	Out-turn 12 month accumulative
22/23	65.27	66.93	63.13	63.82	64.82
23/24	65.63	68.20	67.55	69.42	67.72
24/25	68.22				

It is noted there are some seasonal impacts largely related to green garden waste, and recycling performance has been increasing through 2023/24 as we introduced in-year improvements as part of the agreed waste strategy. Further actions are however needed to ensure the council exceeds the performance target of 70%.

Since completing the consultation exercise on improving recycling performance, corporate work is underway to deliver a balanced budget for 2025/26. This work has given rise to a request for all services to identify a 5% financial saving for next year. Such a saving equates to a budget reduction of £739,000 for Waste Services.

This report therefore seeks to present proposals to both improve recycling performance and reduce expenditure.

The main proposals include moving to three-weekly refuse collection, improving the range of weekly services, and introducing charges for green waste collections which are non-statutory. This is proposed using the current 140ltr wheeled bins (or three black bags per three weeks in black sack collection areas). As indicated this would mean moving to three weekly refuse collections for households and businesses, other than town centres where businesses could purchase a higher frequency of service from the Council if required, or buy services from a private sector provider as meets their requirements. As set out in the consultation information, three weekly collection rounds have been calculated and it is proposed that associated collection vehicles would focus on refuse only (as opposed to collecting refuse and green waste as existing). Alongside this it is also proposed, as included in the consultation, to:

- i. Collect paper and card together and introduce kerbside collection pilot for small electrical equipment;
- ii. Introduce charging for green waste collections which are non-statutory, as recommended by Welsh Government in their 'Collections Blueprint';

- iii. Introduce bookable (booked through ordering AHP bags) weekly collections for Absorbent Hygiene Products linked to weekly green waste collections.

Combined Collection of Paper and Cardboard and Introduction of Pilot collections for small electrical equipment (WEEE)

At the time of introducing our kerbside sort service, separation for onward reprocessing of paper and cardboard was preferred and a requirement by onward re-processors. However, over time the requirement to do so has changed and re-processors now widely accept the co-mingling of paper and cardboard with no detrimental impact of the rate of income return. With the increasing use of digital resources replacing things like newspapers and bank statements etc. the volume of paper within the waste stream has also been decreasing substantially.

The combining of paper and cardboard collections would reduce the number of receptacles needed to be presented at the kerbside. It would also address certain reputational elements of the collection service such as damaged lids due to them blowing around in inclement weather.

Under the Council's current collection scheme, mixing paper and cardboard is considered as contamination and should not be collected, so this change would also reduce missed collection calls in that regard as well as reduce the need for the associated awareness raising visits by the Council's Recycling Awareness and Compliance Team.

The current stock of paper boxes could be reused for glass collections with that information being clearly communicated to residents.

In order to achieve the statutory recycling targets set by the Welsh Government, the recycling service has expanded over the years, and needs to continue to do so, with the proposed introduction of small

Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) at the kerbside. A pilot collection for such collections was approved as part of the Council's Waste Strategy in April 2023 but has yet to be implemented due to resource issues.

Should Members approve the combined collection of paper and cardboard, then the approved pilot for the introduction of a kerbside small WEEE collection can be facilitated and proceed without the need for additional resources given the existing 'paper bay' on the collection vehicle could be utilised for this purpose.

Furthermore, costs associated with the purchase of small WEEE sacks together with any additional cardboard sacks will be netted off by the reduced costs for the purchase of paper boxes.

Green waste charges

An issue for the Council is that restricting the disposal of refuse is effective at helping to drive up recycling, whilst improvements to recycling are only affordable, and savings achievable, if residual waste is restricted by three weekly collections and charges are made for green waste collections.

Therefore, it is proposed to implement an annual subscription charge based on 'mid-range' charges made by other Local Authorities and, based on experience elsewhere, it has been assumed 45% of households in the County Borough would take up this subscription option. Having reflected on the consultation responses and experience in other Councils the proposed charges are given below:

Up to 2 garden waste bags per weekly collection (or up to 4 bags in the case of fortnightly collections) with no charges for the bags - £26 per annum.

Up to 5 garden waste bags per weekly collection (or up to 10 bags in the case of fortnightly collections), with no charges for the bags) - £40 per annum.

For heavy users, requiring more bags per week, additional bags would be available at £4 per bag per annum.

Other Welsh Local Authorities who have introduced a subscription charge for garden waste have shown an overall decrease in the tonnage collected, with some recovery over time.

It is proposed that when residents sign up to the scheme then as done in other Council areas a short set of Terms and Conditions (to be agreed with Legal and Democratic Services) would be provided to the householder ensuring the Council's contractual obligations and resident's responsibilities are clearly set out.

In order to limit administration costs, negate the need to purchase different colour bags, and to help ensure the introduction of the scheme is successful, it is proposed the introduction of this scheme is coordinated with the introduction of the in-cab 'Live Feed' system in October 2025, which will provide the crews with real time information on which properties have an annual paid subscription and ensure that free collections are not provided to residents who may have previously purchased and presented green bags but have not signed up to the annual subscription service.

Impact on performance

The introduction of three weekly refuse collections and, consistent AHP separation, and small electrical item collections alongside continuing weekly collection of food waste and other recyclables would have a positive impact on recycling performance, whilst the introduction of green waste charges would have some negative impact as more green waste may be taken to HWRCs or be home composted (or could be placed within wheeled bins if the Council

does not move to three weekly collections given declining refuse quantities).

Looking at the experience elsewhere and local circumstances, a net recycling performance improvement of at least 2% is estimated, ensuring the Council exceeds the statutory target.

Timing

It is proposed the new service arrangements would be put in place for 1st October 2025, following the waste collection service relocating to the Transfer Station in January, and the arrival of new vehicles, and providing for one set of round re-designs so households are not faced with a series of changes to their collections. As noted above, this will also coincide with the introduction of the new in-cab 'live feed' data system which is currently being progressed.

Amended missed bin policy to accompany change

The Missed Bin Policy is due for review as part of the Council's Waste Strategy Action Plan which needs to coincide with the introduction of the In-Cab Waste Management "Live Feed" System and a draft policy is provided at Appendix C for Member approval prior to the implementation of "Live Feed" for implementation on 1st October 2025.

Amended side waste policy to accompany change

Any change to three weekly collections will undoubtedly result in an increase in applications for the Exemption Scheme. The current scheme is already due for review as part of the Council's Approved Waste Strategy Action Plan (Measure 6) due to some ongoing issues with the scheme being abused. A revised Exemption Scheme is given as Appendix D for Member approval and for consistency this Policy would also be introduced from 1st October 2025.

Communications

Effective communication of these large-scale service changes, if approved, is imperative to prepare residents for the change and ensure as smooth as possible transition.

These will be co-produced with Corporate Communication but would include, but not exclusive to:

- Future changes to collections webpage, with associated media 'blasts', including reminders closer to time of change;
- Programme of 'pop up events' across the County Borough to facilitate increased kit demand;
- Full explanatory leaflets to all households across the County Borough together with downloadable versions on the website;
- Single page poster for all households as a quick glance guide to the new service including downloadable versions on the website;
- FAQ's on both the website and the leaflets for all service changes;
- Explanatory Q & A videos on Recycle4NPT/You tube channels
- New Collection Calendars for all residents

Potential supplementary measures to further reduce costs and increase recycling:

Given that eight of the Council's refuse collection vehicles are now due for renewal, it is timely to ask Members whether they would wish to consider adopting the additional measures of ceasing to provide black bags for households on black sack collections and take the opportunity of dispensing with wheeled bins for collections, requiring

households to present refuse in black bags at their own expense for collection.

There are approximately 12% of households (some 8,200) on black bag collections for which black bags are currently provided by the Council, with an associated spend of circa £38,000 pa. (This does not include the resources required to deliver them which usually takes 4 weeks in total for the delivery teams, diverting them from their daily duties of delivering recycling equipment). The provision of black bags could be withdrawn as has already been done by most other councils. Such a proposal could be included as part of the forthcoming budget consultations.

In addition, there is the option as currently being taken forward by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council of ceasing to utilise wheeled bins for refuse collection. Residents could keep the ones they have for storage on their property if they wished, and no further bins would be provided, and residents would be required to present their refuse in black bags (of a specified maximum size that they purchase themselves) for collection.

The number of black refuse bags put out for collection could be restricted, for example to 3 bags per three weeks, as currently proposed for black sack areas. Other areas have shown that restricting refuse presentation to one bag per week is more effective than restricting refuse to one approximately sized wheeled bin per collection period because the bins effectively act as mini skips. The use of sacks can be expected to divert some more waste from landfill than three weekly savings alone, helping further to keep disposal costs down, and further contribute to the delivery of existing and future recycling targets. There would also be savings on the provision of bins going forward. The council currently spends circa £63,000 per year on the purchase of black bins.

There would also be savings in relation to collections. As stated earlier eight refuse collection vehicles are currently up for renewal.

These could be renewed with vehicles without bin lifts which would be cheaper* (and use less fuel/energy in driving the hydraulics/motors going forward), plus the vehicles would be lighter and could carry more payload before needing to be emptied. The collection of black sacks are also quicker as wheeled bins have to be moved individually and take some time to be taken back and forth to the vehicle, and time on the bin lift, whether they have one black bag's worth of material in them or three. It must be acknowledged however there would be the potential for some more spillages, for example due to animals routing through bags, with potentially increased impact on the Council's already stretched street cleansing service. There is also the potential that residents would purchase the cheapest black bags, which rip easier and could exacerbate problems further.

[(*) Circa £24 - £35k per vehicle cheaper purchase cost with an average saving also of circa £6k per year on maintenance costs of the lifts per vehicle]

This potential supplementary measure is only included in the report as, if there was a desire to look at it after the decision by RCTCBC, now would be the time to consider the matter with a large part of the refuse fleet coming up for renewal.

Dispensing with the use of wheeled bins would very much be a supplementary measure. It is not a substitute measure for reducing refuse collection frequency or introducing green waste collection charges as in itself, dispensing with the use of wheeled bins for collection would not deliver the increase in recycling performance, or the budget savings required. If there were a decision to implement black bag collections for everyone with residents providing their own bags, then the performance impact could be increased by implementing a limit of 2 bags per fortnight in the absence of a move to three weekly collections. However, the savings would be nowhere near enough to introduce other required recycling improvements or achieve the service's saving target. The latter would be particularly the case if savings were used to increase street cleaning capacity alongside collection rounds.

Financial Impacts:

A move to three weekly collections of non-recyclable waste together with charged-for weekly green waste collections, an improved weekly AHP collection service, and the introduction of small electrical and electronic equipment waste collections is expected to deliver a net saving in accordance with the corporate budget saving target for the service of 5% (£739,000 per annum), which would be realised through a combination of reduced disposal costs and increased recycling income totalling £250,000, together with the net income from the green waste charges of £489,000. Some savings associated with the reduction in collection costs for non-recyclable waste would be used to fund part of the service improvements for AHP collections.

Ceasing the provision of black sacks if taken forward would save £38k per annum

Ceasing the use of wheeled bins for collection with a one bag per week limit would save an estimated net £338,000 per annum made up of: reduced disposal costs/increased recycling income of £125k per annum; savings associated with a reduction in collection costs of £250k per annum; a reduction in the cost of providing wheeled bins of £63k per annum, less the provision of funding for an additional cleansing crew at a cost of £100K to track collection areas.

If Members were minded not to implement three weekly collections or green waste collection charges then the corporate savings requirement cannot be met, and no other recycling improvements other than small electrical item collections can be afforded. If Members were minded to implement only one or other of three weekly and chargeable green collections, then a choice has to be made between service improvements or savings. In particular, in relation to green waste collection charges alone, which could be expected to reduce overall recycling performance, it is suggested that

income should be invested in recycling service enhancement (through weekly AHP and green waste collections) which would similarly lead to no savings being achieved.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

To assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The following assessments are included in the Appendices:

A Stage 1 screening assessment for improvements to weekly recyclable collections which indicate a full assessment is not required;

A Stage 2 Integrated Impact Assessment for the introduction of three weekly non-recycling collections and green waste charges;

A Stage 2 Integrated Impact Assessment for the updated Missed Collections Policy;

A Stage 2 Integrated Impact Assessment for the revised 'No Side Waste' Policy; and,

A Stage 1 Integrated Impact Assessment for supplementary measures of ceasing provision of black bins and bags the proposals to be considered further, after consultation as part of the budget round, if Members resolve to take the matter forward;

Valleys Communities Impacts:

Valley communities, as all others, would be affected by the proposed changes.

Workforce Impacts:

There are no job losses or adverse workforce impacts associated with the proposed changes. There would be no changes in waste driver/loader roles, but there would be some redeployment of employees between the collection of different material streams, e.g. from refuse to recycling, and this would firstly be considered with staff on a voluntary basis. Without a move to three weekly collections, increased AHP collections would require more staff.

Legal Impacts:

No implications save where set out in this report.

Risk Management Impacts:

The Council runs the risk of reputational damage if the national statutory recycling target is not achieved, would face the financial risks of identifying savings of equal value from elsewhere to achieve a balanced budget, could face fines from Welsh Government if statutory performance targets are not met which would increase budgetary pressures (of order £130,000 per percentage point missed per year), and would have to contend with further financial risks generally if overall waste management costs are not kept to a minimum in the context of recycling collections needing to expand and improve.

Crime and Disorder Impacts:

There would be the potential for some additional fly tipping with any move to three weekly collections by householders not prepared to engage in recycling. Similarly, there would be the potential for some additional fly tipping of green waste for those residents who refuse to sign up to the green waste subscription service.

Many Council's in Wales have already implemented the proposed changes and their experience with respect to fly tipping was looked at alongside the consultation. In summary the feedback is 'nothing to worry about after an initial settling in period', noting the council has in place education and enforcement resources which can be deployed to help residents adjust to the new arrangements.

Consultation:

The proposed changes have been the subject to external consultation. The supplementary measures, if Members were minded to pursue them, would be included in the forthcoming budget consultation.

Scrutiny Committee Observations:

To be inserted after scrutiny committee

Recommendations:

Having due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessments it is recommended that Members:

- i. Approve the combining of paper and card kerbside collections and the introduction of small electrical item kerbside collections;
- ii. Approve the updated Missed Collections Policy with a further review after the implementation of the in-cab 'live feed' system set out in Appendix C of this report;
- iii. Approve the revised 'No Side Waste' Policy set out in Appendix D of this report;
- iv. Determine whether to:

- a. Implement three weekly refuse collections on the basis identified in this report and approve expanding the current pilot to fully roll out weekly kerbside AHP collections: or
 - b. Not implement a proposal to move to three weekly refuse collections.
 - v. Determine whether to:
 - a. Implement a green waste collection charge on the basis detailed in the report and if so delegate authority to the Head of Streetcare in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Cabinet Member for Street Scene to agree the necessary short set of Terms and Conditions to accompany a chargeable green waste collection service and approve expanding the current pilot to fully roll out weekly kerbside AHP collections; or
 - b. Not implement a green waste collection charge.
 - vi. Determine whether to:
 - a. Include the potential supplementary measures to discontinue the provision of black sacks and the use of wheeled bins for refuse collection in the forthcoming budget consultation; or
 - b. Not include the potential supplementary measures to discontinue the provision of black sacks and the use of wheeled bins for refuse collection in the forthcoming budget consultation.

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Waste Collection & Performance Details of Welsh LA's
- Appendix B – Analysis of the Outcome of the Public

		Consultation
Appendix C	–	Proposed updated Missed Collections Policy
Appendix D	–	Proposed revised No Side Waste Policy
Appendix E1-E4	–	Integrated Impact Assessments

List of Background Papers:

Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Scrutiny Committee
Report of 19th April 2024 – Update on the implementation of
measures in the Waste Strategy Action Plan

Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Service Cabinet Report
of 14th April 2023 – Waste Strategy Action Plan

Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Service Scrutiny
Committee of 3rd March 2023 – Consider recommendations to the
Waste Strategy Report

All Members Seminar and presentations of 13th October 2022 and
16th February 2023

Environment and Highways Scrutiny Committee of 28th January 2018
– [No Side Waste Policy](#), [Appendix](#)

Environment and Highways Cabinet Board of 17th December 2015 –
[Missed Bin Policy](#)

Officer Contact:

Nicola Thomas
Principal Officer, Waste Projects & Community Engagement
Email: n.l.thomas@npt.gov.uk

Mike Roberts
Head of Streetcare
Email: m.roberts@npt.gov.uk


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Appendix A

Comparison of Waste Collection and Recycling Performance Information of Councils in Wales

Local Authority	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	residual waste collection (no. of weeks)	Bags / Wheeled bins	annual charge for green waste collections
Blaenau Gwent CBC	65.31%	64.29%	64.94%	66.78%	66.18%	3	bins	no charge
Bridgend CBC	67.58%	69.15%	72.58%	71.38%	72.78%	2	bags	charge
Caerphilly CBC	62.51%	61.92%	59.68%	60.69%	60.20%	2*	bins	no charge
Cardiff County Council	58.14%	55.79%	58.19%	61.57%	60.07%	2	bins	charge
Carmarthenshire County Council	64.66%	66.25%	61.82%	65.43%	70.39%	3*	bags**	charge
Ceredigion County Council	71.57%	70.21%	69.62%	70.27%	71.29%	3	bags**	charge
City and County of Swansea	64.97%	64.49%	65.07%	71.80%	70.45%	2	bags**	no charge
Conwy CBC	69.32%	70.21%	70.17%	69.04%	69.61%	4	bins	charge
Denbighshire County Council	64.76%	64.83%	64.82%	65.91%	67.59%	4	bins	charge
Flintshire County Council	65.58%	63.98%	60.08%	61.51%	62.77%	2*	bins	charge
Gwynedd Council	64.74%	65.47%	64.17%	64.67%	64.19%	3	bins	charge
Isle of Anglesey CC	68.00%	65.71%	62.30%	63.46%	64.67%	3	bins	charge
Merthyr Tydfil CBC	64.99%	66.95%	66.82%	64.82%	64.28%	2	bins	no charge
Monmouthshire CC	65.57%	68.40%	69.53%	69.98%	71.78%	2*	bags**	charge
Neath Port Talbot CBC	61.74%	67.56%	66.01%	64.82%	67.72%	2	bins	no charge
Newport City Council	66.36%	67.22%	67.11%	65.17%	67.89%	3	bins	no charge
Pembrokeshire County Council	71.65%	73.22%	73.24%	71.64%	72.00%	3*	bags**	charge
Powys County Council	63.05%	66.06%	66.77%	68.13%	68.48%	3*	bins	charge
Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC	64.78%	66.74%	67.23%	64.97%	67.23%	3	bags**	no charge
Torfaen CBC	64.40%	62.00%	62.61%	58.71%	64.14%	2*	bins	no charge
Vale of Glamorgan Council	70.35%	70.59%	70.19%	67.82%	70.36%	3	bags**	charge
Wrexham CBC	69.62%	66.86%	67.89%	65.46%	63.81%	2	bins	charge

Key

	have dipped below target since target year
	below target

Performance

The target for 2019/20 to 2023/24 was 64%

9 LAs have been below the target for 1 or more years

4 LAs have been below the target for 3 or more years

Where LAs fail to achieve targets, Welsh Government pursue a policy designed to encourage greater recycling by a numbers of measures including reassurances that the LAs have plans in place to achieve greater recycling.

Issuing fines is a last resort

WG constantly monitor performance and take pro-active approach to targets

To date 1 LA has been fined, this number is expected to increase

Residual Waste Collection Service

Currently: 15 out of 22 LAs either collect residual waste 3 weekly or more, or collect bags, or both.

*indicates LAs currently proposing a move to further reduce residual waste collection frequency

Proposed: 18 out of 22 LAs either collect residual waste 3 weekly or more, or collect bags, or both.

Proposed: NPT will be 1 of only 4 LAs collecting fortnightly with bins

Green Waste Collection

14 out of 22 LAs charge for green waste collections

** bag collections, bags NOT provided by the LA

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September 2024

Authored by Hannah Khwaja

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Analysis of public consultation on recycling

Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot | Neath Port Talbot Council



About Data Orchard and Neath Port Talbot Council

Data Orchard combines specialist skills in research, statistics, and data with a passion for making the world a better place socially, economically, and environmentally. Our mission is to enable every nonprofit organisation to use data effectively to achieve their goals.

Neath Port Talbot Council is the local authority for the county borough of Neath Port Talbot, one of the 22 principal areas in Wales.

In this document, we report on our analysis of data from a public consultation on potential service changes to help increase recycling performance in Neath Port Talbot.

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Introduction

The Welsh Government has set recycling targets for all councils in Wales in order to make progress towards zero waste by 2050 and promote a circular economy.

For the past four years, the target has been to recycle 64% of all waste. This year the target has increased to 70%.

Each year, for every 1% that the recycling target is missed by, Neath Port Talbot Council faces fines of around £130,000.

Neath Port Talbot achieved recycling rates of around 67.7% for 2023/24.

Neath Port Talbot needs to consider further action to improve recycling rates in order to meet its targets.

In 2024, the council ran a public consultation to seek the views and input of residents to help understand the best ways in which to support people to recycle more of their domestic waste.

Methodology

The public consultation survey consisted of 27 questions with a mixture of closed and open response types. These were centred around the following themes:

- Current recycling habits

- Current food waste habits
- Opinions on potential measures to increase recycling rates
- Potential impacts on protected characteristics
- Potential impacts on Welsh language
- Demographic information

3,740 people responded to the consultation. These were primarily residents of Neath Port Talbot (90%) or worked for Neath Port Talbot Council (8%). Most responses were in English (99.6%), with only a small number in Welsh (0.4%). More information about respondent demographics can be found in the following section.

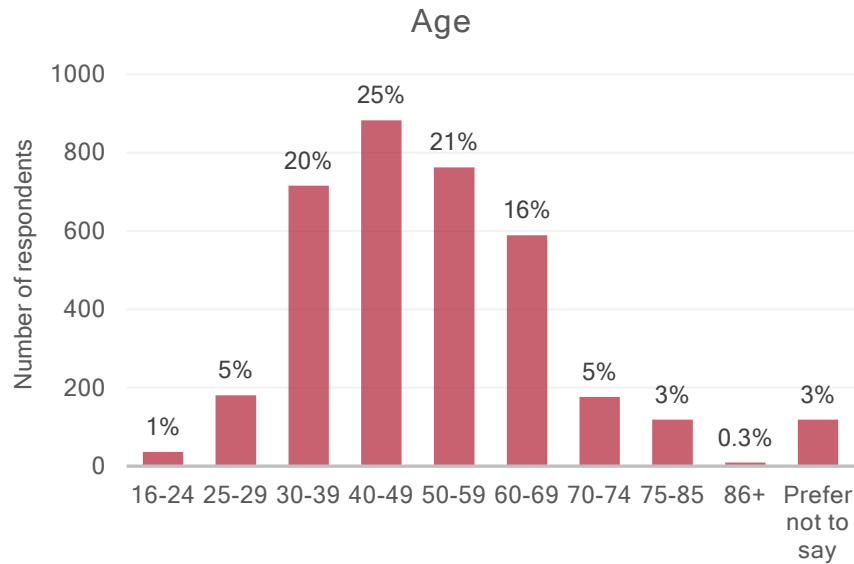
Common themes were extracted from qualitative responses and answers manually categorised for most free-text questions. Due to the volume of responses from those who disagreed with changes to the black bin and garden waste collections, themes were generated using Microsoft Copilot (providing anonymised comments only under enterprise security protection), then sense-checked and amended as needed by Data Orchard.

Findings

Please note that due to rounding, some percentages may not add up to exactly 100%.

Respondent demographics

Most respondents were between the ages of 30 and 69 (83%), with 40-49 being the most represented age bracket (25%).

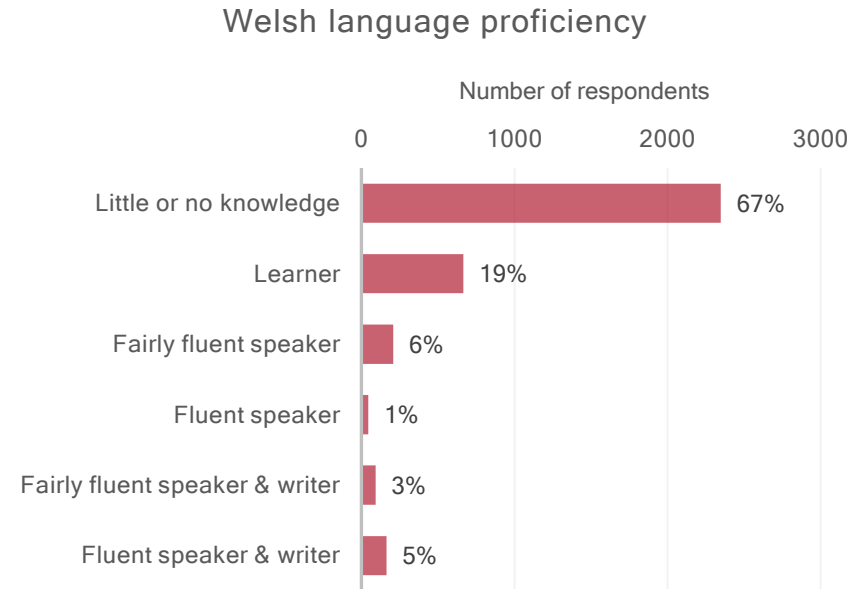


Two thirds (66%) of respondents identified as being female, with 27% identifying as male (27%), 0.4% non-binary and 0.3% another gender. 7% preferred not to say. The majority (93%) said that this was the gender they were assigned at birth. 0.3% said that it was different and 6% preferred not to say.

Most respondents (83%) identified their sexual orientation as being heterosexual, with 2% reporting being bisexual, 1% lesbian, 1% gay and 1% other. 13% of respondents preferred not to say.

Most respondents had little or no knowledge of the Welsh language (67%) or were learning (19%). 7% said that they were fluent or fairly

fluent Welsh speakers, and 8% that they were fluent or fairly fluent speakers and writers.



3% of respondents said they were pregnant or on maternity leave, while 92% said they were not and 5% preferred not to say.

21% of respondents considered themselves to have a disability, while 69% said they did not and 10% preferred not to say.

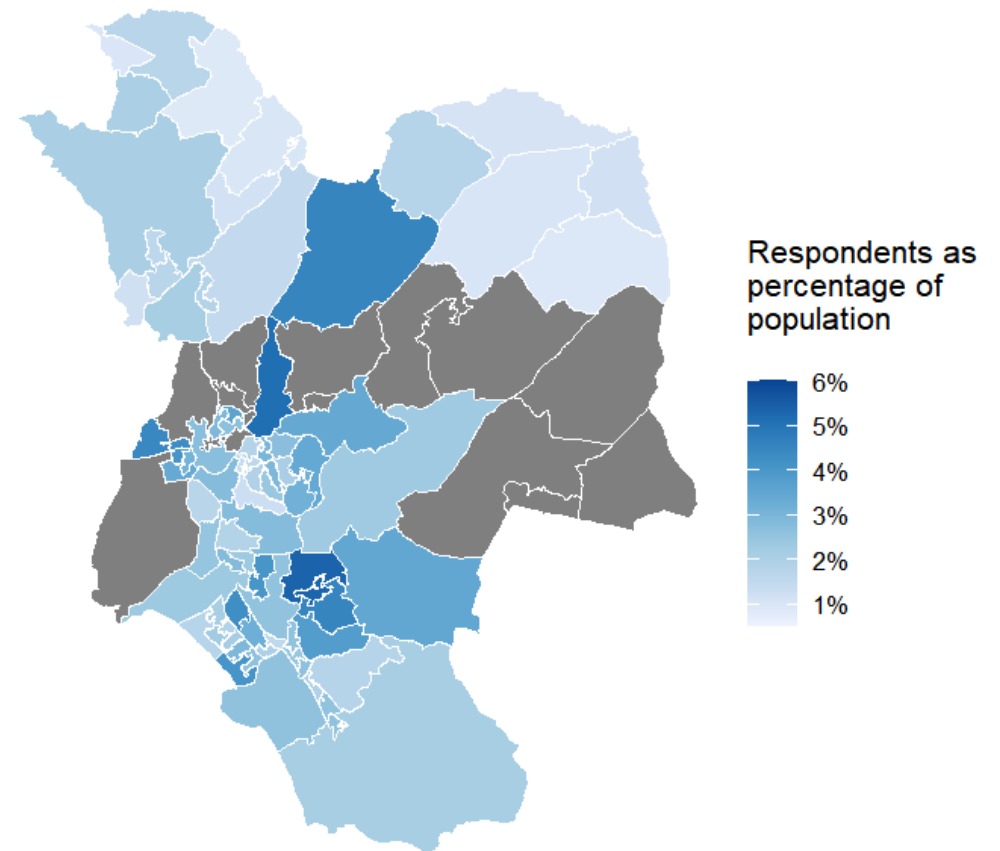
Most respondents identified their ethnicity as being White British (90%). 3% specified that they considered themselves to be White

Welsh. 3% were from other ethnic backgrounds and 4% preferred not to say.

Most respondents (77%) identified their nationality as being Welsh, with 12% identifying as British and 5% as English. 1% identified as other nationalities and 4% preferred not to say.

44% of respondents said that they had no religious beliefs, 42% that they were Christian, and 3% followed other religions. 11% of respondents preferred not to say.

Respondents were distributed across Neath Port Talbot as shown in the map opposite. Percentages are approximate based on population data from the Office for National Statistics ([2022 mid-year estimate of the usual resident population for LSOAs in England and Wales](#)). There were no responses from 13 of 91 LSOAs.



Recycling habits

Almost all respondents recycled plastics (100%), cardboard (99%), tins/cans etc. (99%) and glass (96%).

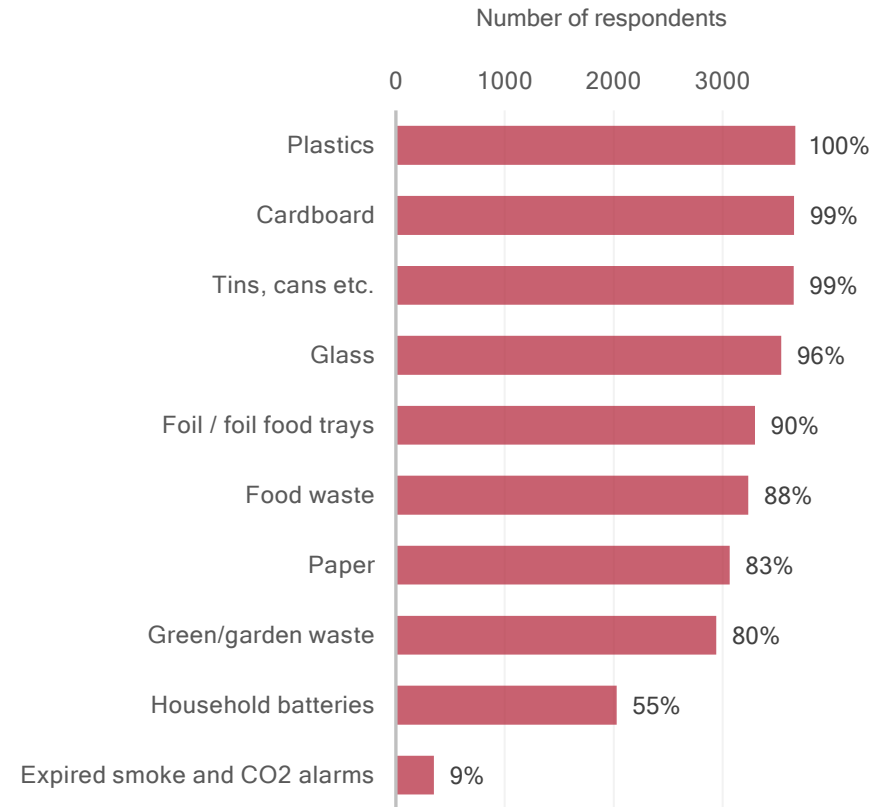
Fewer recycled foil (90%), food waste (88%), paper (83%) and green/garden waste (80%). Geographic variations in recycling of these products across Neath Port Talbot are shown on the following page. Those who did not recycle these products were more likely to be younger in age than the demographic profile across all respondents:

- Did not recycle foil: more likely to be aged between 25 and 39 (41% vs 25% across all respondents)
- Did not recycle food waste: more likely to be aged between 30 and 49 (57% vs 45% across all respondents)
- Did not recycle paper: more likely to be aged 30-39 (30% vs 20% across all respondents)
- Did not recycle green/garden waste: more likely to be aged 30-39 (27% vs 20% across all respondents)

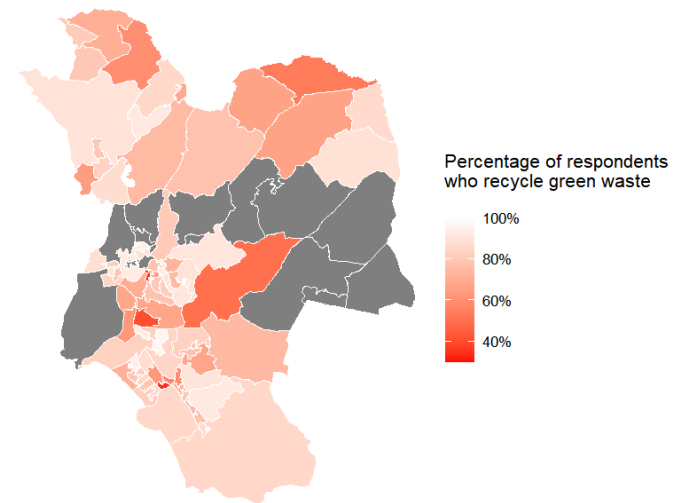
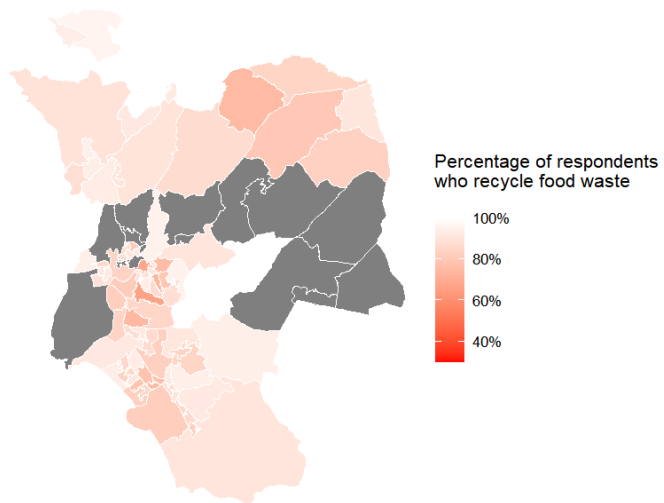
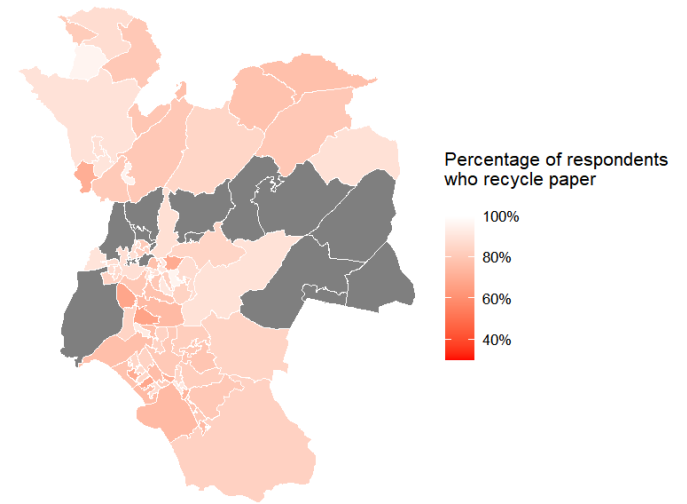
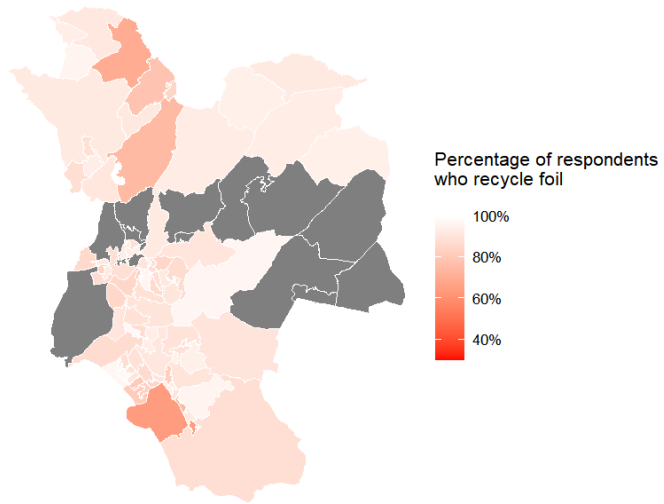
Only 55% reported recycling household batteries, and 9% expired smoke and CO₂ alarms.

43% of respondents said that nothing was preventing them from recycling more waste – they were already making every effort. 57% of respondents reported at least one barrier to recycling.

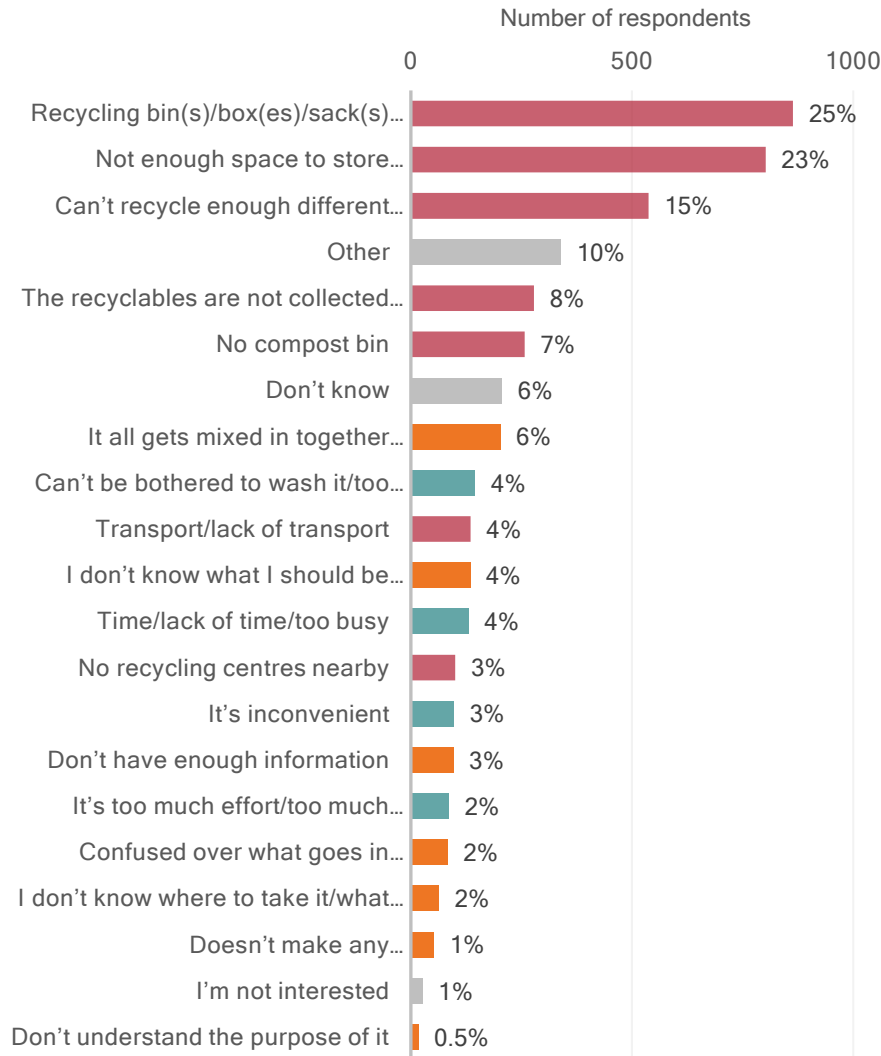
Recycling habits



The most reported barriers to recycling were that recycling bins/boxes/sacks were not big enough (25%), that respondents did not have enough space to store their recyclables (23%) and that they couldn't recycle enough different materials (15%).



Barriers to recycling



By grouping the barriers together as shown below, we found that 49% of respondents were facing barriers related to recycling equipment, services and facilities; 12% related to knowledge and understanding; and 9% related to time and capacity. 10% said they faced other barriers, 6% that they didn't know and 1% that they were simply not interested.

Equipment, services & facilities-related barriers	Knowledge & understanding-related barriers	Time & capacity-related barriers
Recycling bins/boxes/sacks not big enough	It all gets mixed in together anyway	Can't be bothered to wash it/too much hassle to wash it/smelly
Not enough space to store recyclables	I don't know what I should be recycling	Time/lack of time/ too busy
Can't recycle enough different materials	Don't have enough information	It's inconvenient
The recyclables are not collected often enough	Confused over what goes in which bags/boxes	It's too much effort/ too much hassle
No compost bin	I don't know where to take it/what to do with it	
Transport/lack of transport	Doesn't make any difference/doesn't help the environment	
No recycling centres nearby	Don't understand the purpose of it	

Those who felt that 'it all gets mixed in together anyway' were more likely to be between 25 and 49 years of age (63% vs 50% across all respondents) and to be disabled (28% vs 21% across all respondents).

Of those who specified 'other' barriers to recycling, the most mentioned issues were related to the collection service, including bins not being fully emptied; missed collections; broken equipment through careless handling; waste being dropped on the street; and seeing recycling being put in with general waste.

"Two things - firstly, it is very frustrating to separate paper and cardboard...only to see the recycling team put them into the same compartment in the recycling vehicle. Why are we asked to do this if there's no intention to keep them separate? Secondly, it is very frustrating when recycling/rubbish collection staff fail to pick up items that they have dropped. This happens frequently on my street, and often results in a trail of paper/plastics/tins etc being left in their wake (which then needs to be cleared up by a separate council team, or by residents). Not only does this put people off from cooperating with recycling, but it is also blatant littering (i.e. something that I would be fined for if spotted doing so)."

"The bags & boxes when emptied (doesn't always get emptied mind) are thrown by the bin men some distance away from where they were picked up... Occasionally the contents are accidentally spilled on the floor by the bin men, but are just left there, no cleaning up after themselves."

"I consider myself an exemplary recycler, but I was appalled the other week, when I witnessed an operative blatantly combining green waste with household refuse. Not just putting it into the same lorry, but actually emptying my already separated green waste into my non-recyclable black bin! I am sure that that was not an isolated case"

People also said that the recycling equipment was poor quality, flimsy and not fit for purpose.

"The bags provided are awful. They blow rubbish everywhere and get taken by the bin men leaving me without. If they take them they should replace them. Sturdier bins would be better as cats pee all over them and you can't put anything in them until the night before collection so people don't recycle as much because they don't have space to keep the recycling in the run up to collection."

“Bags look awful, they get so dirty, nowhere to store them, easily accessed by animals, gets messed up with the wind, recycling boys drop recycling all over the floor and don't pick up afterwards, unhygienic, would be better to have small secure bins.”

“Recycling hessian bags are not fit for purpose.”

People mentioned issues with pests including rats, cats, birds, foxes and flies, particularly regarding food waste.

“Food waste is not recycled after too many instances of flies/maggots in the bin when food left for even a week, let alone two weeks if the collection is missed.”

“Unhygienic to keep food waste rotting for a week in the house, and collecting it outside attracts rats. So it's better in the black bin.”

“The bags are encouraging rodents, if we had large bin like the black wheelie bins it would be better to stop the encouragement of rats”

Some mentioned the need for kerbside recycling of soft plastics.

Others said that replacement equipment or food bags were rarely available, took too long to be delivered or didn't turn up at all.

“The recycling equipment takes weeks to be replaced to include food bags & equipment that isn't returned by the collection teams”

“Recycling equipment is not delivered for a long time when ordered and a lot of the time is out of stock - last summer I wanted to order green waste bags and they were out of stock for most of the summer - if residents are asked to recycle more the stock control of ordering recycling equipment to supply to residents needs to improve”

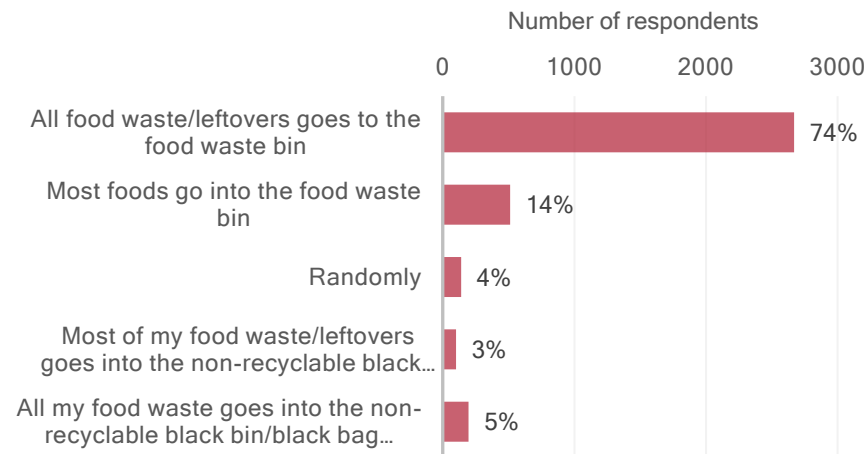
“Despite repeated requests the council fail to supply equipment”

Food waste

Most respondents (74%) put all their food waste/leftovers into their food waste bin. A further 15% said most of their food waste went into the food waste bin.

5% said that all their food waste went into the non-recyclable black bin and 3% that most of it did.

Food waste habits



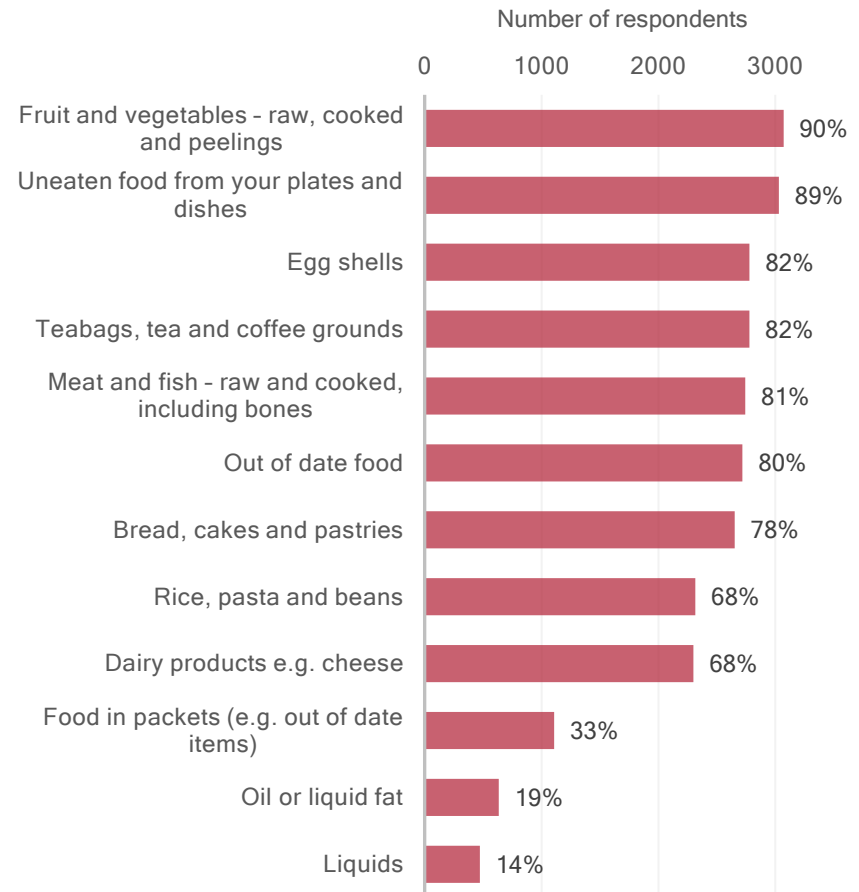
The majority did not compost food waste at home (80%), with 7% composting only sometimes.

The most recycled types of food waste were fruit and vegetables (90%) and uneaten food from plates and dishes (89%). Egg shells (82%), teabags/tea and coffee grounds (82%), meat and fish (81%)

and out of date food (80%) were also commonly recycled.

Respondents were least likely to report recycling food in packets (33%), oil/liquid fat (19%) or liquids (14%).

Types of food waste recycled



Regarding the way forward

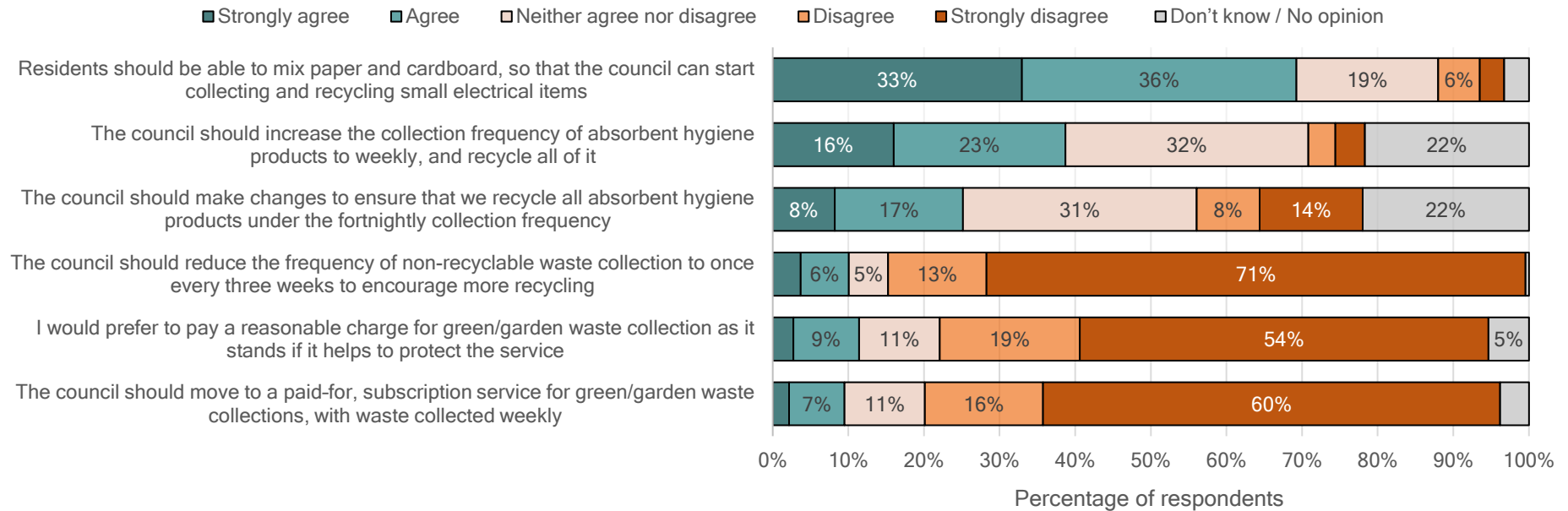
Most respondents (69%) agreed that residents should be able to mix paper and cardboard, so that the council could start collecting and recycling small electrical items.

More than a third of respondents (39%) agreed that the council should increase the collection frequency of absorbent hygiene products to weekly, and recycle all of it, while a quarter agreed that the council should maintain the current fortnightly collection frequency but make changes to ensure that all of it is recycled. A

large proportion responded neutrally or answered that they didn't know/had no opinion on these suggestions (54% and 53% respectively).

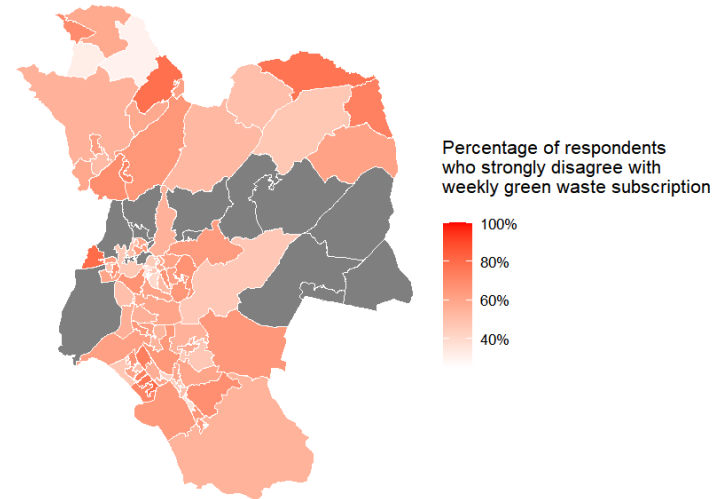
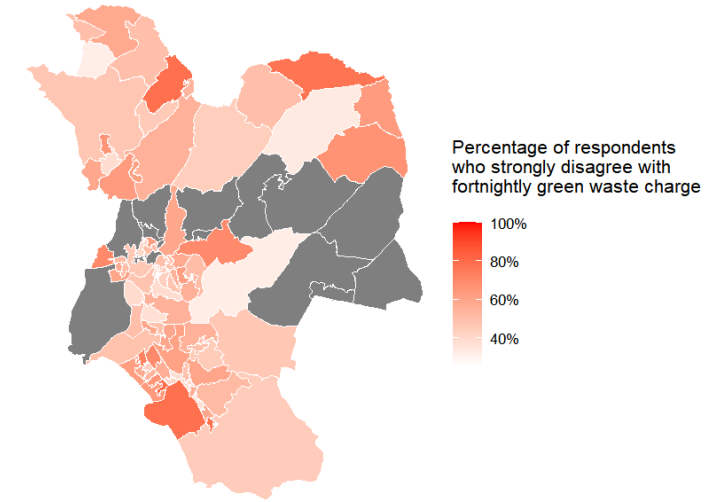
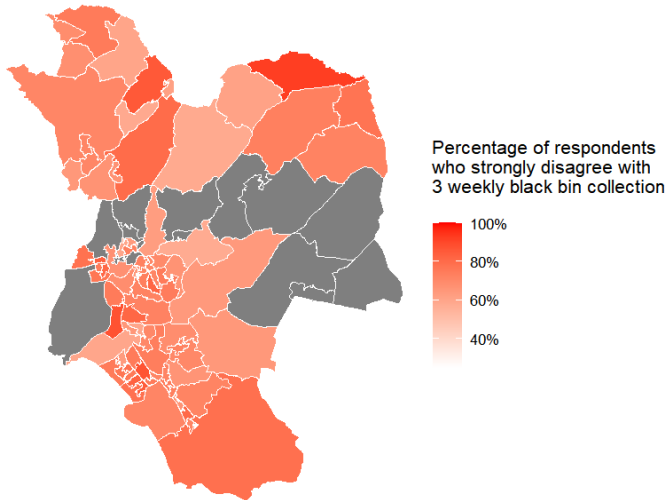
Most respondents disagreed that the council should reduce the frequency of non-recyclable waste collection to once every three weeks (84%). They also disagreed that the council should charge for green waste collection either at its current fortnightly frequency (73%) or with weekly collections (76%).

Feelings regarding potential service changes to increase recycling rates



The level of disagreement with proposed measures varied by location across Neath Port Talbot as shown below and opposite.

Those who were most discontent (strongly disagreed with all proposed changes to non-recyclable and green waste collections) were slightly less likely to be female (60% vs 66% across all respondents) and more likely to be male or have preferred not to report their gender (39% vs 34% across all respondents).



Why people disagreed that residents should be able to mix paper and cardboard, so that the council could start collecting and recycling small electrical items

Many of those who disagreed with this statement said that the need for electrical recycling was not frequent enough to warrant a collection service and that they were happy to take these items to a local recycling centre.

“Small electrical items are replaced infrequently. A person can make the odd trip to use a recycling centre.”

“It's rarely that these things need recycling and can easily be taken to the local recycling centre”

“Small electrical items aren't things that break often and as such shouldn't require a constant use of recycling staff time.”

They felt that priority should be given to improving the service for current items.

“It's more important current items are collected. These items people could just take to the tip”

“I'd rather my green waste collected as usual there's not going to be many electricals”

“I don't think collecting electrical items is priority over more used items.”

They also mentioned that there was not enough space to store paper and cardboard in a single box or bag.

“There's not enough space in one bag for both products”

“Our cardboard recycling and paper black boxes are already full without combining them”

“Mixing cardboard and paper will allow far less room for one or the other”

Many people who disagreed with this statement did not think there was anything that could be put in place to make the change acceptable – they wanted the service to remain as-is. Some suggested that the collection of electricals could be infrequent, e.g. once a month or once a quarter. Some suggested on-request collection or drop-off points at supermarkets/in car parks/at community centres.

“Maybe a monthly collection of small items but certainly not at the expense of the weekly paper etc collection”

“For those people who don't have transport perhaps small electrical items can be collected by request - maybe a similar system to requesting more food waste bags. I'm not sure whether the environment benefits from car emissions with driving to recycling centres for individual small electrical items.”

“Central electrical recycling points at supermarkets likely to be more cost effective.”

“Residents could take these items to a local collection point, e.g. Community Centres”

Some suggested that the bins/bags would need to be bigger to accommodate paper and cardboard together.

“You would need to change the recycling bins to accommodate both cardboard and shredded paper, it would need to be more secure than the bags provided for the cardboard as it would result in spillages on collection day.”

Why people disagreed that the council should increase the collection frequency of absorbent hygiene products to weekly, and recycle all of it

Most respondents who disagreed with this statement felt that the fortnightly collection frequency was sufficient.

Some respondents were concerned about the costs of increasing the frequency of this service. They did not support a change to weekly collections if it meant the green/garden waste service had to be charged for, or the black bin collection had to be reduced to every three weeks.

“If the only way this can happen is to introduce a charge for green waste, then I don’t believe increasing nappy waste to weekly is the answer”

“Not acceptable if it results in black bins being collected every 3 weeks”

Some respondents who disagreed felt that the changes could be acceptable as long as the service remained free and didn’t come at the cost of other waste collection services.

Why people disagreed that the council should make changes to ensure that all absorbent hygiene products were recycled under the current fortnightly frequency

Respondents who disagreed with this statement mostly felt that absorbent hygiene products should be collected weekly rather than fortnightly to avoid smells and reduce the risk of unsanitary conditions.

“Fortnightly nappy collections are not enough, the smell from the sacks are foul after a fortnight”

“I think nappy collecting should be weekly not fortnightly as it is now due to hygiene”

Many were concerned about the costs and trade-offs of this change, and they did not support anything that would require the black bin collection frequency to be reduced to every three weeks.

“I think they should be recycled but not at the expense of a three weekly bin collection.”

Some people had misinterpreted the statement as reducing the frequency of collection of absorbent hygiene products to every three weeks, and felt this would be insufficient from a storage and sanitation perspective.

Why people disagreed that the frequency of non-recyclable waste collection should be reduced to once every three weeks to encourage more recycling

People disagreed that the frequency of non-recyclable waste collection should be reduced for the following reasons:

- Insufficient storage capacity: many residents found that the current bin sizes were already insufficient for fortnightly collections, particularly large households, families with children and/or pets, and those with disabilities, who may produce more non-recyclable waste by necessity. While many residents stated that they recycled as much as possible, they highlighted that certain non-recyclable items, such as cat litter, medical waste, and certain types of packaging, still filled up their bins. They felt that until more items could be recycled, reducing the collection frequency of black bins/bags was impractical.

“I recycle almost 100% every week. Unfortunately a lot of materials are non recyclable. I just about manage with 2 weekly bin collection. I'm have a family of 4 and have the same size bin as my next door neighbour who is living alone. If you change it to 3 weeks then you will need to provide larger families with bigger bins or 2 bins. If common sense is not used then it will encourage fly tipping.”

- Environmental concerns: many residents believed that less frequent collections would lead to more illegal dumping of waste, overflowing bins and littering. They felt that the costs of dealing with the increase in fly-tipping would outweigh the cost of maintaining the service as it stands. People were concerned about negative impacts on community cleanliness and aesthetics.

“The fly tipping problem in my area is terrible and cutting the frequency of collection will make this worse”

“Absolutely do not do this. Collecting fortnightly is enough to keep our area sanitary, odour free and for the people who utilise the black waste bins more, it's manageable. If we forget a bin collection, the next one is two weeks away but if it moves to Tri-weekly, that's 6 weeks worth of waste sitting in our area. In summer, this could cause a risk to health, promote infestations and increase fly tipping and littering which is already too common where I live”

- Odours, hygiene and pests: many residents were concerned that longer intervals between collections would mean more waste being left outside to attract rats, foxes, and other pests, especially in warmer weather, leading to potential health risks. They were also concerned about odours with waste sitting for three weeks, including pet waste and nappies. The term “unsanitary” was frequently mentioned.

“I recycle everything I can but as a family of 4 my bin is always full by the 2 weeks I could never go 3 weeks! Fly tipping will be through the roof and with open land behind my house I know people will dump it there. We have a huge problem with rats in Cwmafan and it will only make this situation worse! Unsanitary and you’re assuming for trouble! Health and mental wellbeing will be affected”

- Service expectations: some residents felt that reducing the frequency of waste collections would not align with the level of service they expect for the amount of council tax they are charged. Some suggest that a reduction in service should come with a reduction in council tax.

“We already recycle everything except food waste and our black bin is full after two weeks. Weve had our council tax raised by 10% but service isn’t increased by 10%, if anything this would be a reduction in service in return for paying more. The public aren’t completely stupid, they’ll see this for what it is; money saving, not encouraging recycling.”

- Recycling equipment, facilities and education should be improved first: many residents called for improved recycling infrastructure and equipment, as well as clearer information about recycling practices before taking the step of reducing the frequency of black bins/bags. Some believed that increased involvement from local leaders could help to improve recycling rates rather than reducing black bin collection frequencies. They also suggested that use of recycling centres could be made easier, for example removing the requirement to book a slot.

“Most people recycle, you want to target/encourage the people who can't be bothered. People with big families will struggle with 3 weekly collections. By going to 3 weekly it penalises the majority for the minority who won't change, no matter what happens and you will see an increase in fly tipping as what happens in the laybys on the A465. Education is best.”

“If you are collecting black bin waste less often, you need to put in place better recycling options and equipment. The bags and boxes are not good to store or keep clean.”

“Change your recycling centre policy. Let vans come and big cars with recycling only so they can recycle more stuff for free. You will soon hit your target then. If I didn't have to book a slot, I'd happily take more things down there like bags of clothes, old doors etc, instead because I work full time and the booking is inconvenient, I arrange for the rag and bone man to come... sorry.”

Most people felt there was nothing that could be put in place to make three-weekly collections more acceptable and wanted the service to remain as it is. However, the following suggestions were made by some residents:

- 🕒 Larger bins to accommodate increased waste over three weeks
- 🕒 Emergency extra bag stickers for occasional excess waste
- 🕒 Reduction in council tax if the frequency of collections is reduced
- 🕒 Providing separate bins for pet waste that are collected more frequently

- 🕒 Collecting nappies and other absorbent hygiene products more frequently
- 🕒 Pushing corporations to use more recyclable materials to make it easier for the consumer

Why people disagreed that they would prefer to pay a reasonable charge for the green/garden waste service as it stands if it helps to protect the service

Respondents disagreed that they would pay a charge for the existing green/garden waste service for the following reasons:

- 🕒 High council tax: many residents felt they already paid a lot in council tax, which should cover the garden waste service. There was a strong sentiment that additional charges were unjust given the current high rates. Residents did not feel that they were getting value for money from their council tax.

“Extremely high council tax in our area as it stands. Any more fees would be unjust and unsustainable, we don't get value for money as it is in NPT”

“We continue to pay more council tax every year. I can't afford to pay keep paying more, but with less services.”

- 🕒 Financial burden: residents were concerned about affordability, especially for those on low incomes, pensions,

or with disabilities. People mentioned that the cost-of-living crisis was making it difficult to manage additional expenses.

“Not everyone can afford the charges. We are living through a cost of living crisis in an area with high levels of poverty. Not everyone can get to the recycling centres to dispose of garden waste themselves due to not having a car, being unable to drive or being disabled.”

- Fairness and equity: some residents felt it was unfair to charge for a service that has been free for a long time. Residents with small gardens or those who rarely use the service felt they would be disadvantaged by a standard charge. There were concerns that requiring payment for the service would have a disproportionate negative impact on those who were already disadvantaged.

“Why should we pay for a service which has always been free. Garden waste has to be disposed of somehow.”

“I have a very small garden and lack space to compost my own garden waste, I would not want to pay for the small amount I produce.”

- Environmental concerns: many residents believed that charging for garden waste collection would lead to increased fly-tipping and illegal dumping. They were also concerned that people would burn their green waste or put it in their

black bin, reducing recycling rates. Some noted that having green gardens is environmentally beneficial and should be encouraged, not penalised. They felt that a charge could lead to an increase in artificial grass, decking, and paving, which are less environmentally friendly.

“Only use it in autumn for leaves & grass cutting in summer. If you didn’t offer the service, I wouldn’t recycle it at all - burn it or dump it in black bags. Not going to go out if my way & take more time to get it to a centre. It would actually cut down my recycling, not improve it.”

“People should be encouraged to have gardens that encourage wildlife rather than be penalised financially.”

“Reduction in waste collection services will negatively affect the environment in which we live. It will become more messy and choices about garden design may include more plastic grasses etc which are worse for the environment and wildlife”

Most respondents felt that there was no way to make such measures acceptable. Many suggested that any additional charges for garden waste collection would need to be compensated for with a corresponding reduction in council tax. Some suggested that there should be different payment levels or a pay-per-use system, and exemptions for those who were disabled, elderly or on a low income.

“A generous reduction in council tax to do it ourselves”

“Maybe different levels of payment especially for disabled or old people”

“Means testing so that people who can’t afford the charge don’t have to pay it and still get the waste collected for free”

Many said that some level of free service needed to be maintained to avoid fly-tipping. Some residents were open to a reduced collection frequency (particularly in winter), such as monthly or three-weekly, if the service remained free, although most would prefer the service to stay as it is.

“Collection of green waste less often, if it stops a charge being introduced”

“Garden waste collections could be reduced to every 3 weeks/monthly during the winter months to cut down costs”

Some suggested that the council could provide free or low-cost compost bins for home or community use and reduce the frequency of collection. They also suggested that the council could compost collected green waste and sell it back to residents at a low price to recoup costs of the service.

“Neath Port Talbot council should provide free compost bins for residents therefore there will be a reduced need for collection.”

“Make the compost made from collections of green waste available to the NPT borough householders at a reasonable fee”

Why people disagreed that the council should move to a paid-for, subscription service for weekly green/garden waste collections

Respondents disagreed that they should pay a charge for a weekly green/garden waste service for all the same reasons as already noted above regarding payment for the existing service. Additional issues mentioned included:

- Administrative and logistical concerns: some residents were concerned that the costs of managing such a service could outweigh the financial benefits.

“I think you’ll find the admin burden will outweigh any financial gain.”

“The management of this model would likely prove to be more resource heavy than the delivery of the current service. The repercussions of removing the free service will likely lead to more instances of fly tipping as people will view this as green waste and “harmless” and therefore add more burden on NPTCBC.”

- Community aesthetics and wellbeing: some residents felt that charging for garden waste collection could lead to neglected gardens and a decline in the overall appearance of the community. There were concerns that this could also discourage people from gardening, which is good for mental and physical wellbeing.

“Not paying more money for garden waste to be taken away, you will find more people either fly tipping or not keeping gardens tidy, thus making the area look awful and unkept”

“Gardening is good for increasing people's mental health/wellbeing and also helps the local biodiversity. By collecting green/garden waste as part of normal service it encourages people to be out and about in their gardens gardening. Charging will provide a financial barrier and have a knock on impact”

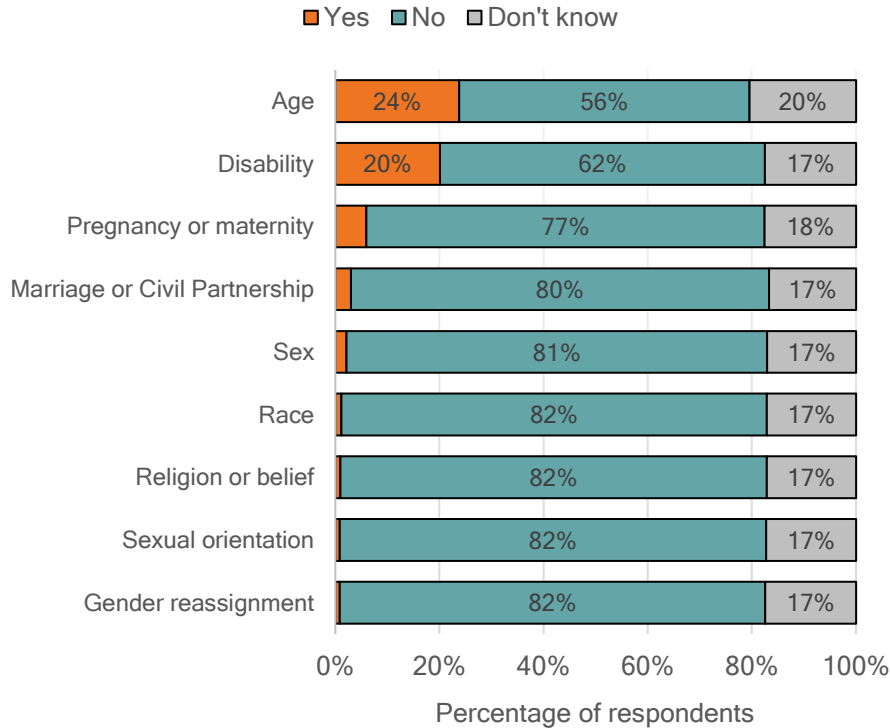
Again, most respondents felt that there was no way to make such measures acceptable, and many suggested that any additional charges for garden waste collection would need to be compensated

for with a corresponding reduction in council tax. The practical suggestions from the previous questions were repeated here, including exemptions for low-income households, free or subsidised compost bins, a pay-per-use model, selling compost to generate revenue, and reducing collection frequency during winter.

Impact of proposed changes on protected characteristics

Most respondents did not expect the potential measures to improve recycling rates to impact them or their family because of protected characteristics. However, some were concerned due to their age (24%), disability (20%) or pregnancy/maternity (6%).

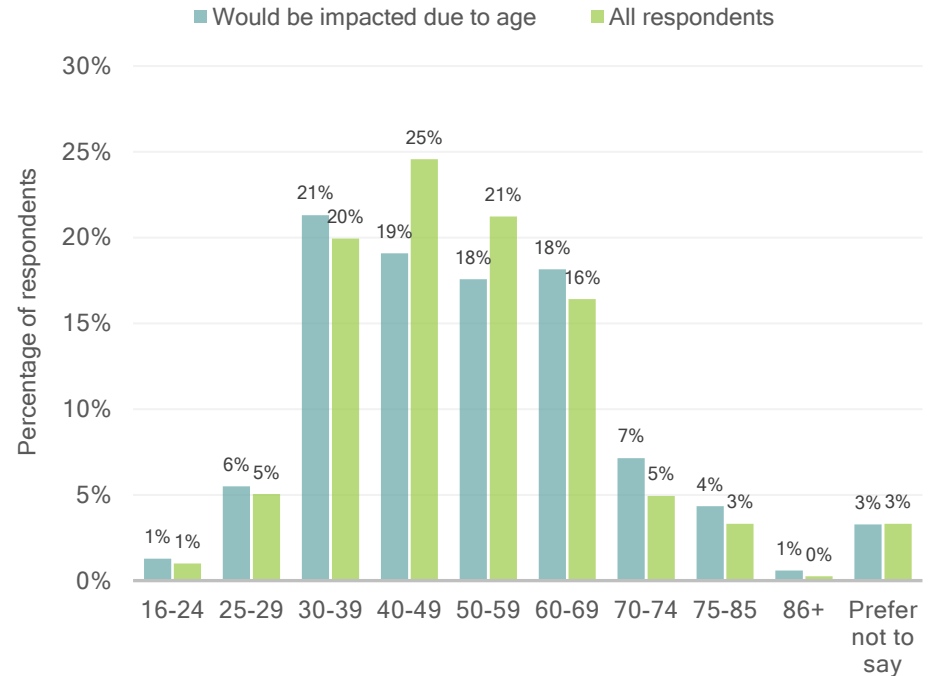
Would the potential measures to improve recycling rates impact you/your family because of your...



Age

Those who said the potential measures would impact them or their family because of their age were less likely to be aged 40-59 (37% compared with 46% across all respondents) and more likely to be aged over 60 (30% vs 24%).

Age of respondents who said potential measures would impact them because of their age



Concerns about the impact of proposed changes relating to age were mostly around the elderly and having young children. People were worried about the impact of potential measures on older residents with reduced mobility, disability or otherwise poor health, particularly that reduced frequency of collections would make bags/bins heavier to move, and that the elderly may become confused by changes to processes they are used to. People also mentioned that the elderly were less likely to have transport to access recycling centres and would have limited ability to pay for services whilst on a pension.

“Nobody elderly will be able to pick up and move the heavier bins if moved to every 3 weeks”

“I have elderly family members who can't afford additional fees and can't drive to the recycling centre”

“Older people, especially with dementia, get confused by it all. My parents used to be fanatical recyclers, but once dementia set in, they got confused by it”

Those with young children felt that the higher volume of non-recyclable waste generated by their household could not be accommodated with 3-weekly collections.

“We have young children and despite recycling everything we can we still need the fortnightly collections as a minimum”

“I still have children living at home, so I'd struggle to further reduce my black bag use. I recycle everything that I'm aware that I can”

“We have a baby so we need regular nappy collections to prevent an environmental health issue. If not then we need bigger black bins to be able to put them in the black bin”

Disability

51% of respondents who considered themselves to have a disability said that the potential measures to improve recycling rates would impact them because of their disability. 31% said no and 15% said they didn't know.

The most common concerns were around the additional weight of black bins under a three-week collection frequency, which would prove difficult for those with a lack of mobility or ability to carry/wheel bags/bins.

“We have steps to our garden. Dragging 3 weeks worth of rubbish/recycling up would be difficult with physical problems”

“I have a heart condition, I do not need to be lugging an extremely heavy bin up to the road because its packed full of 3 weeks' waste.”

“Bins would be heavier to move. I find it them difficult enough now with my bad arthritis in knees back and hands”

Many respondents mentioned that their or their family member’s disability meant that they produced higher volumes of waste, particularly non-recyclable waste and absorbent hygiene products, and therefore required regular waste collection.

“Mum has full incontinence so her purple bags already smell. Storage of them is tricky. They are really heavy also birds etc try to rip bags. Warm weather is awful for storage as 3 bags are filled in a week.”

“Due to my disability I produce more waste than the average person, especially non recyclable items such as soiled clothing. Also physically impaired so cannot take my recycling to the tip myself”

“I have Type 1 Diabetes and have various bits of non recyclable waste as well as specific collections organised privately for medical waste”

Some said that they lacked sufficient storage for bins and bags, and this impacted on their need to avoid trip and/or hygiene hazards in and around their home due to their or a family member’s disability.

“Storage could impact paths and floor space at home”

“Autistic son. Bin bags hanging around in his play space for 3 weeks.”

“I have special needs children who can’t use their own garden from dirty giant rats coming for the bins”

Respondents also said that they would not be able to get to a recycling centre with additional waste or garden waste, and that due to their disability they would be unable to afford to pay subscriptions for collection.

“I have a chronic illness and as mentioned I am unable to use recycling centres. Less collections means fuller/heavier bins to take out which I struggle with. Due to illness I often miss collections and therefore would not have space to store refuse until next collection date.”

“I cannot take waste to the tip. I could not afford the green waste collection or take it to the tip”

“If non-recyclable refuse exceeds the current wheelie bin on a three week collection then separate black bags would need to be taken to the recycling centre. This is not feasible due to disability.”

Pregnancy or maternity

11% of respondents who said that they were pregnant or on maternity leave said that the potential measures to improve

recycling rates would impact them because of pregnancy or maternity. 70% said no and 16% said they didn't know.

Respondents were concerned about nappy collections, with some saying that nappies needed to be collected more frequently.

“Used nappies smell. The caddies provided are lucky to hold a day’s worth of nappies! They smell and it’s awful.”

“We have 2 small babies. Changing the fortnightly black bin collection wouldn’t be possible. Just change the nappy recycling to every week”

They also worried about their ability to move heavy bins/bags and were concerned that three-weekly black bin collections would not accommodate the increase in waste associated with having a baby.

“Pregnancy makes any physical activity more difficult and a baby in the house means more waste“

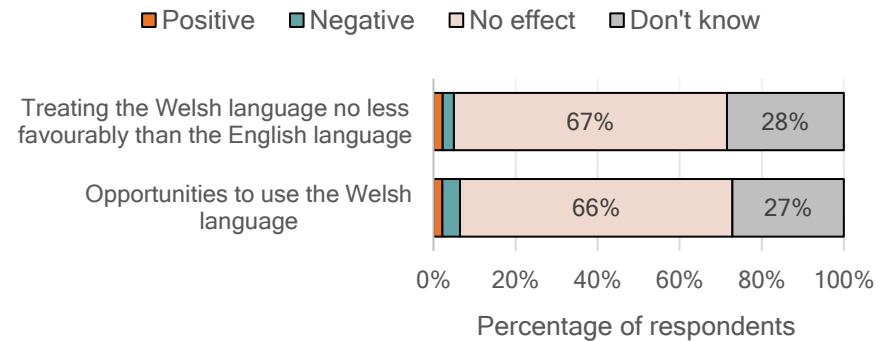
“Longer time for waste to build up at people’s homes affects the pregnant in the weight of their bins and the moving of them to kerbside”

“We have a young baby who is breastfed. In the time after having her, we have had to dispose of things such as maternity pads and breast pads in our black bin. If we were to have any more children in the future, we would struggle greatly on a 3-week cycle.”

Impact of proposed changes on the Welsh language

Most respondents felt there would be no effect of the proposed measures to improve recycling on opportunities to use the Welsh language (66%) or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language (67%), or they didn't know (27% and 28% respectively).

What effect do you think the potential measures to improve recycling rates will have on...



Summary

Self-reported recycling rates for plastics, cardboard, tin and glass exceed 95% across Neath Port Talbot, while there is some room for improvement in recycling of foil, food waste, paper, green/garden waste and household batteries.

Residents of Neath Port Talbot are generally supportive of changes that would enable them to mix paper and cardboard and recycle small electricals. In contrast, they are strongly against proposed reductions to the frequency of black bin collections and the introduction of a charge for green/garden waste collection, either at the current fortnightly frequency or weekly.

Opinions around the collection frequency of absorbent hygiene products are more neutral, reflecting that some residents do not require the use of this service – nevertheless, comments suggest that residents would be happier with a weekly collection rather than the current fortnightly service.

The elderly, families with children, and those with a disability are concerned that the proposed changes could have disproportionate negative impacts for their household, particularly in relation to reduced frequency of black bin collections.

Some key suggestions for mitigating any negative impacts of proposed service changes were:

- Larger black bins to accommodate the additional waste under a three-week collection interval
- Additional support for those who are elderly and/or disabled and may struggle to move their bins for collection

- Means-tested and/or pay-per-use charges for green waste subscription services, with exemptions for low-income households
- Seasonal variation in collection frequency (with reduced collections in winter) to avoid or reduce subscription charges for green waste collection
- Free or subsidised compost bins for home use



Data Orchard CIC, Lower House Business Park, Staunton-on-Wye, Herefordshire. HR4 7LR.

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Missed Collection Policy

Through the forthcoming introduction of the Live Feed/In-cab data system, it is anticipated that the Council will be able to collate information on genuine missed collections to ascertain the accurate extent of the issue as opposed to what is sometimes misleading headline figures, and a social media narrative that can distort public perception.

In January 2024 for example, of the 778 reported missed collections for recycling 618 calls were due to the crew either running late (and either collected later that day or the following morning) or the resident presenting on the wrong day. A further 23 reports were due to the vehicles being unable to access the streets due to inconsiderate parking and 15 due to the crews correctly leaving behind the recycling due to it being contaminated.

In the case of refuse collections, the service is aware of many instances whereby the bin was not actually presented for collection or the property in question has two bins, which are swapped over once the vehicle has passed through, and the second bin is reported as a missed collection. The current system also allows residents to report a missed collection if the crews have correctly green stickered bags as excess waste for the Recycling Awareness and Compliance Team to investigate.

Through working closely with our collection crews, the service is also aware of residents removing the excess waste or contaminated waste stickers put on by the crews and then reporting their waste as a missed collection.

In order to understand the full extent of the actual missed collections across the County Borough and allow the service to focus on addressing the genuine cases, these unjustified reports need to be eliminated from the reporting mechanism.

The In-Cab Live Feed will address this in a number of ways:

1. The digitised collection rounds will be linked to the online/telephone reporting system and therefore a resident will be unable to report a missed collection if the corresponding collection crew have not marked

the street as 'collections complete', thus reducing the volume of calls logged when the crew are simply running late.

2. Similarly the system will not allow a missed collection to be reported if a resident has presented on the wrong day/week.
3. With the camera system, the crew can immediately report an access issue with an associated photograph to show why they cannot safely access the street. How the Council/Service deals with these ongoing issues needs to form part of the revised Missed Collections Policy.
4. The crew can also immediately report via the in-cab tablet when recycling is contaminated. This report generates a call for the Recycling Awareness and Compliance Officer to attend the property to conduct an assistance visit, and a missed collection call cannot be generated in this instance.
5. Similarly when the crews green sticker bags as excess, they can immediately report this through the in-cab tablet, generating a call for the RACO to attend, and a missed collection call cannot be generated.
6. In the case of double bins, the crew can use the in-cab reporting mechanism should they suspect that is the case. Should missed collections be reported for that property, the live camera feed will be used to prove the bin was emptied and the missed collection call removed from the reportable headline figures as an unjustified complaint.
7. Should a property not have presented a bin, the crew will immediately report via the in-cab tablet and the camera footage used as evidence that the bin was not presented.

Other benefits to the Live Feed system which should help address collection issues (not exclusive to missed collections) include:

1. Live information on properties that receive an assisted collection so any operative covering that round knows which properties receive this service, reducing the human error element associated with unfamiliar drivers/operatives;
2. Crews can immediately report damaged equipment such as food waste bin for example which will automatically generate a call for the delivery teams thus reducing the contact required by the resident to order equipment (should a resident try to order, they will be notified that their crew has already placed an order on their behalf).
3. General order of equipment – the crews can order any equipment on behalf of the resident should they approach the crew and request. This

is particularly important in the case of food waste bags whereby the crew may have run out of stock on the vehicle.

4. Live information on which properties have E stickers and the ability to report properties who present with E stickers who are not eligible. The service is aware that these stickers are being traded on social media and have been used as part of a house clearance (26 excess bags on one collection). This will reduce the volume of excess waste being presented as the properties will be reported to the RACO's for investigation and reduce the cost to the Council on the E stickers themselves (in conjunction with the review of the No Side Waste Policy).

Additional Service Issues:

Blocked Access:

There are increasing occurrences of collections being prevented by parked vehicles since the pandemic and the associated shift to home working, coupled with the increased size of cars and inconsiderate parking.

When a crew, either refuse or recycling are unable to enter a street to carry out collections, they return to the street on two further occasions (usually one more on collection day, and once again the following morning if resources allow). They do attempt to identify the vehicle owner however in most of cases are either unsuccessful or are met with a somewhat impolite response. The service also, as standard, carry out a whole street letter drop requesting vehicles are parked somewhere else on collection day, however, this measure also often proves unsuccessful.

It is not feasible for the service to continue to return to the same location repeatedly where these access issues exist. Firstly, that has a knock on effect to the remaining collections for that day/rest of week as well as unnecessary additional journeys in diverting the crews. For example, all collection crews on a Friday are within the former Lliw Valley area, and could be in a position of having to travel from Lower Brynamman to return to a street in the Dulais Valley from the Wednesday collections that were unable to be carried out, only to find the street is still inaccessible.

The service has, where possible, when access issues persist, reallocated some streets to the smaller collection vehicles, however these collection

rounds are now at full capacity with no further smaller vehicles within the fleet that can be utilised or sufficient manning to do so.

The service has also, in conjunction with the Traffic Section and in consultation with requisite Local Members, looked to introduce TRO's in certain areas to prevent access being blocked. This is a last resort measure in areas where residents have been without collections on a considerably frequent basis and there are no other collection methods available.

When a resident reports an unsuccessful collection, even when access issues have been identified by the collection crews, the resident receives the current Policy message i.e. for a whole missed street, we WILL return by 4pm the following working day whether that be through the automated email when logging a call online or the 'script' used by the Contact Centre personnel. This causes escalated complaints both to the Contact Centre and the service when collections are still not then carried out due to obstructions remaining.

Another collection method that can possibly be considered is to move collections to the end of the streets, creating 'collection points' which would mean residents having to bring their waste a considerable distance on collection day to these 'collection points', and then having to retrieve their equipment from that point. In areas where this is the only collection method, it is proven that the collection point becomes a dumping ground and a graveyard for abandoned kit and therefore such arrangements are to be avoided if possible.

Where access issues are in relation to rear lane collections, and the properties have a clear ability to present front of house instead, the service will consult with the Local Members to make any necessary changes to ensure a consistent collection service can be provided.

There can also be some confusion by residents whereby one material stream can be collected but not the other e.g. refuse can collect but not recycling and a better understanding of the size and loading mechanism of these vehicles needs to be communicated to residents.

A refuse (black bin collection vehicle) is rear loading and therefore can access some streets to carry out collections that a recycling vehicle cannot. The recycling vehicles are all side loading, with doors on each compartment

that need to be opened outward during the collection process therefore vehicles parked either side of a street or lane have a bigger impact on those vehicles. The service will, through its Community Engagement programme and social media channels, carry out targeted campaigns aimed at providing residents with a better understanding of these matters.

Taking the above into account, there needs to be a clear stance on missed collections due to access issues as part of the Missed Collections Policy, whereby if the crew has returned on the two further occasions (where resources allow) and are still unable to access then residents have to wait until the next allocated collection day and a missed collection report for each individual property will not be accepted. In instances like these, to compensate the crew will be directed to collect a permitted number of additional bags on the next successful collection via the Live In-Cab data system.

Whilst the above position is not ideal, the service constantly diverting resources, increasing the Council's carbon footprint and having a disproportionate impact on other households across the County Borough is not a sustainable position.

Bins not fully emptied

A further repeated report as a missed collection is for bins not being fully emptied. The 'shaker' facility on our bin lifting mechanisms is set to its optimal level to remove the waste contained within a bin. Therefore the only reason a bin would remain half/not fully emptied is if residents have 'rammed' waste into the bin to the extent that despite repeated attempts to empty the bin with the vehicle bin lift, the waste remains lodged in the bin. These instances are then often reported as a missed collection by the resident. As with the blocked access issue detailed above, the collection service has fulfilled its obligations in attending and attempting to empty the bin and therefore it should not be considered as a missed collection. In cases where waste is found to be rammed into bins to the extent that collection is not possible (which can be reported via the In Cab Waste Management System by the crew), then it is proposed the matter would not be considered a missed collection and the waste will be left for the next regular collection.

Missed Collections Policy:

It is proposed this updated Missed Collections Policy linked with the introduction of Live Feed will be reviewed again 6 months after the full introduction of the new system.

Until the service is able to accurately determine the extent of missed collections a decision cannot be made on whether we are able to return to any or all genuine instances of individual missed collection as a matter of course.

The proposed updated Missed Collection Policy to take effect from 1st October 2025 is as follows:

Missed Collections Policy

Missed Weekly Recycling Collections (Food, Glass, Plastic/tins &cans/paper & Card/batteries, Small WEEE, Garden Waste, AHP/Hygiene)

Given recycling collections are weekly, it is proposed that the resident has to wait until the next collection.

Missed Refuse

For properties that have genuine missed refuse collection, a denotation will be put on the in-cab tablet for the crew to collect the permitted number of additional bags on the next collection and confirm the collection has been made before they can close the street down as complete. **Note: This is an improvement on the current Policy in that previously we have not permitted the additional waste to be presented on the next collection.**

Bin Half/Not Fully emptied

The service has fulfilled its obligations in trying to collect the waste and despite repeated attempts using the bin shaker facility the waste remains lodged in the bin. This is not considered to be a missed collection and residents are requested to remove the obstruction and re-present their bin on their next collection.

Missed Pull-Outs

With the introduction of Live Feed, missed pull outs should not happen, however, in the cases of genuine missed pull outs the current Policy stance should remain and we WILL return for a missed pull out by 4pm the following day.

Blocked Access

If the crew has returned on the two further occasions (where resources allow) and are still unable to access then residents have to wait until the next allocated collection day and a missed collection report for each individual property will not be accepted. In instances like these, the crew will be informed to collect up to an additional 3 black bags per property on the next successful collection via the Live In-Cab data system.

Whole Street missed (either refuse or recycling)

With the introduction of Live Feed, unless there are circumstances outside of the service control such as a large number of breakdowns, whole street missed collection should not occur (with the exception of blocked access issues). The Live Feed system has the capability to list the streets that have been unable to be collected in these instances so automatic notification can be sent to the Supervisors, Website, Social Media, Contact Centre and affected residents (if they have signed up to the MyNPT portal), detailing revised collection arrangements.

Commercial Waste Collections (Trade)

When our crews attend paying trade customers they telephone the Supervisor to record if bins/containers have not been presented or if access has been prevented etc., e.g. gates locked. If waste/recycling was not presented at the time of attendance we will not return, and the waste/recycling will be collected during the next normal collection. An additional collected fee will be payable, should the council be requested to return to empty waste/recycling containers that were not presented at time of attendance.

Alternatively, if we have missed a trade waste collection which is reported as being missed during office hours on the allocated day of collection we will return and put right the problem. When we attend trade premises for collection, any side waste presented which exceeds the purchased capacity will not be collected and if collection is requested by the customer; charges will apply as per our contract rates.

In accordance with the Waste Separation Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2023, all trade waste agreements with the council must include arrangements for the separate collection of recycling materials (including glass bottles, plastic bottles and metal cans, food waste, cardboard, drink cartons and paper). The Council reserves the right not to collect any recycling bins should they contain any non-recyclable waste or the wrong recyclable materials and additional charges may be applied as per contract rates. Alternatively, customers will be given the option to sort the recycling themselves and we will then return and make the collection on the next collection day. Contract rates are set out annually in fees and charges.

Review of the No Side Waste Policy

Background

When preparing the current Waste Strategy, a compositional analysis was carried out of the contents of black bin/bag waste which showed there are still considerable quantities of recyclables being presented in these containers.

Since its adoption, the recycling scheme has expanded to include nappies and other Absorbent Hygiene Products and there are also possible further expansions to the collection of recyclable materials at the kerbside.

Furthermore, since its adoption, Officers responsible for ensuring residents comply have raised some areas of concern and suggested improvements to the Policy from their experience during the course of their duties.

Some areas for concern are:

1. Residents applying for exemptions to avoid recycling, by placing recyclable waste within black bins and non-recyclables within E stickered bags. (Note: The Recycling Awareness and Compliance Team have powers to check the contents of the E stickered bags but cannot go through bins);
2. Residents falsely applying as having a large family;
3. Residents falsely applying as having numerous pets;
4. Placing one E sticker on a second bin and presenting both, leaving a minimum of 25 additional E stickers to use over the next 12 months in addition to presenting 2 bins every fortnight;
5. Falsely applying in order to conduct a house clearance and place a minimum of 26 excess bags out for one collection;
6. Officers have personally witnessed E stickers being traded

- between residents across various social media sites as well as threads giving tips on how to get them (points 1-5 above);
- Repeated reports of fake stickers being sold to residents by parties unknown (although it should be noted that these are unsubstantiated reports at this time).
 - E stickers being used on bulky household waste items

It is recognised that there are genuine circumstances where householders require additional capacity for non-recyclable waste and the revised Policy should not inhibit these cases. However, as the Council strives to achieve the challenging statutory recycling targets set by the Welsh Government and avoid the associated fines, a stricter stance on Excess/Side Waste needs to be adopted to combat the issues detailed above.

It is proposed that the current Terms and Conditions of the scheme are revised in order to address the abuse of the scheme as follows:

- All new applications for exemption, in addition to being provided with the Terms and Conditions, be issued a Section 46 Notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 which legally sets out the requirement to recycle and in which receptacles recyclable waste must be placed. This provides the Recycling Awareness and Compliance Team better ability to take enforcement action against those properties using the scheme as a means to not recycle;
- The scheme sets a level on exemptions for households, which increases dependent on number of full-time occupiers of the property, similar to that of other Welsh Authorities as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of occupiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted additional bags
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five or fewer residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No exemptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six or seven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 extra bag per refuse collection (26 stickers)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight or more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 extra bags per refuse collection (52 stickers)

- That a cap be set on the additional bags permitted to be provided for pet waste to 1 additional bag per collection. (It should be noted that a lot of other Welsh LA's do not include pet waste as a reason for exemption);
- Any wheeled bins presented with an E sticker on them be removed by the collection crew and the property be put on both a 'bin ban' and a ban from applying for exemptions for a period of 12 months (the bin ban is already in place for any properties trying to order an additional bin within 12 months of their previous order for the Recycling Awareness and Compliance Officer to check if there is already a bin on site before issue);
- Any properties identified by the collection crews as using E stickers for a house clearance be put on a ban from applying for exemptions;
- Following the introduction of the In-Cab Live Feed, which will indicate to the crew that a property has permitted exemptions, any property that is presenting E stickered waste without an approved exemption can be reported by the crew and subject to a visit and Section 46 Notice from the Recycling Awareness and Compliance Team.

The proposed revised Terms and Conditions are given below, with amendments highlighted.

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
SIDE WASTE RESTRICTION EXEMPTION SCHEME



Terms and Conditions

1.0 Definitions

“You” means the person whose name and address is on the Application Form

“The Council” means Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

“Exemption Scheme” means this scheme for an exemption from the Council’s Side Waste Restriction

“Exemption Period” is the 12 month period from the date the Council notifies you that your application has been successful (this may be by issuing to you exemption stickers)

2.0 General

The Council has a Side Waste Restriction to limit the amount of waste put out for disposal and encourage greater recycling

The Council collects non-recyclable waste from households in either wheeled bins or black bags, as determined by the Council

The following limits apply to non-recyclable waste presented for disposal:

- not more than one wheeled bin for disposal from each house; or
- in bag collection areas not more than a total of 3 black bags for disposal from each house

There is no limit on the amount of recyclable material that can be put out for recycling

This Exemption Scheme is for non-recyclable waste only

To apply for an exemption you are required to use the Council’s kerbside recycling service to present your recyclables for collection

The Exemption Scheme is available for households that recycle but still have more non-recyclable waste than the specified limit

The Council may change, alter, or cancel the Exemption Scheme

3.0 Application:

The Council will then:

- consider your application and may contact or visit you for further information and assess whether the Council can help your household recycle more
- only issue an exemption if you can demonstrate that your household only puts out non-recyclable waste in your wheeled bin or black bags

4.0 The Exemption Scheme

If your application is successful, then you will be required to:

- continue to not put out recyclable material in your wheeled bin or black bags and comply with the attached Section 46 Notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for presentation of your waste;
- supply your own **standard size** extra black bags for any additional waste
- place one exemption sticker on each **approved** extra black bag above the limit put out for collection. **Any stickers placed on additional wheeled bins will result in the bin being removed and you will be removed from the approved exemption list with no further applications being processed or approved**
- **Only present the agreed amount of additional black bags for collection, as per the Council's No Side Waste Policy**
- **Do not use the exemption stickers for house clearance or any other 'clear out'. Presenting an excessive amount of exemption stickered waste could result in you being removed from the approved exemption list with no further applications being processed or approved**
- **not pass on your exemption stickers to any other property or person, if you do so, it could result in your removal from the exemption scheme with no further applications being processed or approved**
- inform the Council if you move house
- take your stickers with you if you move house

- re-apply for a further exemption if you continue to produce large volumes of non-recyclable waste and require an exemption after the end of your current exemption
- re-apply not more than one month before the end of your current exemption

And the Council will:

- give you a number of exemption stickers (the number of stickers you will be equal to the number of extra black bags you will need to present over a 12 month period, the Exemption Period),
- not give you any additional exemption stickers, nor replace lost or stolen exemption stickers (the number of exemption stickers supplied must last you for the full 12 month period)
- not collect excess waste that does not have an exemption sticker
- may check wheeled bins and black bags for compliance with the Exemption Scheme (in particular, that no recyclables are put out for disposal) and may not collect excess waste if wheeled bins or black bags contain recyclables
- reserve the right to cancel your exemption
- consider any re-application not more than one month before the end of any current exemption (and any new exemption will begin not earlier than the end of the current exemption)

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the duties and requirements of the following legislation in order to inform and ensure effective decision making and compliance:

- Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Version Control

Version	Author	Job title	Date
e.g. Version 1			

1. Details of the initiative

	Title of the Initiative: Improving Recycling Performance and budget delivery
1a	Service Area: Waste Services
1b	Directorate: Environment & Regeneration
1c	Summary of the initiative: The aim of the initiative is the Improve recycling performance by enhancing the weekly recycling collection service whilst restricting the refuse collection service and introducing green waste collection charges, whilst at the same time meeting the corporate request for 5% financial savings.
1d	Is this a 'strategic decision'? Yes – the initiative affects the medium to long term approach to service delivery
1e	Who will be directly affected by this initiative? Everyone who lives within Neath Port Talbot or who owns/runs a business within the County Borough and makes use of the Council's collection services

1f	<p>When and how were people consulted?</p> <p>Public consultation was held between 6th May 2024 and 21st June 2024 through an online consultation questionnaire with feedback boxes being placed at venues across the County Borough including libraries, community centres, civic centres for those residents who are unable to complete online.</p>
1g	<p>What were the outcomes of the consultation?</p> <p>A response was received from 3740 residents, representing approximately 5% of the County Borough, and the majority were shown to be in favour of improving recycling services.</p> <p>Most respondents did not expect the proposals to improve recycling to impact them or their family because of protected characteristics. However, some were concerned due to their age, disability, or because of pregnancy/maternity. A copy of the results is included as Appendix **.</p>

2. Evidence

<p>What evidence was used in assessing the initiative?</p>
<p>Evidence is acquired from numerous sources, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towards Zero Waste One Wales: One Planet Waste Strategy for Wales Municipal Sector Plan & WG 'Collections Blueprint' Applying the waste hierarchy: Guidance The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 The Waste Separation Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2023 Neath Port Talbot Waste Strategies 2018 and 2023 Public consultation as part of 2024/25 budget proposals Public consultation with local residents, local business, Waste Services workforce and Trade Unions Household recycling participation surveys WRAP residual waste analysis

3. Equalities

a) How does the initiative impact on people who share a **protected characteristic**?

Protected Characteristic	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Age	+			<p>24% of respondents to the consultation believed the proposals could impact them because of their age and those that responded were more likely to be aged over 60. (see report appendices for consultation details).</p> <p>The 3 weekly collection service will be provided throughout the county borough to all households. However, a <u>comprehensive weekly collection service of recyclables will continue</u> and include items such as, batteries, paper & card, glass, plastic & tins & cans and food waste and there are <u>no limits</u> on the amount of recyclable material that can be presented for collection. A revised 'Side Waste Policy' will be available for residents with any additional non-recyclable residual waste.</p> <p>A separate hygiene collection service will continue for adult incontinence waste and an 'assisted collection' service will be provided for the elderly. The proposal also includes an option to increase the collection of garden waste and AHPs (nappies) from fortnightly as current to weekly plus a trial collection of small electrical waste.</p>
Disability	+			<p>Of the 20% of respondents that considered themselves to have a disability, 51% said that the potential measures to improve recycling rates could impact them because of their disability. (see report appendices for consultation details).</p> <p>The 3 weekly collection service will be provided throughout the county borough to all households. However, a <u>comprehensive weekly collection service of recyclables will continue</u> and include items such as, batteries, paper & card, glass, plastic & tins & cans and food waste and there are <u>no limits</u> on the amount of recyclable material that can be presented for collection. A revised 'Side Waste Policy' will be available for residents with any additional non-recyclable residual waste.</p>

				<p>A separate hygiene collection service will continue for adult incontinence waste and an 'assisted collection' service will be provided for residents with a disability. The proposal also includes an option to increase the collection of garden waste and AHPs (nappies) from fortnightly as current to weekly plus a trial collection of small electrical waste.</p>
Gender reassignment			+/-	No impact
Marriage & civil partnership			+/-	No impact
Pregnancy and maternity			+	<p>Of the 6% of respondents that identified as pregnant or on maternity leave, 11% said that the potential measures to improve recycling rates would impact them because of their pregnancy or maternity.</p> <p>The 3 weekly collection service will be provided throughout the county borough to all households. However, a <u>comprehensive weekly collection service of recyclables will continue</u> and include items such as, batteries, paper & card, glass, plastic & tins & cans and food waste and there are <u>no limits</u> on the amount of recyclable material that can be presented for collection.</p> <p>The proposal also includes an option to increase the collection of garden waste and AHPs (nappies) from fortnightly as current to weekly plus a trial collection of small electrical waste. Small bins for the storage of the purple nappy bags in between collections can be provided if requested. This will make accessing bags easier whereby bags can be left untied until bin is full.</p> <p>A revised 'Side Waste Policy' will be available for residents with any additional non-recyclable residual waste and a separate hygiene collection service will continue for adult incontinence waste.</p>

Race			+/-	No impact
Religion or belief			+/-	No impact
Sex			+/-	No impact
Sexual orientation			+/-	No impact

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

We continue to work with all our collection crews to ensure records of assisted collections are up to date. Introduction of digital 'in-cab' information will improve information available to all Supervisors and collection crews in real time, helping us to improve performance.

Whilst there is a no impact on other protected characteristics, we will continue to assess feedback received from the consultation process and continue to raise awareness of the importance of recycling directly with residents and on our website and social media channels and deal with any service requests and queries as required.

b) How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Public Sector Equality Duty**?

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation			+/-	See below
To advance equality of opportunity between different groups			+/-	See below
To foster good relations between different groups			+/-	See below

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the county borough as far as meets local needs, whilst there are assisted collections for those that need them. This allows every community and household access to the same service whether a valley community, urban, or in a rural area.

We will continue our commitment to raise awareness of the importance of recycling and our Recycling Awareness and Compliance Officers will engage with all communities and residents in person and using available media to provide help and advice.

4. Socio Economic Duty

Impact	Details of the impact/advantage/disadvantage
Positive/Advantage	Provides local employment
Negative/Disadvantage	Collection charges introduced for non-statutory garden waste collections
Neutral	

What action will be taken to reduce inequality of outcome

All our collection crews will be provided with the same employment opportunities and there will be no job losses as a result of the introduction of 3 weekly collections, albeit some collection staff will be redeployed to other collection duties. Provision of uniform separate recycling collection services provides high quality materials for recycling, generating income and helps promote the transition to a circular economy and supports local recycling outlets when possible.

Garden waste collection charges are based on a 'mid range' rate compared to other local authorities in Wales and a higher rate is only applicable to households with larger gardens that may produce a larger quantity of garden waste and therefore is considered to represent value for money when compared to all charges in Wales.

The proposal allows for the collection frequency of garden and nappy waste to increase to weekly making storage of garden waste less of an issue for householders, therefore allowing more households to sign up to the lower rate.

Our HWRCs are open 7 days a week (except for Christmas day, Boxing day and New Year's day) and householders can dispose of their garden waste free of charge at these facilities. Our shared facility in Lower Cwmtwrch operated by Powys council is open 5 days a week.

5. Community Cohesion/Social Exclusion/Poverty

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Community Cohesion	+			<p>Our kerbside waste and recycling collections services are universally the same across the county borough, as far as it suits local needs allowing every community and household access to the same service whether a valley community, urban, or in a rural area and our 'assisted collection' service is available for all those that require one.</p> <p>We will continue our commitment to raise awareness of the importance of recycling and our Recycling Awareness and Compliance Officers will engage with all communities and residents in person and using available media to provide help and advice and will deal with service requests/queries as required.</p>
Social Exclusion	+			As above
Poverty			+/-	<p>Our proposal provides a commitment to protect front line service employment opportunities. All our collection crews will be provided with the same employment opportunities and there will be no job losses as a result of the introduction of 3 weekly collections, albeit some collection staff will be redeployed to other collection duties. Provision of uniform separate recycling collection services provides high quality materials for recycling, generating income and helps promote the transition to a circular economy and supports local recycling outlets when possible.</p> <p>Garden waste collection charges are based on a 'mid range' rate compared to other local authorities in Wales and a higher rate is only applicable to households with larger gardens that may produce a larger quantity of garden waste and therefore represents value for money when compared to all charges in Wales. The proposal</p>

				allows for the collection frequency of garden and nappy waste not to increase, and potentially decrease, so there is no increase in storage issues for householders, therefore allowing more households to sign up to the lower rate. Our HWRCs are open 7 days a week (except for Christmas day, Boxing day and New Year's day) and householders can recycle their garden waste free of charge at these facilities. Our shared facility in Lower Cwmtwrch operated by Powys council is open 5 days a week.
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What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?
See above

6. Welsh

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this effect?
What effect does the initiative have on: - people's opportunities to use the Welsh language			+/-	Welsh and English Languages are available online. All our literature and agreement forms will be produced in Welsh and English, with each language given equal priority
- treating the Welsh and English languages equally			+/-	Welsh and English Languages are available online. All our literature and agreement forms will be produced in Welsh and English, with each language given equal priority

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The council's Welsh Translation Unit will be used to carry out all Welsh language translations and will comply with the council's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023/27

7. Biodiversity

How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Biodiversity Duty**?

Biodiversity Duty	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity	+			Provision of a reliable collection service helps protect the local environment and ensures the safe disposal/recycling of collected items at licenced facilities. Stricter policies in relation to excess waste enforcement will act as a deterrent against environmental crimes which should have a positive impact on biodiversity locally and within the wider community.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.			+/-	As above

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Not applicable

8. Well-being of Future Generations

How have the five ways of working been applied in the development of the initiative?

Ways of Working	Details
i. Long term – looking at least 10 years (and up to 25 years) ahead	Provision of reliable waste and recycling kerbside collection services ensures the safe disposal of waste and recycling in the longer term and helps protect the local environment. Provision of a single, uniform collection service for waste and recyclables across the county borough helps ensure longer term service resilience and promotes better community relationships and cohesion. The introduction of green waste charges complies with Welsh Governments' 'Collections Blueprint, and restricting refuse disposal through three-weekly collections has been demonstrated to drive up recycling performance in line with the goals of zero waste by 2050 and 'one planet living' in terms of resource use;
ii. Prevention – preventing problems occurring or getting worse	Providing source segregated weekly recycling and a regular 3 weekly waste service helps the Council meet its statutory recycling targets and helps promote a circular economy and protects the local environment. It promotes a more prosperous Wales, a healthier Wales and a globally responsible Wales.
iii. Collaboration – working with other services internal or external	We have consulted with Welsh Government, WLGA and Local Members regarding proposals. We will also collaborate with our Customer Services section, Fleet Services and our re-processors used for the recycling and waste collected.
iv. Involvement – involving people, ensuring they	The proposal has been subject to a full consultation process which included all stake holders, including residents and businesses of Neath Port Talbot, council workforce and senior management team

reflect the diversity of the population	
v. Integration – making connections to maximise contribution to:	We have followed the Welsh Government’s preferred options for collections of waste and recycling in Wales as far as suits local needs. We have consulted with other local authorities and public bodies that have already introduced 3 weekly collections as part of our approved Waste Strategy Action plan to achieve the next statutory recycling target of 70%. We have worked with Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and our trade waste customers following the introduction of the Workplace Recycling Regulations.
Council’s well-being objectives	<p>The council’s well-being objectives are considered at a service level in our Streetcare Business Plan 2024/25; our Service Recovery Plan 2022/25 and our Waste Strategy.</p> <p>The Waste Strategy and action plan ensures our services are considered and provided in a sustainable way. Wider environmental benefits and impact on local employment are also taken into account and our ‘kerb sort’ recycling service provides high quality material for recycling into new products and our collection services employs more than 140 operatives helping Wales to become more prosperous and resilient. The strategy follows the principle of the waste hierarchy promoting reuse and recycling. The collection of high-quality recycling material helps the transition to a circular economy, using local recycling outlets where possible and promotes local economic growth. We also work with organisations such as the Enfys Foundation placing items destined for disposal back on the market at affordable prices which also creates employment and training opportunities in the third sector economy.</p>
Other public bodies objectives	<p>NHS/Social Services – Waste collection services undertake a function of public health and the provision of services for proper disposal and recycling of waste minimises risk to health. Helping Neath Port Talbot to become a healthier place to live and work.</p> <p>Volunteer (Third Sector) Economy – our links with the Enfys Foundation provides opportunities to volunteer/train and a provides items for resale and affordable prices at our Reuse in Briton Ferry.</p>

	<p>Welsh Government (WG) – achievement of recycling targets helps WG achieve climate change ambitions and minimise impact on natural resources</p> <p>South Wales Police and NRW – our collection services allows for the safe disposal and recycling of collected waste and helps reduce the opportunities to commit environmental crime.</p>
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9. Monitoring Arrangements

Provide information on the monitoring arrangements to:

Monitor the impact of the initiative on Equalities, Community Cohesion, the Welsh Measure, Biodiversity Duty and the Wellbeing Objectives.

<p>Our Waste Strategy and the associated action plan will be updated at regular intervals. Any specific actions and activities that are proposed to our services are subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to assist the decision-making process and will consider the impact on all our communities.</p> <p>Our Waste Services Delivery Plan will be updated regularly and will consider the council’s well-being objectives and the 5 ways of working when designing and improving our services.</p> <p>Our recycling and waste tonnages are reported to NRW on a quarterly basis and provide reliable data on our recycling performance compared to the latest recycling targets</p> <p>Monitoring of our collection services will continue, and we will deal with service requests and queries as required. Service specific indicators will be reported every quarter as part of our Key Performance Measures.</p>
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10. Assessment Conclusions

Please provide details of the conclusions reached in relation to each element of the assessment:

	Conclusion
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Equalities	No impacts. Provision of our assisted collection service for those that require one and a comprehensive weekly collection service of recyclables will continue. Separate hygiene waste collections will continue and storage bins can be provided for nappy waste.
Socio Economic Disadvantage	Limited impacts. The proposal has a positive impact on local employment. Garden waste collection charges proposed are an average price when compared to an all Wales basis and therefore is considered to provide value for money. Restricting collection service costs reduces pressure on council tax.
Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty	<p>Some impacts. Our kerbside waste and recycling collections services are universally the same across the county borough, as far as it meets local needs allowing every community and household access to the same service whether a valley community, urban, or in a rural area and our 'assisted collection' service is available for all those that require one.</p> <p>We will continue our commitment to raise awareness of the importance of recycling and our Recycling and Compliance Officers will engage with all communities and residents in person and using available media to provide help and advice.</p> <p>Garden waste collection charges are to be introduced at an average price when compared on an all Wales basis and therefore is considered to represent value for money. The proposal allows for the collection frequency of garden and nappy waste not to increase, and potentially decrease, so there is no increase in storage issues for householders, therefore allowing more households to sign up to the lower rate. Our HWRCs are open 7 days a week (except for Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day) and householders can recycle their garden waste free of charge at these facilities. Our shared facility in Lower Cwmtwrch operated by Powys council is open 5 days a week.</p>
Welsh	Positive. All literature will be produced bi-lingually (Welsh/English)
Biodiversity	No impact
Well-being of Future Generations	Our service proposal helps Wales become more resilient, healthier, globally responsible, more equal and a place of cohesive communities while promoting the Welsh language.

Overall Conclusion

Please indicate the conclusion reached:

- **Continue** - as planned as no problems and all opportunities have been maximised
- **Make adjustments** - as potential problems/missed opportunities/negative impacts have been identified along with mitigating actions
- **Justification** - for continuing with the initiative even though there is a potential for negative impacts or missed opportunities
- **STOP** - redraft the initiative as actual or potential unlawful discrimination has been identified

Please provide details of the overall conclusion reached in relation to the initiative

Continue as planned.

It is noted the majority of Councils in Wales are now on three-weekly or longer collections and many also charge for non-statutory green waste collection.

11. Actions

What actions are required in relation to obtaining further data/information, to reduce or remove negative impacts or improve positive impacts?

Action	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	How will we know we have achieved our objective?
Review and update Waste Strategy	Mike Roberts/Mike Jones	As required	Report to Cabinet Board
IAs to be completed as part of introduction of new services or service improvements	Mike Roberts/Mike Jones	As required	Report to Cabinet Board

Continuous monitoring of service requests/queries and complaints	Mike Roberts/Mike Jones	Reviewed and monitored on a daily/weekly basis	Waste Services Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are reported every quarter
Submission of information to Waste Data Flow	Mike Roberts/Mike Jones	Every quarter	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are reported every quarter
Consider further consultation/feedback exercise following implementation of proposal	Mike Roberts/Mike Jones	As required	Report to Cabinet Board

12. Sign off

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Michael Jones	Acting Service Manager	MDJ	7/10/24
Signed off by	Michael Roberts	Head of Service	MR	25/10/24

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the duties and requirements of the following legislation in order to inform and ensure effective decision making and compliance:

- Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Version Control

Version	Author	Job title	Date
e.g. Version 1			

1. Details of the initiative

	Title of the Initiative: Updated Missed Collections Policy
1a	Service Area: Waste Services
1b	Directorate: Environment & Regeneration
1c	Summary of the initiative: Update the Missed Collections Policy from 1 st October 2025 alongside service changes and taking account of experience to date.
1d	Is this a ‘strategic decision’? Yes, the initiative affects the medium and long term approach to service delivery
1e	Who will be directly affected by this initiative? Everyone who lives within Neath Port Talbot or who owns/runs a business within the County Borough and makes use of the Council’s collection services

1f	When and how were people consulted? All Members Seminars were conducted as part of producing the approved Waste Strategy Action Plan
1g	What were the outcomes of the consultation? Members requested that a review of the Missed Collections Policy be undertaken as part of the Waste Strategy

2. Evidence

What evidence was used in assessing the initiative?

Feedback from Members through the above mentioned process
 Feedback from waste collection operatives
 Missed Collection Complaints

3. Equalities

a) How does the initiative impact on people who share a **protected characteristic**?

Protected Characteristic	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Age			✓	The service provides an assisted collection service for elderly residents and/or residents with a disability, and the current policy of returning to missed collections for these residents will remain unchanged as part of this initiative

Disability			✓	The service provides an assisted collection service for elderly residents and/or residents with a disability, and the current policy of returning to missed collections for these residents will remain unchanged as part of this initiative
Gender reassignment			✓	No impact
Marriage & civil partnership			✓	No impact
Pregnancy and maternity			✓	No impact
Race			✓	No impact
Religion or belief			✓	No impact
Sex			✓	No impact
Sexual orientation			✓	No impact

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

We will continue to work with all of our collection crews to ensure records of assisted collections are up to date. Introduction of the digital in-cab technology will improve information available to the collection crews, and Supervisors in real time, helping to improve the service.

Whilst there is no impact on other protected characteristics, we will continue to assess feedback received from residents and Members and continue to raise awareness of the importance of recycling directly with residents and on our website and social media channels and deal with any service requests and queries as required.

b) How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Public Sector Equality Duty**?

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
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To eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation			✓	See below
To advance equality of opportunity between different groups			✓	See below
To foster good relations between different groups			✓	See below

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the county borough as far as it suits local needs, allowing every community and household access to the same service whether a valley community, urban, or in a rural area and our assisted collection service is available to for all those that require one.

We will continue our commitment to raise awareness of the importance of recycling and our Recycling Awareness and Compliance Team will engage with all communities and residents in person and using available media to provide help and advice.

4. Socio Economic Duty

Impact	Details of the impact/advantage/disadvantage
Positive/Advantage	
Negative/Disadvantage	

Neutral	Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the county borough as far as it suits local needs, allowing every community and household access to the same service whether a valley community, urban, or in a rural area and our assisted collection service is available to for all those that require one.
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What action will be taken to reduce inequality of outcome
Not applicable

5. Community Cohesion/Social Exclusion/Poverty

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Community Cohesion			✓	Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the county borough as far as it suits local needs, allowing every community and household access to the same service whether a valley community, urban, or in a rural area and our assisted collection service is available to for all those that require one. We will continue our commitment to raise awareness of the importance of recycling and our Recycling Awareness and Compliance Team will engage with all communities and residents in person and using available media to provide help and advice.
Social Exclusion			✓	See above

Poverty			✓	See above
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What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Not applicable

6. Welsh

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this effect?
What effect does the initiative have on: - people's opportunities to use the Welsh language	✓			Welsh and English Languages are available online. All our literature will be produced in Welsh and English, with each language given equal priority.
- treating the Welsh and English languages equally	✓			Welsh and English Languages are available online. All our literature will be produced in Welsh and English, with each language given equal priority.

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The Welsh Translation Unit will be used to carry out all Welsh language translations and will comply with the Council’s Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023/27

7. Biodiversity

How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Biodiversity Duty**?

Biodiversity Duty	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity	✓			Provision of a reliable collection service helps protect the local environment and ensures the safe disposal/recycling of collected materials at licenced facilities.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.			✓	As above

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Not applicable

8. Well-being of Future Generations

How have the five ways of working been applied in the development of the initiative?

Ways of Working	Details
i. Long term – looking at least 10 years (and up to 25 years) ahead	Provision of reliable waste and recycling kerbside collection services ensures the safe disposal of waste and recycling in the longer term and helps protect the local environment. Provision of a consistent and balanced missed collections policy across the county borough helps ensure longer term service resilience and promotes better community relationships and cohesion.
ii. Prevention – preventing problems occurring or getting worse	Provision of a consistent and balanced missed collections policy based on accurate information will allow the service to develop a comprehensive policy to address genuine incidents, preventing further occurrence and provide long term service improvements for all residents. This initiative should also encourage behaviour change from residents and the wider community to improve the environmental quality across the County Borough
iii. Collaboration – working with other services internal or external	We have consulted with the collection operatives, supervisors and Recycling Awareness and Compliance teams on the obstacles facing the service and experience with the current Policy. The proposed amended policy is also being subject to Member Scrutiny and a further review will be conducted with Members again, 6-12 months after implementation.
iv. Involvement – involving people, ensuring they	As above

reflect the diversity of the population	
v. Integration – making connections to maximise contribution to:	As above
Council’s well-being objectives	<p>The council’s well-being objectives are considered at a service level in our Streetcare Business Plan 2024/25; our Service Recovery Plan 2022/25 and our Waste Strategy.</p> <p>The Waste Strategy and action plan ensures our services are considered and provided in a sustainable way. Wider environmental benefits and impact on local employment are also taken into account and our ‘kerb sort’ recycling service provides high quality material for recycling into new products and our collection services employs more than 140 operatives helping Wales to become more prosperous and resilient.</p>
Other public bodies objectives	<p>NHS/Social Services – Waste collection services undertake a function of public health and the provision of services for proper disposal and recycling of waste minimises risk to health. Helping Neath Port Talbot to become a healthier place to live and work.</p> <p>Welsh Government (WG) – achievement of recycling targets helps WG achieve climate change ambitions and minimise impact on natural resources</p> <p>South Wales Police and NRW – our collection services allows for the safe disposal and recycling of collected waste and helps reduce the opportunities to commit environmental crime.</p>

9. Monitoring Arrangements

Provide information on the monitoring arrangements to:

Monitor the impact of the initiative on Equalities, Community Cohesion, the Welsh Measure, Biodiversity Duty and the Wellbeing Objectives.

The updated Policy will be reviewed again six to 12 months after the full implementation of the In-Cab live feed technology, allowing the service to time to have gained an accurate assessment of the extent of genuine missed collections across the county borough and the reasons for them.

Our Waste Strategy and the associated action plan will be updated at regular intervals. Any specific actions and activities that are proposed to our services are subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to assist the decision-making process and will consider the impact on all our communities.

Our Waste Services Delivery Plan will be updated regularly and will consider the council's well-being objectives and the 5 ways of working when designing and improving our services.

Our recycling and waste tonnages are reported to NRW on a quarterly basis and provide reliable data on our recycling performance compared to the latest recycling targets

Monitoring of our collection services will continue, and we will deal with service requests and queries as required. Service specific indicators will be reported every quarter as part of our Key Performance Measures.

10. Assessment Conclusions

Please provide details of the conclusions reached in relation to each element of the assessment:

	Conclusion
Equalities	No impacts. Provision of our assisted collection service for those that require one and the current policy of returning to collect will continue.
Socio Economic Disadvantage	No impacts. Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the county borough as far as it suits local needs, allowing every community and household access to the same service whether a valley community, urban, or in a rural area and our assisted collection service is available to for all those that require one.
Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty	No impacts. Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the county borough as far as it suits local needs, allowing every community and household access to

	<p>the same service whether a valley community, urban, or in a rural area and our assisted collection service is available to for all those that require one.</p> <p>We will continue our commitment to raise awareness of the importance of recycling and our Recycling Awareness and Compliance Team will engage with all communities and residents in person and using available media to provide help and advice.</p>
Welsh	Positive. All literature and online information will be produced bilingually.
Biodiversity	Positive. Provision of a reliable collection service helps protect the local environment and ensures the safe disposal/recycling of collected materials at licenced facilities.
Well-being of Future Generations	The initiative helps improve the collection service and helps towards achieving Zero Waste by 2050 and helps Wales become more resilient, healthier, globally responsible, more equal and a place of cohesive communities while promoting the Welsh Language

Overall Conclusion

Please indicate the conclusion reached:

- **Continue** - as planned as no problems and all opportunities have been maximised
- **Make adjustments** - as potential problems/missed opportunities/negative impacts have been identified along with mitigating actions
- **Justification** - for continuing with the initiative even though there is a potential for negative impacts or missed opportunities
- **STOP** - redraft the initiative as actual or potential unlawful discrimination has been identified

Please provide details of the overall conclusion reached in relation to the initiative

Continue as planned.

11. Actions

What actions are required in relation to obtaining further data/information, to reduce or remove negative impacts or improve positive impacts?

Action	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	How will we know we have achieved our objective?
Introduction of In-Cab Live Feed Technology	Mike Roberts/Mike Jones	By 1 st October 2025	Technology installed and fully operational
Continuous monitoring of complaints	Mike Roberts/Mike Jones	Reviewed and monitored on a daily/weekly basis.	Key Performance Indicators
Develop Comprehensive Missed Collections Policy based on accurate service data	Mike Roberts/Mike Jones	Six months after the introduction of the In-Cab Live Feed technology	Report to Cabinet

12. Sign off

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by				
Signed off by		Head of Service/Director		

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the duties and requirements of the following legislation in order to inform and ensure effective decision making and compliance:

- Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Version Control

Version	Author	Job title	Date
e.g. Version 1			

1. Details of the initiative

	Title of the Initiative: Revised ‘No Side Waste’ Policy
1a	Service Area: Waste Services
1b	Directorate: Environment & Regeneration
1c	Summary of the initiative: To introduce a revised No Side Waste Policy alongside service changes and taking account of experience to date
1d	Is this a ‘strategic decision’? Yes, the initiative affects the medium and long term approach to service delivery
1e	Who will be directly affected by this initiative? Everyone who lives within Neath Port Talbot and makes use of the Council’s collection service
1f	When and how were people consulted? All Member Seminars were conducted as part of producing the approved Waste Strategy Action Plan

1g	What were the outcomes of the consultation? Approved action plan included a measure to review the current No Side Waste Policy (Measure 6)
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2. Evidence

What evidence was used in assessing the initiative?
Feedback from the Collection operatives Feedback from Operational Supervisors Feedback from Recycling Awareness and Compliance Officers

3. Equalities

a) How does the initiative impact on people who share a **protected characteristic**?

Protected Characteristic	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Age			✓	Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the County Borough, as far as suits local needs allowing every community and household access to the same service. The service provides an assisted collection service for elderly residents and/or residents with a disability as well as a separate collection for Hygiene/Absorbent Hygiene Products.
Disability			✓	Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the County Borough, as far as suits local needs allowing every community and household access to the same service. The service provides an assisted collection service for elderly residents and/or residents with a disability as well as a separate collection for Hygiene/Absorbent Hygiene Products.

Gender reassignment			✓	No Impact
Marriage & civil partnership			✓	No impact
Pregnancy and maternity			✓	Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the County Borough, as far as suits local needs allowing every community and household access to the same service. The service provides an assisted collection service for elderly residents and/or residents with a disability as well as a separate collection for Hygiene/Absorbent Hygiene Products.
Race			✓	No impact
Religion or belief			✓	No impact
Sex			✓	No impact
Sexual orientation			✓	No impact

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

We will continue to work with all of our collection crews to ensure all residents who require and assisted collection and a hygiene/AHP collection service receive them.

Whilst there is no impact on other protected characteristics, we will continue to assess feedback received from residents and Members and continue to raise awareness of the importance of recycling directly with residents and on our website and social media channels and deal with any service requests and queries as required.

b) How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Public Sector Equality Duty**?

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
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To eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation			✓	See below
To advance equality of opportunity between different groups			✓	See below
To foster good relations between different groups			✓	See below

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the county borough as far as it suits local needs, allowing every community and household access to the same service whether a valley community, urban, or in a rural area and our assisted collection service, as well as hygiene and AHP service is available to all those that require one.

We will continue our commitment to raise awareness of the importance of recycling and our Recycling Awareness and Compliance Team will engage with all communities and residents in person and using available media to provide help and advice.

4. Socio Economic Duty

Impact	Details of the impact/advantage/disadvantage
Positive/Advantage	
Negative/Disadvantage	

Neutral	Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the county borough as far as it suits local needs, allowing every community and household access to the same service whether a valley community, urban, or in a rural area and our assisted collection service, as well as hygiene and AHP service is available to all those that require one.
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What action will be taken to reduce inequality of outcome
Not applicable

5. Community Cohesion/Social Exclusion/Poverty

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Community Cohesion			✓	<p>Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the county borough as far as it suits local needs, allowing every community and household access to the same service whether a valley community, urban, or in a rural area and our assisted collection service is available to for all those that require one.</p> <p>We will continue our commitment to raise awareness of the importance of recycling and our Recycling Awareness and Compliance Team will engage with all communities and residents in person and using available media to provide help and advice.</p>

Social Exclusion			✓	See above
Poverty			✓	See above

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Not applicable

6. Welsh

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this effect?
What effect does the initiative have on: – people’s opportunities to use the Welsh language	✓			Welsh and English Languages are available online. All our literature will be produced in Welsh and English with each language given equal priority
– treating the Welsh and English languages equally	✓			Welsh and English Languages are available online. All our literature will be produced in Welsh and English, with each language given equal priority.

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The Welsh Translation Unit will be used to carry out all Welsh Language translations and will comply with the Council's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023/27.

7. Biodiversity

How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Biodiversity Duty**?

Biodiversity Duty	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity	✓			Provision of a reliable collection service and increased recycling helps protect the local environment and ensures the safe disposal/recycling of collected materials at licenced facilities.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.			✓	As above

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Not applicable

8. Well-being of Future Generations

How have the five ways of working been applied in the development of the initiative?

Ways of Working	Details
i. Long term – looking at least 10 years (and up to 25 years) ahead	Provision of reliable waste and recycling kerbside collection services ensures the safe disposal of waste and recycling in the longer term and helps protect the environment. Reducing the amount of recyclable waste in black bins/bags helps increase recycling participation and promote a more circular economy
ii. Prevention – preventing problems occurring or getting worse	Reducing the amount of recyclable waste in black bins/bags helps increase recycling participation and promote a more circular economy. This initiative will also encourage behaviour change from residents and the wider community to improve the environmental quality across the County Borough.
iii. Collaboration – working with other services internal or external	We have consulted with the collection operatives, supervisors and the Recycling Awareness and Compliance team on the obstacles facing the service when policing the current scheme. We will consult with the Trade Union and Customer Service Section as well as Neighbourhood Street cleansing section as well as Legal colleagues before changes are implemented.
iv. Involvement – involving people, ensuring they reflect the diversity of the population	As above
v. Integration – making connections to maximise contribution to:	As above

<p>Council's well-being objectives</p>	<p>The Council's well-being objectives are considered at a service level in our Streetcare Business Plan 2024/25; our Service Recovery Plan 2022/25 and our Waste Strategy.</p> <p>The Waste Strategy and associated action plan ensures our services are considered and provided in a sustainable way. Wider environmental benefits and impact on local employment are also taken into account and our 'kerb sort' recycling service provides high quality material for recycling into new products and our collection services employs more than 140 operatives helping Wales to become more prosperous and resilient</p>
<p>Other public bodies objectives</p>	<p>NHS/Social Services – waste collection service undertake a function of public health and the provision of services for proper disposal and recycling of waste minimises risk to health. Helping Neath Port Talbot to become a healthier place to live and work.</p> <p>Welsh Government (WG) – achievement of recycling targets helps WG achieve 'one planet living' and zero waste ambitions.</p> <p>South Wales Police and NRW – our collection service allows for the safe disposal and recycling of collected waste and helps reduce the opportunities to commit environmental crime</p>

9. Monitoring Arrangements

Provide information on the monitoring arrangements to:

Monitor the impact of the initiative on Equalities, Community Cohesion, the Welsh Measure, Biodiversity Duty and the Wellbeing Objectives.

Our Waste Strategy and the associated action plan will be updated at regular intervals. Any specific actions and activities that are proposed to our services are subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to assist the decision making process and will consider the impact on all our communities.

Our Waste Services delivery plan will be updated regularly and will consider the council's well-being objectives and the 5 ways of working when designing and improving our services.

Our recycling and waste tonnages are reported to NRW on a quarterly basis and provide reliable data on our recycling performance compared to the latest recycling targets

Monitoring of our collection service will continue and we will deal with service requests and queries as required. Service specific indicators will be reported every quarter as part of our Key Performance Measures.

10. Assessment Conclusions

Please provide details of the conclusions reached in relation to each element of the assessment:

	Conclusion
Equalities	No impacts. Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the County Borough, as far as suits local needs allowing every community and household access to the same service. The service provides an assisted collection service for elderly residents and/or residents with a disability as well as a separate collection for Hygiene/Absorbent Hygiene Products.
Socio Economic Disadvantage	No impacts. Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the County Borough, as far as suits local needs allowing every community and household access to the same service. The service provides an assisted collection service for elderly residents and/or residents with a disability as well as a separate collection for Hygiene/Absorbent Hygiene Products.
Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty	No impacts. Our kerbside waste and recycling collection services are universally the same across the County Borough, as far as suits local needs allowing every community and household access to the same service. The service provides an assisted collection service for elderly residents and/or residents with a disability as well as a separate collection for Hygiene/Absorbent Hygiene Products.
Welsh	Positive. All literature and online information will be produced bilingually.
Biodiversity	Positive. Provision of a reliable collection service helps protect the local environment and ensures the safe disposal/recycling of collected materials at licenced facilities.

Well-being of Future Generations	The initiative helps improve the collection service and helps Wales become more resilient, healthier, globally responsible, more equal and a place of cohesive communities while promoting the Welsh Language
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Overall Conclusion

Please indicate the conclusion reached:

- **Continue** - as planned as no problems and all opportunities have been maximised
- **Make adjustments** - as potential problems/missed opportunities/negative impacts have been identified along with mitigating actions
- **Justification** - for continuing with the initiative even though there is a potential for negative impacts or missed opportunities
- **STOP** - redraft the initiative as actual or potential unlawful discrimination has been identified

Please provide details of the overall conclusion reached in relation to the initiative

Continue as planned

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11. Actions

What actions are required in relation to obtaining further data/information, to reduce or remove negative impacts or improve positive impacts?

Action	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	How will we know we have achieved our objective?
Continuous monitoring of complaints	Mike Roberts/Mike Jones	Reviewed and monitored on a daily/weekly basis.	Key Performance Indicators

Monitoring of recycling participation and related performance	Mike Roberts/Mike Jones	Reviewed quarterly	Key Performance Indicators

12. Sign off

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by				
Signed off by		Head of Service/Director		

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

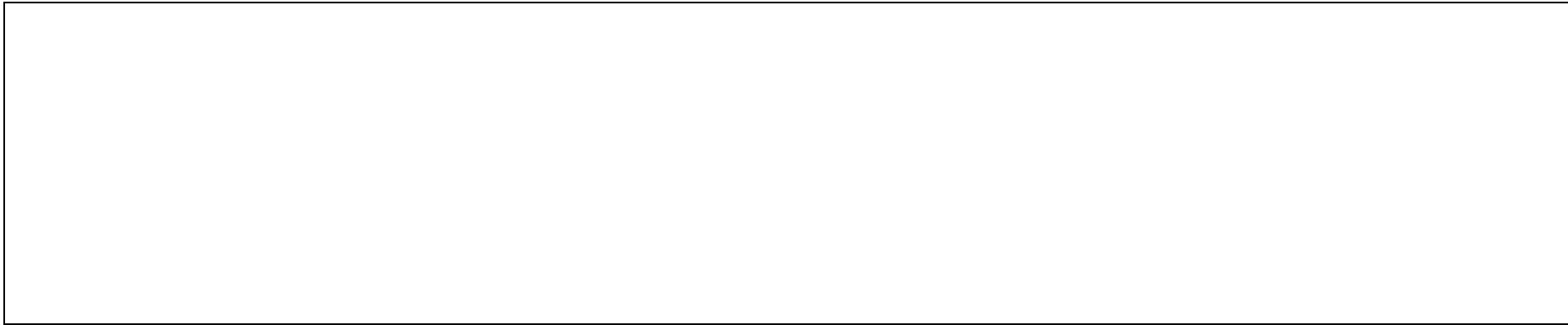
Initiative description and summary: Potential consideration of ceasing Provision of Bins and Black Bags
Service Area: Waste Services
Directorate: Environment and Regeneration
Strategic Decision: Yes

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	✓	
Staff	✓	
Wider community	✓	
Internal administrative process only		✓

3. Evidence used in the Assessment

Measures introduced by other Welsh Authorities to increase recycling performance
 Household recycling participation surveys
 WRAP residual waste analysis



4. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L/D	Reasons for your decision and details of the impact
Age	✓				M	The initiative will have a financial implication for all residents across Neath Port Talbot, including those with protected characteristics. There could also be transport and associated accessibility issues for residents. There would also be an increase in the volume of manual handling carried out by the collection operatives.
Disability	✓				M	As above
Gender Reassignment	✓				M	As above
Marriage/Civil Partnership	✓				M	As above
Pregnancy/Maternity	✓				M	As above
Race	✓				M	As above
Religion/Belief	✓				M	As above
Sex	✓				M	As above
Sexual orientation	✓				M	As above

5. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		✓				Welsh and English Languages are available online. All out literature will be produced in Welsh and English, with each language given equal priority.
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		✓				Welsh and English Languages are available online. All out literature will be produced in Welsh and English, with each language given equal priority.

6. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity	✓				M	Changing to a black bag only collection service could result in more ripped open bags, and fly tipping which will have an impact on environmental quality across the County Borough whilst it is envisaged some savings could be diverted to increase street cleansing resources.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment,	✓				M	As above

such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.						
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

7. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	✓		Provision of reliable waste and recycling kerbside collection services ensures the safe disposal of waste and recycling in the longer term and helps protect the local environment. Provision of a single, uniform collection service for waste and recyclables across the county borough helps ensure longer term service resilience and promotes better community relationships and cohesion.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	✓		We have followed the Welsh Government's preferred options for collections of waste and recycling in Wales as far as suits local needs. We have consulted with other local authorities and public bodies as part of our approved Waste Strategy Action plan to achieve the next statutory recycling target of 70%. We have worked with Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and our trade waste customers following the introduction of the Workplace Recycling Regulations
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	✓		We have consulted with Waste Collection Supervisors and Management however, a public consultation will be carried out as part of the budget setting process
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	✓		Alongside consultation we will consider potential implications across Streetcare and other services.
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	✓		Providing source segregated weekly recycling and a regular waste service helps the Council meet its statutory recycling targets and helps promote a circular economy and protects the local environment. It promotes a more prosperous Wales, a healthier Wales and a globally responsible Wales.

8. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	✓
Reasons for this conclusion	
A full impact assessment is not required at this stage, given the impact on all residents across the county borough, a full public consultation exercise should be undertaken as part of the budget setting process.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

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	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by				
Signed off by		Head of Service/Director		

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL

Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Scrutiny Committee

8th October 2024

Report of the of the Head of Streetcare
Michael Roberts

MATTER FOR: Decision

WARDS AFFECTED:

Pontardawe
Briton Ferry West
Briton Ferry East
Neath East
Sandfields East
Neath South
Neath North
Cwmllynfell and Ystalyfera
Port Talbot
Bryn and Cwmavon
Margam and Tai-bach
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynammon
Baglan

Report Title: Pilot of new Access Approach to Parks and Gardens

Purpose of Report

To allow for pre-decision consideration of the Pilot of new Access Approach to Parks and Gardens report by scrutiny members.

Background

The scrutiny committee have selected this item for pre-decision scrutiny ahead of presentation to Cabinet on the 13th November for decision.

Financial Impact

Not applicable.

Integrated Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

Valleys Communities Impacts

Not applicable.

Workforce Impacts

Not applicable.

Legal Impacts

Not applicable.

Risk Management Impacts

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder Impacts

Not applicable.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts

Not applicable.

Consultation

There is no requirement under the constitution for consultation on this item.

Recommendations

Following scrutiny, it is recommended that Members support the recommendation outlined in the draft cabinet report.

Appendices

Pilot of new Access Approach to Parks and Gardens

Officer Contract

Name: James Davies

Designation: Neighbourhood Services Manager

Email: j.davies19@npt.gov.uk

Direct dial: 01639 686408

Mr Tom Rees – Scrutiny Officer

email: t.rees1@npt.gov.uk

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

13th November 2024

Report of the Head of Streetcare Michael Roberts

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Pontardawe
Briton Ferry West
Briton Ferry East
Neath East
Sandfields East
Neath South
Neath North
Cwmllynfell and Ystalyfera
Port Talbot
Bryn and Cwmavon
Margam and Tai-bach
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynammon
Baglan

Report Title: Pilot of new Access Approach to Parks and Gardens

Purpose of the Report:

To consider and implement a proposed pilot of changes to the approach taken to open and close parks and gardens.

Executive Summary:

The Neighbourhood Services team is exploring ways to improve efficiency through the management of its resources by implementing relevant changes. Throughout the county borough, parks and gardens are currently opened and closed on a daily basis limiting out of hours access. Owing to staffing issues, during the summer months some parks and gardens could not be locked overnight. During this time period, there was no increase in anti-social behaviour reported which suggested that the locking procedure was of limited benefit. By changing this procedure, it will allow officers to utilise the resource that are required to implement the current approach elsewhere, to deliver a more beneficial service associated with playgrounds. The proposed changes include pedestrian access gates remaining open at all times, with vehicle access gates remaining secured outside of opening hours.

Background:

General

The Council is responsible for the appropriate management of its parks and formal gardens and the public look for such areas to be maintained to a high standard.

Current procedural agreements dictate that Neighbourhood Services staff must open and close formal parks and gardens every morning and evening, seven days a week. The timings of the opening and closure of the parks vary throughout the year in line with daylight hours.

Due to issues with staff resource associated with sickness during the last few months, there have been several parks and gardens across the borough that have frequently remained open. This period commenced in May 2024, and lasted for a period of four months, during which the parks and gardens were only locked for approximately 30 days out of a possible 113 (26%). This percentage could actually be lower due to users still being present in the parks at the time of closure, resulting in the parks having to remain open. This is an agreed practice that our staff are required to follow, to ensure they remain safe whilst undertaking the task as a lone worker.

During the above period there was no increase in complaints to the Council in relation to parks and gardens, and no rise in anti-social behaviour as confirmed by our local PCSO liaison officer. Our local liaison officer gave the below statement in relation to antisocial behaviour in parks and gardens, associated with the period mentioned above:

“So far the only concern that’s been raised by Police colleagues is re Skewen Park. There are quite a lot of incidents there generally, so the park being kept open may cause this to increase. Otherwise, no other concerns raised”.

Skewen Park is not a park that is managed or maintained by the Council.

The initiative, if implemented permanently, would reduce the risk to staff who are attending parks alone at night. There has been a rising number of issues in recent years, resulting in staff being exposed to verbal abuse and physical threats whilst asking members of the public to leave the parks at closure.

It has also been suggested that by leaving parks open to the general public, it will allow the parks to be self-policed. Members of the general public who use the parks out of hours will naturally deter incidents of anti-social behaviour.

It is proposed that an official pilot of the change in arrangements to closing parks and gardens at night commences from the 1st December 2024, and runs for a period of 4 months up until the 1st April 2025. Pedestrian gates would remain open 24 hours a day, however, vehicle gates/bollards would continue to restrict vehicle access. Whilst there is data available as outlined above associated with the period of time that the parks could not be locked on a regular basis, undertaking an official pilot of these changes would provide a fuller understanding of the impact of these assets remaining open. Furthermore, if implemented, the pilot would be during the winter months which would further supplement the data collected from the summer period.

Financial Impacts:

It is essential that service delivery models are reviewed periodically to identify if they are actually providing value for money, especially at such a time where Local Government finances are so thinly stretched. As set out in the executive summary to this report, Neighbourhood Services are reviewing the ways in which services are delivered as part of a transformation programme to ensure the services are as efficient and effective as they can be.

At present, park closing and opening operations are undertaken by a Mobile Ranger (grade 4) on a 39 hour a week split shift contract, to accommodate opening in the morning and closing at night. If the pilot goes ahead and subsequently the changes to the arrangements are made permanent, then it is proposed to reallocate the staffing resource to playground management. This would mean a change to the employee's contract, however the financial impact would be negligible.

There is expected to be a small saving associated with a reduction in overtime required to cover weekends, bank holidays and staff absence. The reduction of overtime hours would provide an

estimated revenue saving for Neighbourhood Services of £5000 per annum, based on costs from the 2023/24 financial year.

The only costs associated with the pilot would be from the installation of dropped bollards. The bollards are required in some of the parks as the pedestrian and vehicle gates are combined. The estimated cost associated with the installation of all the required bollards is circa £1000. This would be funded from the overtime savings outlined above.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment as provided in Appendix B has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required at this time. This position will need to be revisited if a future decision is taken to make permanent changes.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

The proposed policy would apply to the Council's parks & gardens located in valley communities as with other areas.

Workforce Impacts:

Changes to how we manage our parks and gardens would have a positive impact on operational staff, as it would remove the risks associated with lone working and improve our resource within other areas to deliver efficient and well maintained service provision.

Legal Impacts:

People in our parks outside the opening hours will breach the Council's Byelaws; however, unless unlawful act(s), behaviour(s) or conduct has occurred, the Council will not commence enforcement action. The Council has no legal duty to keep its parks physically locked at night.

Per s.17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must consider crime and disorder, and anti-social behaviour in the discharge of all its functions.

Under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1984, the Council has a duty of care. It must take reasonable care to minimise danger to prevent the risk of injury and/or harm to those entering our parks, including trespassers. Subsequent to the pilot, the Council will undertake a risk assessment to identify any additional risks presented by leaving the parks unlocked at night and whether any steps are needed to mitigate such risks.

The recommendations contained in this report are within the Council's powers and duties.

Risk Management Impacts:

Adopting the recommendations would minimise the risk to staff safety and associated issues posed by lone working. The period of time during the summer months where certain parks and gardens were not locked on a regular basis overnight suggests that there would be negligible adverse impact in terms of anti-social behaviour.

Crime and Disorder Impacts:

As set out in the Background section of this report, it is envisaged that the initiative, if implemented permanently, would reduce the risk to staff who are attending parks alone at night. There has been a rising number of issues in recent years, resulting in staff being exposed to verbal abuse and physical threats whilst asking members of the public to leave the parks at closure.

It has also been suggested that by leaving parks open to the general public, it will allow the parks to be self-policed. Members of the general public who use the parks out of hours will naturally deter incidents of anti-social behaviour.

During the period of time throughout the summer where the parks could not be closed, there were no negative impacts. However, an official pilot will enable officers to gain a further understanding of any negative impacts that may occur from this initiative such as drug misuse, sex work, anti-social behaviour within our parks. Officers will work closely with the Community Safety Partnership Board during the pilot and work to identify any measures that would need to be considered if this initiative were to be made permanent in the future.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item as the proposal is only to undertake a trial in order to establish any unforeseen impacts. Feedback from local Members would be sort as part of the pilot.

Recommendations:

Having had due regard to the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment, it is recommended that Members:

- Endorse the proposal to carry out an official pilot to not restrict pedestrian access to the parks and gardens listed in Appendix A for a period of 4 months commencing 1st December 2024, the outcome of the pilot to be reported back.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

- To help ensure the Council fulfils its Duty of Care with respect to staff safety in relation to lone working.
- To establish any unforeseen impacts that the proposed changes to the service will have.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices:

Appendix A – List of Parks & Gardens covered by this report
Appendix B - First Stage Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers:

None

Officer Contact:

Name: James Davies
Designation: Neighbourhood Services Manager
Email: j.davies19@npt.gov.uk
Direct dial: 01639 686408

Parks & Gardens

PARK	WARD
KING GEORGE V MEMORIAL PARK	Pontardawe
PARC Y DARREN	Cwmllynfell and Ystalyfera
PARC Y WERIN	Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen and Lower Brynammon
VICTORIA GARDENS	Neath North
MOUNT PLEASANT RECREATION GROUND	Neath South
MELIN RECREATION GROUND	Neath East
JERSEY PARK	Briton Ferry East
DYFED ROAD	Neath North
TOLGATE PARK	Margam and Tai-bach
VIVIAN MEMORIAL PARK	Sandfields East
TALBOT MEMORIAL PARK	Port Talbot
PARC SIENCYN POWELL	Bryn and Cwmavon
BRYNHYFRYD RECREATION GROUND	Briton Ferry West
BAGLAN PARK	Baglan

*Parks highlighted in yellow are those that were not regularly locked during the summer months.

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Impact Assessment - First Stage

It is essential that all initiatives undergo a first stage impact assessment to identify relevance to equalities and the Welsh language as well as an evaluation of how the proposal has taken into account the sustainable development principle (the five ways of working); an incorrect assessment could ultimately be open to legal challenge.

The first stage is to carry out a short assessment to help determine the need to undertake a more in-depth analysis (the second stage).

Relevance will depend not only on the number of people/service users affected, but also the significance of the effect on them.

When completing the first step you must have regard to the following:

- Does the initiative relate to an area where important equality issues have been, or are likely to be, raised? (For example, funding for services to assist people who are victims of rape/sexual violence or individuals with particular care need; disabled people's access to public transport; the gender pay gap; racist or homophobic bullying in schools)
- Is there a significant potential for reducing inequalities, or improving outcomes? (For example, increasing recruitment opportunities for disabled people).
- Does the initiative relate to instances where opportunities to use the Welsh language are likely to be affected or where the language is likely to be treated less favourably? (For example, increase the number of Welsh speakers moving from/to a certain area; closing specific Welsh language services or put those services at risk services;
- Does the initiative relate to the improvement of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being? To what extent does the initiative prevent things getting worse? (For example, funding for services to assist in cultural well-being; changes in policies that promote independence and/or assist carers)

1. Provide a description and summary of the initiative. Clarity as to the purpose of the initiative being developed or reviewed; the context within which it will operate; who it is intended to benefit, and the results aimed for is essential.

Identify which service area and directorate has responsibility for the initiative.

Strategic Decision - if yes a Full IIA will be required.

Strategic Decision - is one which effects how we fulfil our intended statutory purpose over a significant period of time. They do not include day to day decisions, such as opening times of civic offices, Christmas car parking arrangements, etc. but will include the following (although these are not exhaustive):

- Strategies developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Service Boards which impact on our functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)

- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Changes to and development of public services
- Strategic financial planning
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Strategic policy development.

2. Identify who will be affected by the initiative.

If you answer **Yes** to service users, staff or wider community continue with the first stage of the assessment

If you answer **No** to service users, staff or wider community or **Yes** to 'Internal administrative process only', go to **Question 5 – sustainable development principle**.

3. Evidence - it is essential to have robust and reliable evidence to inform the development and assessment of initiatives. In this section all relevant evidence used in the assessment must be detailed and sources clearly identified; if necessary a summary of the data used can be included. More information on data/evidence can be found in the full IIA Guidance

4. Using relevant and appropriate information and data that is available to you think about what impact there could be on people who share protected characteristics; whether they are service users, staff or the wider community.

Some things to consider:

- transport issues
- accessibility
- customer service
- cultural sensitivity
- financial implications
- loss of jobs

Definitions of impacts (either positive or negative):

- High – The initiative has a high level of relevance to one or more protected characteristic and/or one or more aim of the Public Sector Equality Duty
- Moderate – The initiative has a moderate level of relevance to one or more protected characteristic and/or one or more aim of the Public Sector Equality Duty
- Low – The initiative has a low level of relevance/is not relevant to any protected characteristic and/or any aim of the Public Sector Equality Duty
- Don't know - the level of relevance of the initiative is unknown

You **must** provide reasons, and indicate what evidence you used, in coming to your decision.

5. Using relevant and appropriate information and data that is available, think about what impact there could be on opportunities to use the Welsh language and in treating the language no less favourably than English. Further information can be found in Section 6 Welsh of the Full IIA Guidance.

Definitions of impacts are the same as in **Question 3**.

The classification 'Don't Know' should be categorised as 'High Impact' in both questions 3 & 4.

6. The outcomes of any audit of council owned land undertaken by the Countryside and Wildlife Team can be used to inform your assessment. In addition consider the potential impact of your initiative on maintaining and enhancing biodiversity.

Some examples of how proposals, decisions and functions can impact on biodiversity include:

- Drainage works to a culvert - could result in flooding further downstream or altering the hydrological regime upstream; potential risk of flooding, or wet/bog habitats that trap carbon being drained.
- High level policy, plan or budget decisions may encourage or focus investment in areas that will have significant knock on issues in relation to flooding, climate change sea level rise or biodiversity loss. Alternatively, budget decisions may reduce capacity of services or infrastructure to function and to deliver community environmental services e.g. effects on well-being from a reduction in access to greenspace, parks or environmental community services.
- Decisions can also have positive impacts on the wider environment. For example, reduction in grass cutting that encourages more wildflower growth can positively support pollinator insects that contribute to food production.

7. Consider how the initiative has embraced the sustainable development principle in accordance with the Section 7c of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Give details of the initiative in relation to the 5 ways of working:

- **Long term** - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people
- **Integration** - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives
- **Involvement** - how people have been involved in developing the initiative
- **Collaboration** - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions;
- **Prevention** - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse

8. The most appropriate statement must be selected (and the relevant box ticked) based on the first stage of the assessment and an explanation of how you have arrived at this decision must be given.

In addition a summary of the how the initiative has embraced the sustainable development principle must also be included.

Where the first stage of the assessment indicates that a more in-depth analysis is required the second stage of the assessment will need to be completed and this will need to be started immediately.

A first stage assessment must be included as a background paper for all Cabinet/Cabinet Board/ Scrutiny Committee Reports.

Where the first stage assessment is completed by an accountable manager it must be signed off by a Head of Service/Director.

NB: these notes to be removed prior to inclusion of First Stage Impact Assessment with Cabinet/Cabinet Board papers.

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Pilot of Access Approach to Parks and Gardens
Service Area: Neighbourhood Services
Directorate: Environment
Strategic Decision: Yes

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	x	
Staff	x	
Wider community	x	
Internal administrative process only		x

3. Evidence used in the Assessment

Throughout the borough, parks and gardens are currently opened and closed on a daily basis, limiting out of hours access. During the summer months, some parks and gardens were not locked overnight owing to staffing issues. This period is now referred to as an unofficial trial of the proposed changes. For that period, data was collected from local PCSO officers, along with internal staff, in order to assess the impacts on the local communities. The result was evident that the implementation of this change, by allowing permanent pedestrian access, would have limited impact on residents. However, in order to fully assess this impact, we are proposing to undertake an official trial throughout the winter period. This would enable further understanding of potential issues that may arise from implementing this change on a permanent basis.

4. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L/D	Reasons for your decision and details of the impact
Age				X		More data to be collected throughout official trial period.
Disability				X		
Gender Reassignment				X		
Marriage/Civil Partnership				X		
Pregnancy/Maternity				X		
Race				X		
Religion/Belief				X		
Sex				X		
Sexual orientation				X		

5. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		x				No impacts.
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		x				No impacts. Any information or communications on this item will be delivered in both Welsh and English.

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6. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity		X				No Impacts
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.		X				No Impacts

7. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	X		This initiative, along with the wider Neighbourhood Services transformation programme is being tables in order to ensure that services are sustainable and support our communities moving forward.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	X		The change will allow permanent access to open spaces for our residents, having a positive impact on mental health and well-being, along with improved access to open space.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		An integral part of this process has been the successful involvement from internal staff and local PCSO officers. Further consultation may be required from other stakeholders after the official trial period has been conducted.

	Yes	No	Details
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	x		A key success in this change will be ongoing collaboration with local PCSO officers and local residents.
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	x		Carrying out an official trial of this change will allow a strategic decision to be made based on evidence and collated data.

8. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reasons for this conclusion	
Not at this stage. Evidence will be obtained throughout the trial period, which could result in a full impact assessment or a requirement for further consultation, before permanently implementing changes.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reasons for this conclusion	
N/A	

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
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Completed by	James Davies	Neighbourhood Services Manager	J.M.Davies	18.10.2024
Signed off by		Head of Service/Director		

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CABINET Forward Work Programmes 24/25

KEY – Items marked in Green have been added to the Planner.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	TYPE	Contact Officer	Purpose of Report	Called for Scrutiny	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet 4 th December	Revenue Budget Monitoring 24-25	For Decision	Huw Jones			Cllr. S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership
	Capital Budget Monitoring 24-25	For Decision	Huw Jones			Cllr.S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership
	Treasury Management Outturn 24-25	For Decision	Huw Jones			Cllr. S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership
	CSSIW Assurance Check	For Monitoring	Angela Thomas/ Hayley Short		Yes 12 th December	Cllr J. Hale Portfolio 7	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Treasury Management Mid Year Review	For Monitoring	Huw Jones			Cllr. S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership
	Setting of the Council Tax Base	For Decision	Huw Jones			Cllr. S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership
	Third Sector Grant & Commissioning Arrangements	For Decision	Caryn Furlow		YES 28 th Nov	Cllr S. Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership
	Audit Wales Report - Springing Forward Strategic Assets		Dean Nicolas/ Simon Brennan			TBC	TBC
	Contract Procedure Rules	For Decision Commend to Council.	Craig Griffiths	To agree new standing orders and procedural rules for contracts that are entered into by Neath Port Talbot Council.	Yes 28 th November	Cllr.S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership
	Arboricultural Management Plan includes the tree policy	For Decision	James Davies		Yes 4 th Nov	Cllr. S.Jones Portfolio 10	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
	Unpaid Carers Ombudsman Report	For Monitoring	Angela Thomas Hayley Short		Yes 23 rd January 2025	Cllr. J.Hale Portfolio 7	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety.

Risk Management and Complex Community Case Work	For Monitoring	Angela Thomas Hayley Short		Post 12 th December 2024	Cllr. J.Hale Portfolio 7	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
Support visits by Education Support Officers in Schools	For Monitoring	Mike Daley	Provides an update on the progress to date with the actions that follow any support visit across all our schools.		Cllr. N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 23/24	For Decision	Anita James/ Caryn Furlow- Harris	The Annual Report for 2023/2024 provides an account of progress in meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty and in particular against the equality objectives and actions set out in the Strategic Equality Plan.	YES 17 th Oct	Cllr.S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership
Community Focussed Schools	For Monitoring	Mike Daley	Provides an update on the progress of the Community Focussed Schools		Cllr.N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
Elective Home Education	For Monitoring	John Burge	All information available on children and young people who are now Educated at Home.		Cllr N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
Flood Risk Management Plan	For Decision	Mike Roberts/ Steve Owen		YES 19 th July	Cllr. S.Jones Portfolio 10	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
Permission to Consult on the Business Case Remodel for Dom.Care	For Decision	Angela Thomas		Yes 7 th November	Cllr. J. Hale Portfolio 7	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety.
Permission to extend Contract Arrangements for the Prevention of Wellbeing Service	For Decision	Chele Howard		No	Cllr. J.Hale Portfolio 7	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety.
Children's Commissioning Placement Strategy NPTC 2024-2027	For Decision	Hayley Short			Cllr. S. Harris Portfolio 6	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety.
Fire Safety Guidance Impact Report	For Monitoring	Hayley Short	Decision is required on this item.		Cllr. S. Harris Portfolio 6	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety.
Appointment of LA Governors	For Decision	John Burge		No	Cllr. N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
RECURRING ITEMS (IF NEEDED)						
Various Traffic Orders (Detail not available)	For Decision	David Griffiths			Cllr W.Griffiths Portfolio 9	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
Various Land Disposal Reports (If Needed)	For Decision	Simon Brennan			Cllr J.Hurley Portfolio 4	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services

	Select Lists	For Decision	David Griffiths			Cllr. W.Griffiths Portfolio 9	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
	Debt Write Offs	For Decision	Huw Jones			Cllr. S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership
	Miscellaneous Grant Applications	For Decision	Huw Jones			Cllr.S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	TYPE	Contact Officer	Purpose of Report	Called for Scrutiny	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet 15 th January 2025							
	Hillside Managers Report	For Monitoring	Keri Warren	Private Item		Cllr. S.Harris Portfolio 6	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Hillside Responsible Individuals Report	For Monitoring	Keri Warren	Private Item		Cllr.S.Harris Portfolio 6	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Updating the Side Waste Policy	For Decision	Mike Roberts	To seek Member approval for an updated Side Waste Policy (further to Measure 6 of the approved Waste Strategy Action Plan)	Awaiting Confirmation 6 th Dec	Cllr.S.Jones Portfolio 10	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
	Management of Japanese Knotweed	For Decision	James Davies	Update on the treatment policy and operational plan.		Cllr. W. Griffiths Portfolio 9	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
	Permission to Tender a Carers Service	For Decision	Hayley Short			Cllr. J.Hale Portfolio 7	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Country Parks Car Parking Review	For Decision	Chris Saunders	Consideration of revised management arrangements, a new parking order and pricing structure for car parking at the Country Parks.	Yes, 5 th December	Cllr Cen Phillips	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Flying Start Phase 3 Expansion	For Decision	Sarah Griffiths		Yes 5 th December	Cllr. N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Regional Transport Plan	For Decision	David Griffiths/Brennan Griffiths/Amanda Phillips		NO	Cllr W.Griffiths	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
	Direct Payment Whole Service Review this includes the Direct Payments Payroll Service Review	For Decision	Angela Thomas		Yes 12 th Dec	Cllr. J.Hale Portfolio 7	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Use of Containers on Safari Collections	For Decision	Mike Roberts	To establish policy regarding the use of containers as storage on black bag waste collection rounds.	NO	Cllr.S.Jones Portfolio 10	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
	Self Assessment 2023/2024	For Decision	Louise McAndrew/ Anita James		YES 28 th Nov	Cllr. S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership

Regeneration Strategy	For Decision	Andrew Collins	Work is being undertaken to produce a strategy which will form a reference and guide for future Regeneration Projects going forward	YES 6 th Dec	Cllr.J.Hurley Portfolio 4	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
Commissioning Intentions for a Housing First Service	For Decision	Chele Howard/ Hayley Short		No	Cllr. A. Llewelyn Portfolio 8	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
Report on HWRC Feasibility	For Decision	Mike Roberts	To inform Members on the outcome of feasibility work into suitable sites for a new HRWC in the Afan Valley area, and seek a decision regarding further work or not (further to Measure 17 of the approved Waste Strategy Action Plan)	Awaiting Confirmation 6 th Dec	Cllr. S.Jones, Portfolio 10	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
Margam Park Business Plan	For Decision	Chris Saunders		YES 5 th December	Cllr. C.Phillips Portfolio 5	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
Impact of the Support by Case Assessment and Progression Team.	For Monitoring	John Burge	It will provide an update on the progress to date with the actions from the Case Assessment Progression Team.		Cllr.N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
Vulnerable Learners Service	For Monitoring	John Burge	Update on the support offered by the Vulnerable Learners Service and the impact it has had on pupils and families in NPT		Cllr.N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
Welsh Public Library Standards	For Monitoring	Chris Saunders	Provides an update in respect of the authorities library service performance against current Welsh Language Standards (WPLS) Framework 6 and note the feedback, comments and recommendations in the Welsh Library Report.		Cllr.C.Phillips Portfolio 5	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
Various Traffic Orders (Detail not available)	For Decision	David Griffiths			Cllr W.Griffiths Portfolio 9	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
Various Land Disposal Reports (If Needed)	For Decision	Simon Brennan			Cllr J.Hurley Portfolio 4	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services.

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	TYPE	Contact Officer	Purpose of Report	Called for Scrutiny	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet 5 th February 2025	Fleet and Heavy Plant Renewals	For Decision	Kevin Lewis	This report seeks approval to procure new and replacement vehicles and heavy plant in 2025/2026 that has reached the end of their economic life cycle and require replacement in line with the Authority's Fleet Renewals Programme.	YES 6 th Dec	Cllr. W.Griffiths Portfolio 9	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
	Social Services Directors Annual Report	For Decision (Commending to Council)	Andrew Jarrett			Report of the Director of Social Services.	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Strategic Risk Register	For Monitoring	Caryn Furlow-Harris		YES 9 th Jan	Cllr.S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership
	Permission to Consult on the Business Case Remodel for Dom.Care	For Decision	Angela Thomas		23 rd January 2025	Cllr. J. Hale Portfolio 7	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety.
	Permission to Proceed with Remodelling of Care and Support at Trem y Glyn	For Decision	Angela Thomas		To be Confirmed	Cllr. J. Hale Portfolio 7	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Housing Mid Point Strategic Review	For Decision	Chele Howard Hayley Short		Yes 23 rd January 25	Cllr A.Llewelyn Portfolio 8	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Neath Port Talbot Events Strategy	For Decision	Chris Saunders		YES 16 th Jan	Cllr.C.Phillips Portfolio 5	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Permission to tender Accommodation Models for Young People	For Decision	Keri Warren	Private Item	Yes 23 rd Jan	Cllr. S.Harris Portfolio 6	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Library Strategy	For Decision		To approve the Library Strategy		Cllr.C.Phillips Portfolio 5	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Strategic Development Plan.	For Monitoring	Chris Millis	Provides an Update on the Progress to date with the Actions from within the Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Strategic Development Plan.	YES 16 th Jan	Cllr.N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Young People Housing Support Grant Funded Services (Permission to Re-tender).	For Decision	Hayley Short/ Chele Howard	Proposal for the recommissioning of Young People Housing Support Grant Funded Services		Cllr. A.Llewelyn Portfolio 8	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Aberavon Seafront Masterplan	For Decision	Chris Saunders	To adopt the Seafront Strategy	Scrutiny 16 th Jan	Cllr. Cen Phillips Portfolio 5	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Permission to Tender Supported Accommodation	For Decision	Hayley Short	Private Item		Cllr.A.Llewelyn Portfolio 8	Education, Skills and Wellbeing

	Permission to Tender for Emergency Accommodation for Women – Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.	For Decision	Chele Howard/ Hayley Short	To feedback on the outcome of the consultation for the proposed remodel of emergency accommodation and seek permission to retender VAWDASV Emergency Accommodation on the feedback.	Yes, 23 rd Jan	Cllr. A.Llewelyn Portfolio 8	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Policies for the use of artificial grass and installation of honeybee hives on NPT Council / managed land.	For Decision	Ceri Morris/ Lana Beynon		TBC	Cllr. S.Jones Portfolio 10	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
	Various Traffic Orders (Detail not available)	For Decision	David Griffiths			Cllr W.Griffiths Portfolio 9	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
	Various Land Disposal Reports (If Needed)	For Decision	Simon Brennan			Cllr J.Hurley Portfolio 4	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	TYPE	Contact Officer	Purpose of Report	Called for Scrutiny	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Relevant Scrutiny committee
Cabinet 26 th February <u>BUDGET</u> <u>25/26</u>	Revenue Budget Monitoring 24-25	For Decision	Huw Jones			Cllr.S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership
	Capital Budget Monitoring 24-25	For Decision	Huw Jones			Cllr. S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership
	Treasury Management Outturn 24-25	For Decision	Huw Jones			Cllr. S.Knoyle Portfolio 2	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	TYPE	Contact Officer	Purpose of Report	Called for Scrutiny	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Relevant Scrutiny committee
Cabinet (Special) 12th March 2025 (This needs to be Confirmed)							
	Education Development – Local Authority Education Grant Spending Plan 2024 -2025.	For Monitoring	Mike Daley	Provides an update on the progress to date with the actions from the grant.		Cllr. N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Safeguarding Support within Schools	For Monitoring	John Burge	Overview of all Safeguarding Advice and Training offered to Schools	YES 22 th Jan	Cllr. N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Appointment and Removal of Local Authority Governor Representatives	For Decision	John Burge	Information on the Appointment and Removal of Local Authority Governor Representatives		Cllr. N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	An overview of the Families First Programme	For Information	Sarah Griffiths/ Allison Harris	The report will provide an overview of the Families First Early Intervention support services available to children, young people and families. It will also provide 2023/2024 data demonstrating the impact of the programme on children, young people and families who have accessed the service.		Cllr.N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Strategic Schools Improvement Programme Proposal to reorganise ALN Provision at Cwmtawe Comprehensive School	For Decision	Rhiannon Crowhurst	Results of Consultation and permission to advertise Notice for Objections		Cllr.N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Strategic Schools Improvement Programme Proposal to re-organise ALN Provision at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School.	For Decision	Rhiannon Crowhurst	Results of Consultation and permission to advertise Notice for Objections		Cllr.N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Various Traffic Orders (Detail not available)	For Decision	David Griffiths			Cllr W.Griffiths Portfolio 9	
	Various Land Disposal Reports (If Needed)	For Decision	Simon Brennan			Cllr J.Hurley Portfolio 4	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	TYPE	Contact Officer	Purpose of Report	Called for Scrutiny	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Relevant Scrutiny committee
Cabinet 19 th March	Period Dignity Report	For Monitoring	John Burge	Report on the spend and implementation of Period Dignity Scheme.		Cllr. N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Family Support in the Early Years. An overview of the family support provided by the Early Years and Flying Start Family Support Team.	For Information	Sarah Griffiths/ Lisa Clement-Jones	This report will provide an overview of the collaborative work across the Local Authority and Health in relation to providing equitable early help for children and families in the Early Years.	YES 6 th March	Cllr. N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Updating the Missed Bin Policy	For Decision	Mike Roberts	To seek Member approval for an updated Missed Bin Policy (further to the implementation of Measure 1 of the approved Waste Strategy Action Plan, once completed)		Cllr.S.Jones Portfolio 10	Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services
	Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities Strategy	For Monitoring	Chele Howard/Elinor Wellington	12 Month Update		Cllr. A.Llewelyn Portfolio 8	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
		Various Traffic Orders (Detail not available)	For Decision	David Griffiths			Cllr W.Griffiths Portfolio 9
	Various Land Disposal Reports (If Needed)	For Decision	Simon Brennan			Cllr J.Hurley Portfolio 4	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	TYPE	Contact Officer	Purpose of Report	Called for Scrutiny	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Relevant Scrutiny committee
Cabinet 9 th April	Social Services Complaints Annual Report	For Monitoring	Leighton Jones			Cllr.A.Llewellyn Portfolio 8 Cllr S.Harris Portfolio 6 Cllr J Hale Portfolio 7	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Community Safety Strategic Intent Document	For Monitoring	Chele Howard/ Elinor Wellington	12 Month Update		Cllr. A. Llewelyn Portfolio 8	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Permission to Consult and Pilot an Alternative Night Time Support Report	For Decision	Keri Warren/ Hayley Short		Yes, 13 th March 2025	Cllr.S.Harris Portfolio 6	Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
	Various Traffic Orders (Detail not available)	For Decision	David Griffiths			Cllr W.Griffiths Portfolio 9	
	Various Land Disposal Reports (If Needed)	For Decision	Simon Brennan			Cllr J.Hurley Portfolio 4	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	TYPE	Contact Officer	Purpose of Report	Called for Scrutiny	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Relevant Scrutiny committee
Cabinet 30 th April							
	Hillside Managers Report	For Monitoring	Keri Warren			Cllr.S.Harris Portfolio 6	
	Hillside Responsible Individuals Report	For Monitoring	Keri Warren			Cllr.S.Harris Portfolio 6	
	Early Years and Flying Start Childcare	For Monitoring	Sarah Griffiths/Lisa Clement-Jones	This report will provide information in relation to the Early Years and Flying Start Childcare Sector including the impact of Flying Start Expansion.	YES 10 th April	Cllr.N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Various Traffic Orders (Detail not available)	For Decision	David Griffiths			Cllr W.Griffiths Portfolio 9	
	Various Land Disposal Reports (If Needed)	For Decision	Simon Brennan			Cllr J.Hurley Portfolio 4	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	TYPE	Contact Officer	Purpose of Report	Called for Scrutiny	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Relevant Scrutiny committee
Cabinet 21 st May							
	Strategic Schools Improvement Programme Proposal to reorganise ALN provision at Cwmtawe Comprehensive School	For Decision	Rhiannon Crowhurst	Final Determination of the Proposal		Cllr. N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing
	Strategic Schools Improvement Programme Proposal to reorganise ALN provision at Cefn Season Comprehensive School	For Decision	Rhiannon Crowhurst	Final Determination of the Proposal		Cllr. N.Jenkins Portfolio 3	Education, Skills and Wellbeing.
	Various Traffic Orders (Detail not available)	For Decision	David Griffiths				Cllr W.Griffiths Portfolio 9
Various Land Disposal Reports (If Needed)	For Decision	Simon Brennan				Cllr J.Hurley Portfolio 4	

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Environment, Regeneration & Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee

(All starting 10am unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2024		
19th July	Selected from Cabinet Forward Work Programme	
	Part Night Street Lighting Pilots Report (For Decision)	Mike Roberts
	Flood Risk Management Plan (For Decision)	Mike Roberts/ Steve Owen
20th September	Selected from Cabinet Forward Work Programme	
	The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2023 – Neath Port Talbot Active Travel Delivery Plan (2024 – 2029) (For Decision)	Amanda Phillips David W. Griffiths
4th November 2pm-4pm	Selected from Cabinet Forward Work Programme	

	Rheola Estate (For Decision)	Simon Brenan
	Arboriculture Management Plan (For Decision) (Moved from September Meeting)	James Davies
	Budget Report (For Decision)	Huw Jones
	Viva Port Talbot Bid Renewal Ballot 2024 (For Decision) (Moved from September meeting)	Andrew Collins
8th November	Selected from Cabinet Forward Work Programme	

	Disposal of Off Street Pay and Display Car Parks (Capacity and Utilization Review) (For Decision) (Moved from September Meeting)	Dave Griffiths/ Ian Rees
	Improving recycling performance and Budget Delivery (For Decision)	Mike Roberts
	Pilot of Access Approach to Formal Parks and Gardens (For Decision)	James Davies
6th December	Selected from Cabinet Forward Work Programme	
	Fleet and Heavy Plant Renewals (For Decision)	Kevin Lewis
	Regeneration Strategy (For Decision) (Moved from November 8th meeting)	Andrew Collins
	Corporate Plan Annual Report 23/24 (For Decision)	Noelwyn Daniel
	Updating the Side Waste Policy (For Decision)	Mike Roberts
	Use of Containers on Safari Collections	Mike Roberts

	(For Decision)	
	Report on HWRC Feasibility (For Decision)	Mike Roberts
2025		
31st Jan	Selected from Cabinet Forward Work Programme	
14th March	Selected from Cabinet Forward Work Programme	
	Electric Vehicle On-Street Home Charging (For Decision)	Paul Thomas
2nd May	Selected from Cabinet Forward Work Programme	

	Selected from Cabinet Forward Work Programme	

Site Visit – Transfer Station - For March 12th

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