



ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS CABINET BOARD

***Immediately Following Scrutiny Committee on
THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2015***

COMMITTEE ROOMS A/B - NEATH CIVIC CENTRE

PART 1

1. To agree the Chairman for this Meeting.
2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members.
3. To receive the Minutes of the previous Environment and Highways Cabinet Board held on 12th March 2015 (*Pages 1 - 6*)

To receive the Report of The Head of Engineering and Transport

4. South West Wales Regional Civil Engineering Contractors Framework (SWWRCECF) (*Pages 7 - 12*)

To receive the Report of the Head of Planning

5. Contaminated Land Strategy 2015 - Review and Update From Consultation (*Pages 13 - 46*)

To receive the Report of the Head of Streetcare

6. Streetcare Fees and Charges 2015-2016 (*Pages 47 - 56*)
7. Waste Strategy Update (*Pages 57 - 76*)
8. To receive the Forward Work Programme 2014/15. (*Pages 77 - 78*)

9. Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No 2290 (as amended).

S.Phillips
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

Friday 17th April, 2015

Cabinet Board Members:

Councillors: E.V.Latham and Mrs.S.Miller

Notes:

- (1) *If any Cabinet Board Member is unable to attend, any other Cabinet Member may substitute as a voting Member on the Committee. Members are asked to make these arrangements direct and then to advise the committee Section.*
- (2) *The views of the earlier Scrutiny Committee are to be taken into account in arriving at decisions (pre decision scrutiny process).*

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS CABINET BOARD

12TH MARCH, 2015

Cabinet Members:

Councillors: E.V.Latham and Mrs.S.Miller (Chairman)

Officers in Attendance:

D.Griffiths, P. Jackson, Ms.C.Brettle and Mrs.T.Davies

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Agreed that Councillor Mrs S.Miller be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS CABINET BOARD HELD ON 29TH JANUARY 2015**

Noted by the Committee.

3. **COMBINED HIGHWAY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKS PROGRAMME 2015/16**

Decision:

That the Combined Highway and Neighbourhood Works Programme 2015/2016, as summarised within the circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To support and progress the key themes and objectives of the Community Plan.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

Comprehensive consultation has taken place with Local Ward Members.

4. **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - QUARTER 3 2014/15**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

5. **VEHICLE FLEET PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME 2015/16**

Decision:

That the Vehicle Procurement Programme for 2015/16, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

The replacement of the vehicles detailed within the circulated report will have a beneficial effect on both the environment and the productivity of the Authority.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

Consultation has taken place with all relevant user Directorates.

6. **TRAFFIC ORDERS - NEATH PEDESTRIAN AREA 2015**

Decision:

That, having due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment screening, the objections be overruled, the objectors informed accordingly and the scheme implemented as previously advertised in February 2015, this to align with the opening of the new multi-story car park in Neath Town Centre.

Reason for Decision:

To prevent unauthorised entry and indiscriminate parking in the interest of improved pedestrian road safety.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

7. **NEW NEATH MULTI STOREY CAR PARK OPERATING REGIME**

Decision:

That, having given due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment:-

1. The management of the Neath multi-storey be undertaken by the Authority's parking services;
2. New pay and display machines be purchased for the Neath multi-storey car park;
3. Officers be authorised to vary the Authority's civic properties facilities term contract to include the new lifts in to the current facilities maintenance contract;
4. The tariff structure set out at Appendix A to the circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the Authority to adopt an operating regime for the new Neath multi-storey car park.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

A legal order will be advertised and any objections/observations will be presented to a future Environment and Highways Scrutiny Committee for discussion before consideration by the Environment and Highways Cabinet Board.

8. **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT - WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING**

Cabinet Board Members recognised the support of the Scrutiny Committee regarding Community Transport, and noted that the Committee would remain supportive of any mergers that may be proposed in the future. Members noted that a review into third sector funding was currently ongoing, and should Members agree to withdraw funding for Neath Port Talbot Community Transport, this would not preclude the organisation from applying for funding in the future.

Members took into account, that having due regard to the full Equality Impact Assessment, in the interest of protecting the public purse and the findings of the Authority's Internal Audit Report into Neath Port Talbot Community Transport, and the independent Auditor's lack of audit opinion for the year ending 31st March 2014.

Decision:

That the Authority withdraws its financial support to Neath Port Talbot Community Transport from 1st April 2015.

Reason for Decision:

Due to serious concerns over the financial management and governance of Neath Port Talbot Community Transport.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

9. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15**

Decision:

That the Forward Work Programme 2014/15 be noted.

10. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

Decision:

That pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No.2290, the public be excluded for the following item of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

11. **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT - WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING**

Members took into account, that having due regard to the full Equality Impact Assessment, in the interest of protecting the public purse and the findings of the Authority's Internal Audit Report into Neath Port Talbot Community Transport, and the independent Auditor's lack of audit opinion for the year ending 31st March 2014.

Decision:

That the Authority withdraws its financial support to Neath Port Talbot Community Transport from 1st April 2015.

Reason for Decision:

Due to serious concerns over the financial management and governance of Neath Port Talbot Community Transport.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

CHAIRMAN

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ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORT – D.W. GRIFFITHS

23RD APRIL 2015

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS FRAMEWORK (SWWRCECF)

Purpose of Report

To seek Members' approval for the use of the South West Wales Regional Civil Engineering Contractors Framework (SWWRCECF).

Background

The SWWRCEF contracts are a continuation of the existing contractors' framework agreement, which came to an end in November 2014.

The framework contracts result from collaboration between regional authorities to provide an efficient system of appointing contractors that reduces extensive contract procedures each time contracts for similar works are issued externally.

Participating Councils are:

- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Carmarthenshire County Council
- Pembrokeshire County Council
- City and County of Swansea Council

Carmarthenshire is the lead authority.

The framework enables advertising and pre-qualification to be completed once rather than several times for each authority. For smaller contracts, where appropriate, it enables direct appointment of contractors on a submitted 'schedule of rates' basis without further competition. Otherwise, contracts will be awarded following a mini competition process between successful framework contractors.

The Framework is in operation for three years, from January 2015, with an option for each authority to extend for a further year.

There is no obligation to use the framework for appointment of contractors. However, there is an understanding between the participating councils that the framework will be used for appropriate contracts. The process meets the competition requirements for grant funded schemes and is fully EU compliant.

The framework contracts provide an opportunity to review the 'select list' process.

Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment, it has been determined that this function does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

The Contractor Appointment Process

The framework is divided into 'lots' in accordance with work type and location. The 'lots' are indicated in the table in Appendix 1.

The Framework was advertised on the Welsh Government's 'Sell2Wales' web site in accordance with regulations. From the responses contractors were invited to submit pre-qualification documents.

An evaluation panel was established with senior officers from each of the participating Councils. Following the pre-qualification evaluation short-listed contractors were invited to prepare tenders in each of the relevant 'lots'. The number of contractors invited in each 'lot' is also given in Appendix 1.

On return of tenders the evaluation panel reconvened to assess the submissions. The assessment process is based on a cost/quality process in proportions agreed for each 'lot'. Contractors were informed of the assessment method as part of the tender process.

Cost was assessed in accordance with rates returned for typical contracts. Scores were determined relative to average total tendered cost from each contractor; points were awarded depending on the variation of the total cost from the mean.

Quality was assessed based on factors including resource management, management structure and capability, health and safety, collaborative framework management and method statements for various typical schemes.

Successful Contractors

Successful contractors relevant to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are shown in Appendix 1.

Appendices

1. SWWRCECF Successful Contractors

Recommendation

It is recommended, having due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment screening, that the South West Wales Regional Civil Engineering Contractors Framework (SWWRCECF) is accepted for use with Neath Port Talbot Contracts where appropriate.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To support and progress the key themes and objectives of the Single Integrated Plan and streamline the procurement process.

List of Backgrounds Papers

A Screening Assessment has been undertaken

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Consultation Outcome

There has been no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Sustainability Appraisal

There are no sustainability issues.

Officer Contact

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COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL CIVIC ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS FRAMEWORK (SWWRCECF)

(a) **Implementation of Decision**

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

(b) **Sustainability Appraisal**

Community Plan Impacts

Economic Prosperity	-	Positive
Education and Lifelong Learning	-	No Impact
Better Health and Well Being	-	No Impact
Environment and Transport	-	Positive
Crime and Disorder	-	No Impact

Other Impacts

Welsh Language	-	No Impact
Sustainable Development	-	Positive
Equalities	-	Positive
Social Inclusion	-	Positive (through community benefits)

(c) **Consultation**

This item is not subject to external consultation.

SWWRCECF Successful Contractors

Lot No*	Description	Number of Tenderers	Number of Successful Tenderers	Successful Tenderers
3	Very Small <£100k	9	6	Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd; Andrew Scott Ltd; Centregreat; Evan Pritchard Contractors Ltd; T Richard Jones (Betws) Ltd; Williams Llandeilo (Civil Engineering Ltd)
5	Small (£100k - £1.5m)	9	6	Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd; Andrew Scott Ltd; Dawnus Construction Holdings Ltd; Evan Pritchard Contractors Ltd; Jones Brothers (Henllan) Ltd; Raymond Brown Construction Ltd
6	Medium (£1.5m - £7.5m)	8	5	Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd; Andrew Scott Ltd; Dawnus Construction Holdings Ltd; Galliford Try Infrastructure Ltd; T Richard Jones (Betws) Ltd
7	Large (>£7.5m)	5	4	Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd; Dawnus Construction Holdings Ltd; Galliford Try Infrastructure Ltd; Walters UK Ltd
8	Demolition	9	5	Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd; Cuddy Group; Evan Pritchard Contractors Ltd; T Richard Jones (Betws) Ltd; Walters UK Ltd
9	Landscaping	5	4	Afan Landscapes Ltd; G.D Harries Ltd; Gerald Davies Ltd; Jones Brothers (Henllan) Ltd;

Lot No*	Description	Number of Tenderers	Number of Successful Tenderers	Successful Tenderers
10	Public Lighting	6	4	Bam Nutall Ltd; Centregreat; Derwen Lighting Ltd; SSE Contracting
12	Lining & Road Markings	3	3	Glamorgan White Lining; Jones Brothers (Henllan) Ltd; Nolan Roadmarking Ltd.
14	Surfacing	6	4	Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd; G.D. Harries Ltd; Jones Brothers (Henllan) Ltd; Tarmac Ltd.
15	Surface Treatment	7	7	Colas Ltd; Glamorgan White Lining; Jones Brothers (Henllan) Ltd; JPCS Ltd; Nolan Roadmarking Ltd; Roadbridge; Tregarron Trading Service Ltd

*Lot Numbers not shown are relevant to other Councils

ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING – N. PEARCE

23 APRIL 2015

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY 2015 – REVIEW AND UPDATE FROM CONSULTATION

Purpose of Report

To consider responses received following consultation on the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy.

Background

Neath Port Talbot Council's Contaminated Land Strategy sets out the Council's Strategy for identifying and remediating contaminated land across the County Borough with the primary aim of safeguarding public health.

The Council are required to keep their Strategy under periodic review. A report was presented to the board on the 9th September 2014 introducing the revised strategy and requesting authorisation to consult upon the strategy. A 12 week consultation on the Strategy is now complete.

Equalities

A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this function does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

Consultation Responses

The consultation period ran from the 10th November 2014 to the 2nd February 2015 for a total of 12 weeks. As a consequence of this process the Council received a total of 10 representations, most of which expressed their agreement with the contents of the strategy. Three of these responses also outline specific issues which are summarised below along with the officer response.

Henry Marney Bebell – the response expresses concern about the way that remediation is controlled, who checks on the standard of remediation, what levels of contamination are considered safe, supervision and transparency of information.

Suggested response – No Change

Whilst the concerns raised in this response are understood, it is not considered that any change to the strategy is required. The strategy explains that the Council employ appropriately qualified officers to oversee remediation and safe use of land. Strict legislation on waste covers the reuse of soils from contaminated sites which is enforced by Natural Resources Wales.

In making decisions about the levels of contamination that are safe, the officers will consult current guidance. A site specific risk assessment will determine the level of risk, and site specific circumstances will mean that this can vary between sites. There is a considerable amount of research and guidance on safe levels of different contaminants available to Local Authorities, which will be consulted in every case. Given the amount of detail and the fact that it is updated regularly, it is not appropriate to be included within the strategy.

The Council complies with information requirements under FOI and EIR, they also maintain a public register of sites in accordance with Part IIA. Information submitted with planning applications is public and is published on the Council's website.

Judith Doyle (Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd) – the response expresses concerns that the archaeological value of industrial remains is not always understood during remediation of sites. Early consultation with Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd is requested.

Suggested response – Change to section 2.7

The following paragraph has been incorporated into section 2.7;

“Although Neath Port Talbot’s industrial history has left a legacy of contamination, these industrial sites are also an important part of our heritage, and many of the sites are Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings. When sites with known or potential historic interest are developed and/or remediated the Council will ensure that they consult as early as possible with their archaeological advisers”

Joanne Fitton (Environment Agency) – the response suggests some minor changes to the document.

Suggested response – Changes to Figure 1, the title of Figure 2, Section 5.1 and Figure 10

These changes are suggested for clarity and not considered to alter the content of the document in any significant way. Figure 1 has been changed to clarify that contamination sources are not necessarily contained within structures and are within the soil. The title of Figure 2 has been amended to clarify which site the photograph relates to. Section 5.1 has been amended so that it is relevant to both human health and pollution of controlled waters. Figure 10 has been changed to include the steps which should be taken after land is determined as being contaminated land.

Financial Implications

Any financial implications will be dealt with as part of the normal operating budget of the Council.

Consultation Outcome

The revised Contaminated Land Strategy has been the subject of both internal and external consultations and its final form reflects the outcome of that process.

Sustainability Appraisal

Identifying and remediating land affected by contamination protects the health and well-being of people, helps develop sustainable communities and a more sustainable environment.

Recommendations

The revised Contaminated Land Strategy be Approved as amended.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To ensure that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's Contaminated Land Statutory is up-to-date with current guidance and fit for the future.

List of Background Papers

Contaminated Land Strategy 2015

Wards Affected

All

Officer Contact

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email: l.clark@npt.gov.uk

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY 2015 – REVIEW AND UPDATE FROM CONSULTATION

(a) Implementation of Decision

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

(b) Sustainability Appraisal

Community Plan Impacts

Economic Prosperity	-	Positive
Education and Lifelong Learning	-	No Impact
Better Health and Well Being	-	Positive
Environment and Transport	-	Positive
Crime and Disorder	-	No Impact

Other Impacts

Welsh Language	-	No Impact
Sustainable Development	-	Positive
Equalities	-	Positive
Social Inclusion	-	Positive

(c) Consultation

The revised Contaminated Land Strategy has been the subject of both internal and external consultations and its final form reflects the outcome of that process.



**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY

2015

FOREWORD

The industrial history of South Wales means this Council has inherited land that has been affected by industry, mining and its associated waste disposal activities. Whilst this industrial activity has brought wealth and employment to the region over the years, we are now left with the legacy of such operations which were developed at times when environmental considerations, if existent, were minimal.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council has produced this Contaminated Land Strategy in accordance with the requirements of Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. It sets out our role and responsibilities as a local authority which is to investigate and decide whether land in our area meets the statutory definition of “contaminated land”.

Whilst significant progress has been made in the regeneration of Neath Port Talbot including the successful remediation of large brownfield sites such as the Coed Darcy Urban Village and the second Swansea University campus, there are still challenges ahead of us. This Strategy seeks to secure solutions that are acceptable to all without necessarily resorting to enforcement action, thereby remediating land to a level acceptable by modern standards, with commensurate improvements to public health and local communities.

This Council is strongly committed to improving the quality of life of its citizens and protecting the environment, and this strategy provides the platform to drive this vision forward.

Cllr. A. H. Thomas
Leader of the Council



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Executive Summary

Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires that each Local Authority prepare, implement and keep under periodic review a Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council adopted its first Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy in 2002 and later reviewed this in 2005.

In April 2012, the Welsh Government published new Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance. The new guidance takes a precautionary approach but allows regulators to make quicker decisions about whether or not land is contaminated as defined under Part IIA. The aim is to prevent costly remediation schemes being undertaken unnecessarily, while offering better protection against potential health impacts by concentrating effort and funding on sites where action is actually needed.

The Neath Port Talbot Contaminated Land Strategy 2015 has been produced to reflect these recent changes in guidance and supersedes previous editions. The aim of this document is to present a more open, clear and informative approach to dealing with contaminated land across the Neath Port Talbot County Borough.

It is important to note, that the Part IIA legislation is not the only route available to deal with contamination. This strategy will also detail the availability of other legislation frameworks and outline the financial constraints the Council faces which will affect the approach taken. Regulatory effort will be concentrated in circumstances where it will be most effective. This stance is taken in order to bring about environmental improvements where unacceptable or significant impacts from land contamination are present. This revised strategy seeks to do this without entailing excessive financial burdens to taxpayers, landowners and the Council.

The strategy is laid out in 6 sections designed to help provide an introduction to contaminated land and the regulation behind it, the characteristics of the local area that have an influence on the way we deal with contaminated land, the main aims and objectives that set out how we are going to deliver the strategy and the inspection process and procedures involved.

Chapter 1 Background and Regulatory Context

1.1 The Contaminated Land Regime

In July 2001, Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 came into force, introducing a new regime for the regulation of contaminated land in Wales. The main purpose of Part IIA is to provide a legal structure for the identification of land posing unacceptable risks to human health or the environment, and for securing remediation of such land.

1.2 What is contaminated land?

Section 78A(2) defines contaminated land for the purpose of Part IIA as:

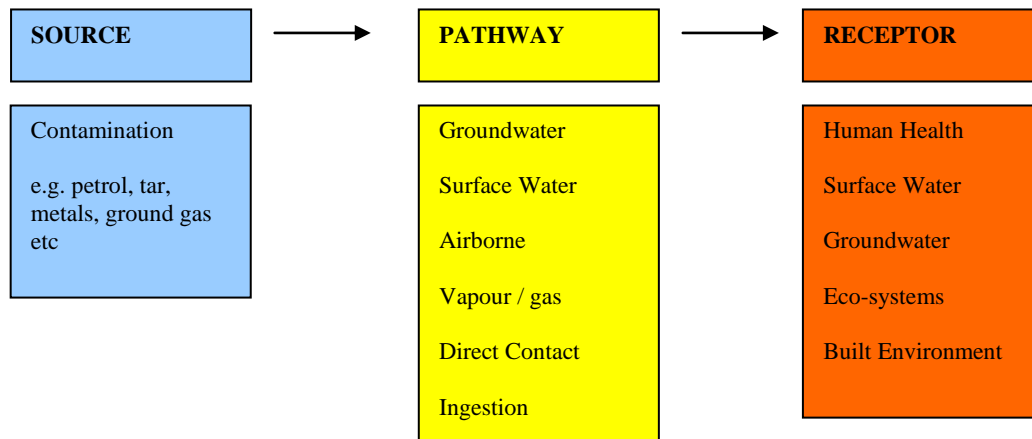
“Any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on or under the land, that –
Significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or pollution of controlled waters is being, or is likely to be caused”

This definition reflects the intended role of the Part IIA regime, which is to enable the identification and remediation of land on which contamination is causing unacceptable risks to human health or the wider environment. Therefore any land may be polluted, but unless it is causing significant harm or has a potential to cause significant harm to a receptor such as people, animals, crops, buildings or controlled waters, it may not be defined as contaminated land.

For a site to meet the definition of contaminated land, a significant pollutant linkage must be established. This is the relationship between the source of contamination, the pathway and the receptor as outlined in Figure 1. Unless all three elements of this linkage are present, the land will not be identified as ‘contaminated land’.

This revised strategy takes into account the categorisation of sites in accordance with new statutory guidance.

Figure 1. Diagram showing the Source – Pathway – Receptor relationship



1.3 What are the roles and responsibilities?

The Council is the primary regulator under Part IIA. Our main duties are:

- Preparing and publishing inspection strategies for our area
- Inspecting individual areas of land to determine whether they meet the statutory definition of contaminated land
- To decide after consultation what remediation is required in any individual case and to ensure this takes place
- To establish who should be the appropriate person or persons to bear responsibility for the remediation of such land
- To record information about regulatory activity and make it available to the public

Natural Resources Wales also regulate some aspects, these include:

- Assisting local authorities in identifying contaminated land, particularly where pollution of controlled waters is involved
- Provision of site specific guidance to local authorities
- Acting as the enforcing authority for any site designated as a ‘special site’
- Publishing periodic reports on contaminated land
- To carry out technical research and, in conjunction with DEFRA and Welsh Government to publish scientific advice and guidance.

1.4 What is a Special Site?

‘Special Sites’ are defined in full in the Contaminated Land (Wales) Regulations 2006. These types of sites include certain water pollution cases, particular industrial cases i.e. tar lagoons, oil refining, explosives, certain Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) sites, nuclear sites and land owned by the Ministry of Defence.

1.5 What other legislative regimes can deal with contaminated land?

Contaminated Land is a complex issue and whilst the Part IIA legislation is the main driver of this strategy, there are other legislative regimes and development routes that can be used to assess and deal with land contamination issues effectively.

Section 1.5 of the Welsh Government Statutory Guidance states that *‘Enforcing authorities should seek to use Part IIA only where no appropriate alternative solution exists’*, the regulator is therefore free and encouraged to use other legal regimes if more appropriate, these regimes are outlined below:-

- Town & Country Planning Act 1990
- Building Regulations 2010
- Water Resources Act 1991
- Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999
- Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010
- Waste Management Licensing (Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990)
- Radioactive Substances Act 1993
- Statutory Nuisance (Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990)
- Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009

1.6 What is the most common route for dealing with contaminated land within Neath Port Talbot?

This Council has recruited appropriately qualified officers and gathered and collated a wealth of information over the years in order to assess the potential risk associated with contaminated sites. This information initially was collected for the purpose of the Part IIA regime, but as

expertise and knowledge expanded within the Council we were better able as the regulator to deal more effectively with any situation involving contamination and assist other departments within the Council dealing with contaminated land.

Currently, most contamination within the NPT County Borough is dealt with through the planning process and through voluntary remediation schemes closely monitored by the Council. Due to the extent of former industrial development within the borough this activity can be quite onerous.



Figure 2. Remediation at Briton Ferry Gas Works

1.7 What are the other constraints for Local Authorities dealing with Contaminated Land?

Historically the Welsh Government provided a Contaminated Land Capital Grant Fund for the investigation and remediation of sites formerly determined as ‘contaminated land’ under the Part IIA legislation. In 2011, this funding opportunity was withdrawn and Welsh councils were left to fund investigation of sites out of their own limited budgets. This has had a negative impact on Part IIA work across Wales, as councils are hesitant to take a proactive approach to investigation if there is no funding available to rectify/remediate the problem. This had led to councils looking for alternative ways to progress their Part IIA strategies through planning, regeneration schemes, new or redevelopment and working closely with land owners to encourage voluntary remediation etc. This is the main approach Neath Port Talbot has taken and is detailed further within the aims and objectives of this Strategy.

Chapter 2 – Characteristics of Local Authority Area

2.1 Introduction to the Neath Port Talbot Area

The local authority area stretches from the coast to the borders of the Brecon Beacons National Park. It covers a total area of 44,217 hectares. The majority of land is upland or semi-upland in character, and 43% is covered by forestry upland areas. Most of the lower lying flat land is near the coast around Port Talbot. An extensive dune system stretches along much of the coast, broken by river mouths and areas of development. The upland areas are cut by five valleys: Vale of Neath, Dulais Valley, Afan Valley, Swansea Valley and Upper Amman Valley.

Modern settlement patterns reflect the industrial history of the area, with urban development along the flatter areas of the valleys and some parts of the coast.

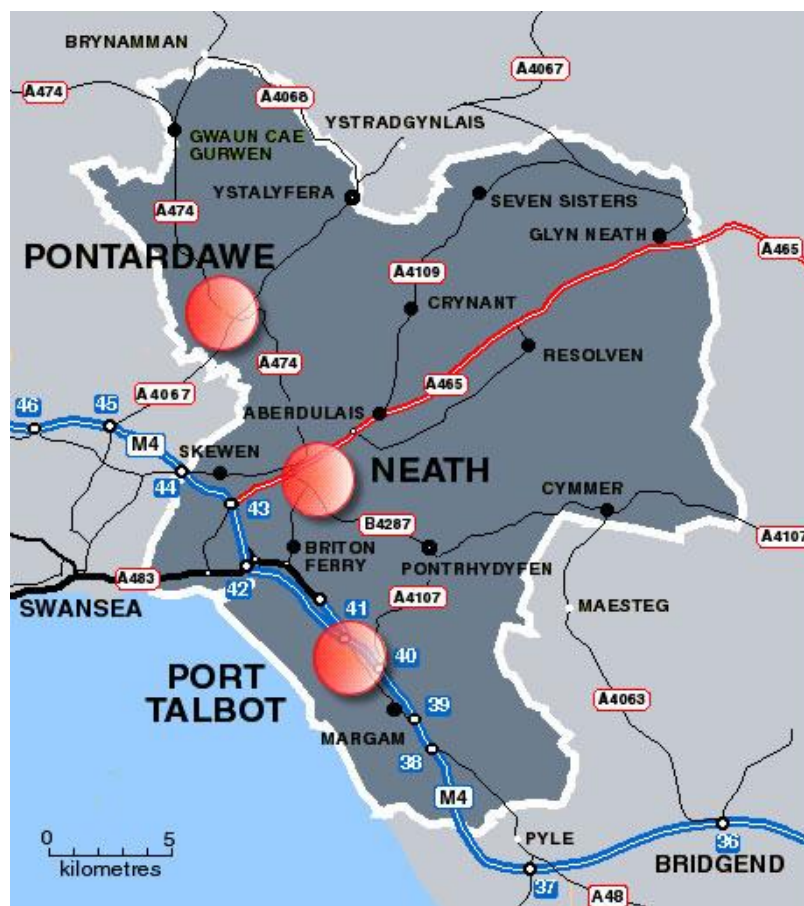


Figure 3. Geographical Location of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (showing the larger settlement areas in red)

2.2 Geology

Neath Port Talbot County Borough lies mostly within an area underlain by the Upper Carboniferous rocks of the South Wales Coal Field, which forms a large synclinal basin trending East West with many subsidiary folds and numerous faults. The Coal Measures comprise of rhythmic sequences of mudstones, siltstones, grits, fireclays and clays. The Neath Port Talbot area is predominantly Upper Coal Measures made up of the Pennant sandstone's and alternating shale's and coal horizons. The South Wales Coal Field is underlain by Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit, which are exposed in escarpments at the margins of the coal field. Peat deposits are widespread across the North of the borough on acid soils of the Pennant plateau.

Within the coalfield faulting is widespread. The Neath Valley Disturbance shows extensive surface faulting which is an important NE-SW trending structural zone of fault deformation.

2.3 Hydrogeology

The underlying bedrock deposits of the South Wales Coalfield area are designated as a Secondary A Aquifer. These are fractured rocks that do not have a high primary permeability and do not produce large quantities of water for abstraction. However, they are important for maintaining base flows of local rivers and for local supplies. The overlying Drift deposits (blown sands, marine sands, alluvium and glacial till) along the coastal belt have a high leaching potential.

2.4 Key Water Resources

The four main Rivers in Neath Port Talbot are the Afan, Dulais, Neath and Tawe which all flow NE-SW to Swansea Bay. Three Canals that run through the Borough are the Neath Canal, Swansea Canal and Tennant Canal.

There are approximately 215 private water supplies in the County Borough, 7 of which are commercial, 208 domestic. These water supplies are routinely tested by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council as required under The Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009 or on request.

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water supplies the public drinking water in Neath Port Talbot. There are no abstractions within the borough for public

supply and therefore no source protection zones, however, there are abstractions for industrial and agricultural use.

The main reason for adverse water quality issues within the County Borough are due to abandoned mine workings and the associated discharges of acidified iron rich water. This is an increasing problem in Wales generally and is evident across parts of Neath Port Talbot.

2.5 Protected Areas

Within the County Borough there are a number of special nature conservation areas designated for their international, national and local importance. These areas are designated receptors as defined in the Part IIA legislation and outlined below:-

International and European Sites

- Ramsar International Wetland – Crymlyn Bog
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – Crymlyn Bog, Coedydd Nedd a Mellte and Kenfig.

National Designations

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) –20 sites
- National Nature Reserves (NNRs) - Pant-y-Sais Fen, Crymlyn Bog

Local Designations

- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) – Swansea Canal, Pant-y-Sais Fen, Eaglesbush Valley, Bryn Tip. Also numerous sites that meet Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) criteria have also been identified.

2.6 Key Property Types

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council has 393 buildings (2014) which are listed as being of special architectural or historic interest and 93 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

2.7 Industrial History

Coal has been mined in South Wales for centuries to meet the demands of the rapid industrial growth in the area with copper and iron smelting dominating the valleys of Neath Port Talbot. This followed with the development of the iron industry, progressing into steel production over

the years. The tinplate industry developed as an off shoot of these industries, as did several chemical works, sheet steel, gas works and engineering firms across the area.

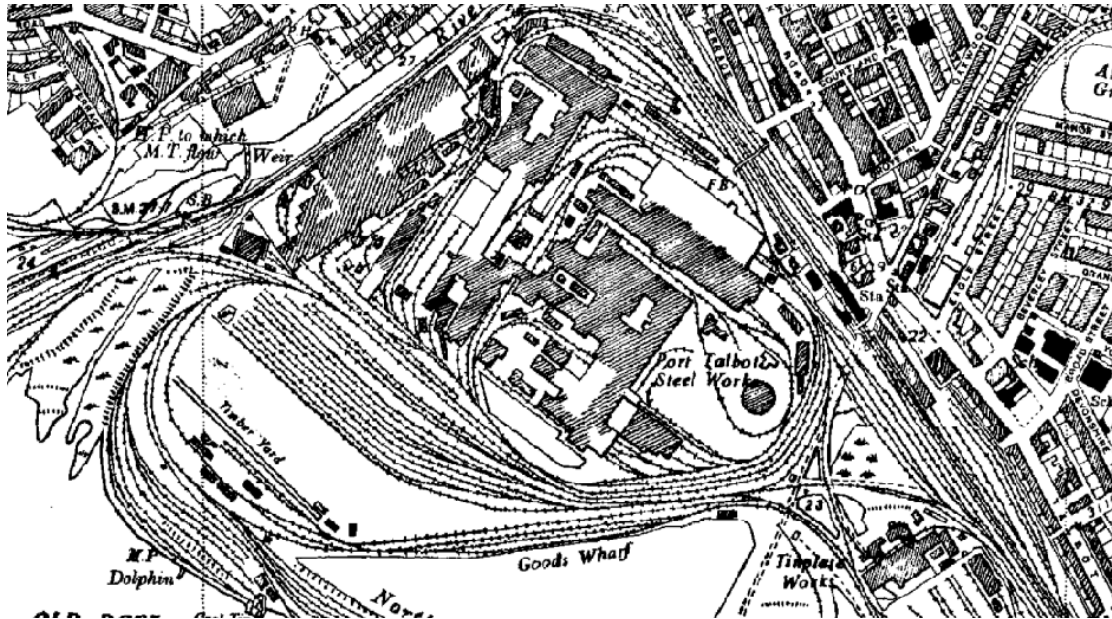


Figure 4. Historical Map of Port Talbot

Although Neath Port Talbot's industrial history has left a legacy of contamination, these industrial sites are also an important part of our heritage, and many of the sites are Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings. When *sites with known or potential historic interest* are developed and/or remediated the Council will ensure that they consult as early as possible with their archaeological advisers.

2.8 Recent Development on Brownfield Land

Within the Neath Port Talbot County Borough, former industrial sites were influenced by the geographical considerations and were consequently located near to rivers and the coastal region. Small settlements such as Neath, Port Talbot, Clydach, Pontardawe, Briton Ferry and Cwmafan became major industrial centres with the consequent immigration of workers and a demand for housing. Due to the vast industrial past of these areas it is common for new development to be built on areas potentially affected by historic contamination. These sites are subject to strict controls through the planning regime to ensure remediation works are carried out prior to development.

The Council's Local Development Plan will set out the future development land use of land within Neath Port Talbot County Borough

until 2026. Further information on this can be accessed on www.npt.gov.uk/LDP

Chapter 3 Progress of Inspection Strategy to Date

Since the implementation of the 2005 Contaminated Land Strategy the Council has made good progress in dealing with Contaminated Land within its area through Part IIA and other legislative drivers.

3.1 How has the Council identified sites of potential contaminated land?

The Neath Port Talbot County Borough area has been subjected to considerable historic industrial use that has given rise to land that could be potentially affected by contamination. Using various sources of data, including historical maps and local knowledge of the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area it has been possible to identify where industrial activity has been concentrated. These areas have been digitally mapped using the Council's Geographic Information System (GIS).

A desk top exercise taking data from historic maps identified approximately 6,000 sites of potential concern. These sites have been mapped on the GIS system and vary from small mining spoil heaps of a few metres across, to massive former industrial sites such as those given in 3.4 below. Irrespective of size, each is classed as one site although some sites will have several records, each relating to a former use.

3.2 How has the Council prioritised these sites for further inspection?

Due to the complex industrial history of Neath Port Talbot it has not been practical to investigate every single site that has been identified as potentially contaminated. In order to address this, a rational and systematic approach to prioritise sites has been applied using a database system called Geoenviron. This system is based on the Source Pathway Receptor approach and sites are prioritised according to risk.

This work has generated a number of High Priority Sites that will require further investigation in the future. This is work in progress and is constantly changing as more information comes to light, or in some cases, the contamination is dealt with through a different legislative route or voluntary action.

3.3 How many sites has the Council investigated under Part IIA?

The number of sites investigated by the Council is heavily reliant on funding availability and budgets, which in recent years has become limited.

To date 34 sites have been investigated, the majority of which have required no further action. However, detailed inspection of two of these sites has resulted in the land being formally determined as ‘Contaminated Land’ under Part IIA of the Environment Protection Act 1990. Details of these two sites are outlined below:-

- **Pinetree Car Sales.** An investigation was carried out at Pinetree Car Sales, following notification of a polluted valve chamber located on a strategic 26 inch trunk water supply main. The site was determined as ‘Contaminated Land’ on the basis of pollution of controlled waters and the potential risk to human health via the potential impact of contamination on the water supply pipe. Shell UK Limited were served with a remediation notice and took on the responsibility to clean up the land.
- **Former Briton Ferry Gas Works.** A phased investigation was carried out on land formerly known as the Briton Ferry Gas Works Site that resulted in 10 residential properties being determined as ‘Contaminated Land’. The Council received funding from the Welsh Government to remediate the gardens and bring them back to a safe and beneficial use. This scheme is now complete. Further details can be accessed from the councils internet page on the following link:



<http://www.npt.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=3237>

Figure 5. Remediation work at Briton Ferry Gas Works

There are also a number of sites that are undergoing voluntary remediation within the Neath Port Talbot area, which negates the need to

determine the site as 'Contaminated Land'. These sites are closely monitored by the Council and Natural Resources Wales.

3.4 Partnership working between the Authority, Other Public Bodies and Private Companies/Developers

Historically Neath Port Talbot has been an area of heavy industry, particularly metal, chemical and oil based industries often covering vast areas of land and involving considerable quantities of waste products. Some of these sites have only recently ceased to operate and the Council is now working with Developers to ensure these large sites are brought back into beneficial use following successful remediation.

There are a number of former BP sites within NPT that are now under the portfolio of development company St Modwen, and have undergone extensive remediation works closely monitored by Natural Resources Wales and Neath Port Talbot Council. These projects are identified within Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's Waterfront Regeneration strategy as integral to the future success of its wider plans for the Borough's regeneration. BP sites currently in the process of remediation and redevelopment include:-

Coed Darcy Urban Village – This is a proposed development of 4000 homes together with community facilities and commercial development which is being built over the next 20 years. The remediation and reclamation requirements of this former BP oil refinery are set out within the planning approval for the site to create an environment which is safe to live and work.



Figure 6. Former BP Oil Refinery



BP Chemicals, Baglan Bay –

This was one of the largest petrochemical sites in Europe, and at its peak in the late 1970s employed around 2,500 workers. St. Modwen is working with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and National Resources Wales to re-develop the site on a planned and phased basis over the next 25 years to help bring jobs back to Baglan Bay.

Figure 7. Former Baglan Bay Chemical Plant

The Bay Science and Innovation Centre, Swansea University Campus Site

Planning permission was secured in December 2012 for the Swansea University campus to be built on the former BP Tank Farm; a 65 acre site formerly known as the BP Transit Site. An extensive remediation scheme has been undertaken which included groundwater pump and treat, chemical oxidation, bioremediation of soils, reclamation and earthworks. The development includes 430,000 sq ft of academic space, 899 student flats and associated retail space.



Figure 8. Swansea University Campus under construction

3.5 Other Sites Remediated under the Planning Regime

Planning Policy Wales (2013) requires the Local Authority to take into account the nature, scale and extent of contamination which may pose a risk to health when making planning decisions. This includes making sure that appropriate remedial works are carried out so that the site will be 'suitable for its new use'.

During the last 3 years the Contaminated Land Team has been consulted on more than 700 planning applications. A large majority of these applications have required some form of site investigation, risk assessment and remediation where necessary.

3.6 Managing Council Owned Land

It is recognised that many of the Council's property landholdings may be contaminated as a result of previous use and that provision for dealing with such contamination has serious financial implications.

The Part IIA Inspection Strategy will provide the Council with more detailed information about its own potentially contaminated landholdings, including the identification of sites which present the greatest risk. These potentially contaminated sites will be risk assessed in accordance with the adopted prioritisation strategy and hereon will be treated as any other site of potential contamination and will be addressed according to its prioritised ranking.

On acquiring land the Authority will give careful consideration as to the possibility of contamination and each acquisition will be judged on the requirement for investigation and due consideration to the Part IIA legislation, i.e. to ensure the Authority is not taking on any financial liabilities when considering the 'Polluter Pays' principle.

When disposing or leasing of Council land, the 'Buyers Beware' principle is applicable, i.e. the polluter will retain liability on sale unless land is sold with information. This will be considered on a site specific basis where, advice will be provided to ensure all contamination issues are considered and addressed prior to disposal/lease of land.

Chapter 4 Overall Objectives and Priorities of the Contaminated Land Strategy

The overall aim of this strategy reflects the environmental objectives set out in the NPT Single Integrated Plan (2013 – 2023) *‘To ensure robust regulation and effective environmental management systems provide healthy and clean air, land and water, allowing all citizens to enjoy the outdoors safely’*

The key objectives and priority actions to meet this overall aim, build on the previous work carried out under the 2005 strategy and reflect the new guidance and financial constraints the Council is facing in the current economic climate.

The Council will adopt a transparent approach to the identification and remediation of contaminated land. This approach is outlined in Figure 9 and is based on the new statutory guidance for inspecting contaminated land.

Figure 9 Key Objectives, Priorities and Actions.

Objective 1

To identify and remediate areas of land where an unacceptable level of risk is being caused to human health and the environment and ensure successful remediation of such sites.

Priorities and Actions

- **Identify potentially contaminated sites by updating the contaminated land database**
- **Prioritise sites for detailed inspection based on risk**
- **Categorise sites in accordance with new statutory guidance (Category 1-4)**
- **Establish a programme for investigation of Category 1 sites – This will be reviewed annually to reflect the available budget and funding opportunities**

Objective 2

To fulfil the Council's responsibilities with respect to implementing the Inspection Strategy and to ensure it meets the requirements of the Part IIA legislation.

Priorities and Actions

Adopt a rational, ordered and efficient approach to inspection.

- Provision of Contaminated Land Strategy 2015
- Report to the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales on inspection progress and status of contaminated land sites when requested
- Maintain regular updates through Regional and National Contaminated Land Groups

Identify potential Special Sites in liaison with Natural Resources Wales.

- Work closely with Natural Resources Wales and provide information when required

Ensure that officers involved in dealing with contaminated land issues are trained and up to date with new legislation and guidance being produced.

- Maintain ongoing training schedule for officers dealing with Contaminated Land

Objective 3

Encourage regeneration and redevelopment of Contaminated Sites through the planning system

Priorities and Actions

- **Adopt a fair, equitable and realistic process for dealing with planning applications**
- **Provide information to enable the Council to act in accordance with government planning policy and guidance**
 - Review planning procedures regularly in accordance with Welsh Planning Policy
 - Work in conjunction with the existing Unitary Development Plan policies and emerging policies within the NPT Local Development Plan to encourage development whilst protecting health and the environment

- Encourage discussions with applicants prior to the submission of formal planning applications to inform them of contaminated land requirements and provide guidance for developers
- Work closely with Welsh National & Regional Contaminated Land Groups to develop and promote best practice documents and guidance across Wales

Objective 4

Encourage a proactive approach amongst landowners and potential polluters towards investigation of contamination and remediation where required.

Priorities and Actions

- **Adopt a transparent approach to implementing the Strategy**
 - Ensure Contaminated Land Strategy is widely distributed and publicised
- **Work closely with landowners to advise and assist voluntary remediation schemes to avoid unnecessary action under Part IIA**
- **Ensure effective procedures for communication, liaison and information exchange within the Council and with third parties when dealing with contaminated sites**
 - Ensure Public register is available for viewing and is up to date
 - Ensure effective risk communication processes are in place when dealing with contaminated sites
 - Provide information on the land and homeowner benefits of investigations
 - Develop effective reporting function to provide information to third parties
- **Provide appropriate training and advice on contaminated land issues**
 - As and when required
 - Ensure the contaminated land section of the Council website is up to date with current guidance and legislation

Objective 5

Manage and/or reduce the Council's liabilities as a landowner or occupier with regards to contaminated land issues

Priorities and Actions

Adopt an equal approach as a responsible landowner towards inspecting Council land and dealing with contamination.

- Identify Council owned/occupied contaminated sites which should be prioritised for remediation as part of the Council's Asset Management Plan
- Carry out investigation of land that is earmarked for disposal (for sale or leased land) in Council ownership to ensure contamination issues are addressed appropriately
- Work closely within NPTCBC to ensure contamination issues are considered early on in design/engineering projects
- Ensure that due consideration is given to contamination issues when acquiring future holdings and leasing land
- Ensure a coordinated approach to contaminated land within the authority to ensure compliance with, and enforcement of the relevant contaminated land regulations

Chapter 5 Strategic Inspection and Management (The Way Forward)

The Council will continue to identify potentially contaminated sites in the Neath Port Talbot County Borough and ensure robust risk assessment is carried out and to ensure action is taken on the most pressing and serious sites first.

5.1 Risk Categories

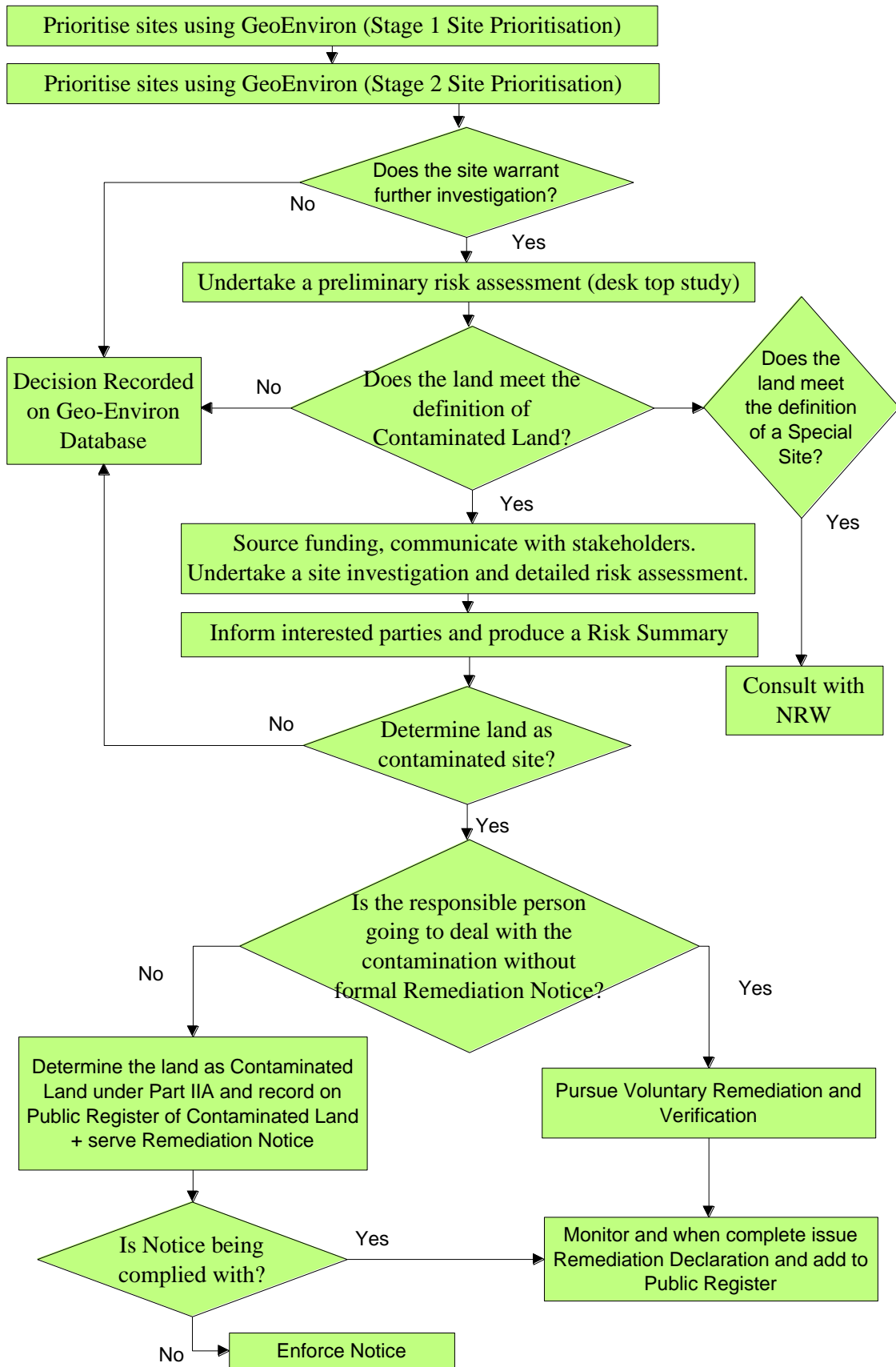
The revised Statutory Guidance has introduced a new four category system for classifying land under Part IIA, ranging from Category 4, where the level of risk posed is acceptably low, to Category 1, where the level of risk is clearly unacceptable. As part of the inspection process sites will be placed into a Category 1 – 4 depending on the level of evidence available. This will require re-prioritisation of our 6,000 potentially contaminated sites.

5.2 How will sites be inspected?

It is not practical to evaluate and investigate every single potentially contaminated site, therefore a strategic inspection regime has been adopted utilising a phased approach to reflect current legislation and guidance. This is outlined in Figure 10.

Following the initial stage of prioritising sites, it may be necessary to undertake further and more detailed assessment of land to establish whether a potential contaminant linkage has been identified. Data acquisition will be carried out in a phased approach, and between each phase a re-assessment of the site risk will be undertaken. The key issue at each phase of investigation is to determine whether sufficient evidence exists to either determine the site as contaminated or re-prioritise (remove to a lower risk category) based upon the revised risk assessment.

Figure 10. Procedures for Investigating Potential Contaminated Land Sites



5.3 Background Levels of contamination

The Statutory Guidance states that the Part IIA regime should not apply to land with levels of contaminants in soil that are common place and widespread throughout the UK and for which in the majority of cases there is no reason to consider that there is an unacceptable risk.

In April 2013 Defra published a report and Technical Guidance Sheets on Normal Background Levels of Contaminants in Welsh Soils. Further information on this can be accessed on the following link:-
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/gbase/NBCDefraProject.html>

It is important to note that due to the industrial heritage within this area, background contamination levels in the Neath Port Talbot area are relatively higher than other areas of Wales and therefore these factors are taken into consideration when investigating sites under the Part IIA legislation.

5.4 What Guidance is available?

All phases of inspection will comply with current recognised guidance and good practice as outlined in Figure 11. It is recommended these documents are referred to for more detailed advice and guidance. It is worth noting that this list is not exhaustive and there are a number of other guidance documents available.

Figure 11. Further information and guidance

- Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance (Welsh Government 2012).
- Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination CLR11 (Defra & Environment Agency 2004),
- Guidance for the Safe Development of Housing on Land Affected by Contamination R&D 66 (NHBC and Environment Agency 2008) and GPLC Parts 1 – 3
- Guiding Principles for land contamination (Environment Agency 2010).
- WLGA Development of Land Affected by Contamination: A Guide for Developers 2013
- British Geological Survey – Normal Background Levels.
<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=17768#Description>
- Development of Category 4 Screening Levels for Assessment of Land Affected by Contamination. Policy Companion Document 2014.

CHAPTER 6 Information Management and Procedures

6.1 Which section of the Council deals with contaminated land?

Within Neath Port Talbot County Council, the Environment Directorate has the responsibility for the implementation of Part IIA Environmental Protection Act 1990.



Figure 12 Potential contaminated land

6.2 Providing Information to Third Parties

The implementation of the Inspection Strategy has resulted in the collation of a large amount of information which may be useful to other parties.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council acts in accordance with the requirements of the following statutes and regulations in making environmental information accessible to the public.

- Local Government Act 1985
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Environmental Information Regulations 2004

6.3 Provision of Site Specific Information

General factual site specific data will be made available on request to members of the public, those carrying out conveyancing work and other interested parties. Response to requests will be within 10 working days. The cost for provision of information will be published at www.neath-porttalbot.gov.uk/contaminatedland. This charge is in line with those levied by other regulatory authorities and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

6.4 Contaminated Land Register

The Council also has a duty to publish a Register of all enforcement action taken under Part IIA.

This can be accessed at the Legal Services Department, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot, SA13 1PJ. The register is available Monday to Friday during normal office hours and access to the register will be provided free to members of the public although a small charge will be made for any photocopying.

Arrangements to view the register can be made by contacting the Legal Services Department on 01639 763345 Email: landcharges@npt.gov.uk.

6.5 Provision of Information to Natural Resources Wales

Natural Resources Wales is required to produce a report on the state of Contaminated Land from time to time, or as requested by the Secretary of State. Local Authorities are required to provide the appropriate information when requested.

6.6 Provision of Information for other Council Functions

In accordance with the Council's objectives and priorities, general and site specific information acquired through implementation of the Inspection Strategy will be made available to those carrying out other Council duties or activities, as and when necessary.

6.7 Provision of Information for Planning Services

The majority of land contamination issues will continue to be dealt with through the planning regime. In recognition of this, procedures are already in place to ensure that site specific information from carrying out this Strategy is made available to planning officers considering planning applications.

A GIS dataset showing 'Potentially Contaminated Areas', collated as part of the Part IIA inspection process and updated on a regular basis, has been made available to the Development Management functions via Corporate GIS. This dataset is used by Planning Officers and their supporting administration teams to identify proposed developments where contamination issues may need to be considered.

6.8 Local Land Searches

Following the implementation of Part IIA and the requirement for each local authority to keep a Public Register of its regulatory activity, a question (see below) referring to Contaminated Land has been added to the Form CON29 Enquiries of Local Authorities. The questions on this form are answered by the local Land Charges team in the Legal Services section in Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council as part of the search carried out every time a property transaction takes place. Local Land Charges base their response to Question 3.12 on information provided by the Contaminated Land Team.

Form CON29 - Q3.12 Contaminated Land - "Do any of the following apply (including any relating to the land adjacent to or adjoining the property which has been identified as contaminated land because it is in such a condition that harm or pollution of controlled waters might be caused on the property)?"

- a A contaminated land notice*
- b In relation to a register maintained under section 78R of the Environmental Protection Act 1990
 - i A decision to make an entry*
 - ii An entry**
- c Consultation with the owner or occupier of the property conducted under section 78G (3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 before the service of a remediation notice*

6.9 Contact Point

All enquires relating to this strategy should be addressed to:-

Contaminated Land Team

Environment Directorate

The Quays

Brunel Way

SA11 2GG

Tel: 01639 686845

Email: contaminatedland@npt.gov.uk

6.10 Who may provide us with information?

During the course of implementing this Strategy the Council may receive complaints or information relating to land contamination. This information may be forthcoming from the public or other stakeholders, or from statutory bodies including Natural Resources Wales.

Such information will be considered and evaluated on a site specific basis to determine its seriousness and significance. This may cause a site to be re-prioritised for inspection or to be considered as an urgent site. It may also be essential in helping the Council to decide whether a site appears to be Contaminated Land. Alternatively it may indicate that land contamination issues at a site should be best addressed through another regulatory regime.

6.11 When is the Inspection Strategy reviewed?

The Council has a duty to review its Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy on a regular basis and to meet its statutory responsibilities.

The Council will review this strategy every 5 years. This is considered to be the most efficient and effective way of ensuring the inspection strategy is up to date and reflects current practice, but also that it is a realistic and achievable Strategy.

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ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF STREETCARE

23RD APRIL 2015

SECTION B – MATTER FOR INFORMATION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

STREETCARE FEES AND CHARGES 2015/16

Purpose of Report

To inform Members of Streetcare Fees and Charges for 2015/16.

Background

On the 3rd February 2015 the Cabinet resolved that the setting of Executive Fees and Charges be delegated to the appropriate Corporate Director in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, Scrutiny Chair and the Leader.

This report details the Streetcare fees and charges set for the financial year 2015/16 as per the attached Appendices.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Neighbourhood Services User Charges
- Appendix 2 - Festive Lighting Charges
- Appendix 3 - Highway and Drainage Services Charges
- Appendix 4 - Groll Car Admission Charge
- Appendix 5 - Cemetery Charges

List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

Mike Roberts

Head of Streetcare

☎ 01639 686966 ✉ m.roberts@npt.gov.uk

Appendix 1

	Standard		Concession/Junior		Comments	
	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16		
Cricket						
Match	£48.85	£49.80	£24.30	£24.80		
Without Pavilion	£35.60	£36.30	£17.30	£17.60		
Soccer/rugby						
(a) with changing facilities					Permit includes hire of pitch for a match. The fee does not include the setting out of flags, poles or the provision of post protectors	
(b) without changing facilities						
Match (a)	£48.85	£49.80	£24.35	£24.80		
Match (b)	£35.00	£35.70	£17.30	£17.60		
Training (a) up to 1.5hrs	£23.10	£23.60	£11.55	£11.80		
Training (b) up to 1.5hrs	£18.65	£19.00	£9.50	£9.70		
Mini Football / Rugby (a)	-		£9.20	£9.30		
Mini Football / Rugby (b)	-		£6.90	£7.00		
Golf						
Per round	£3.90	£4.00	£2.00	£2.05		
Club deposit	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00		
Archery						
Per session	£9.50	£9.70				
Per 1.5 hour session						
Allotments						
Per plot	£28.80	£29.40	£21.00	£21.40		
Room Hire						
Gnoll meeting room	£61.20	£62.40	£30.60	£31.20		
Victoria Gardens	£61.20	£62.40	£30.60	£31.20		
Victoria Gardens (Part Hire)			£15.40	£15.70	Up to 2 hours	
Caravan & Camping						
Gnoll Park Caravan Area	£10.10	£10.30			Per Caravan / Per Night	
Skip Charges						
Standard Skip - Mon to Fri	£166.60	£169.90				
Standard Skip - Saturday	£176.40	£179.90				
Standard Skip - Sun/Bank Hol	£185.10	£188.80				
Large Skip - Mon to Fri	£286.55	£292.30				
Large Skip - Saturday	£295.75	£301.70				
Large Skip - Sun/Bank Hol	£304.95	£311.00				
Grit & Grit Bins						
One Tonne Bin - New bin & grit	£516.60	£526.90				
Top up existing one tonne bin	£101.00	£103.00				
Half Tonne Bin - New bin & bin	£301.70	£304.70				
Top up existing half tonne bin	£79.25	£80.80				
Afan Argoed						
Meeting Room	£61.20	£62.40	£30.60	£31.20	If the proposals set out in the FFP are not in place by April 15, these charges will apply	
Shower	£1.40	£1.50				
Camping	£3.40pppn	£3.50pppn				
Car Park Season Tickets	£31.00	£40.00				

Appendix 2

Festive Lighting Fees and Charges 2015/16

Changes to Town and Community Councils and Ffordd Emlyn Residents Association in Ystalyfera in respect of the erection, maintenance and dismantling of festive lighting, have been increased in line with the corporate assumption of 2 % increase rounded up to the nearest 50 pence. The supply of any additional decoration remains subject to individual pricing and the recharge of illumination energy consumption continues on an at-cost basis. The energy charge for 2015 /16 is indicative but the rate applying at the time of the 2015 festive period will be charged.

Charges 2014	Pre Erection, Maintenance, Commissioning and Dismantling Recharge + VAT	Indicative Energy Usage (KWh) based on 2012	Indicative Energy Charge based on 0.1423p / KWh Ex VAT
Briton Ferry	£4106.50	7163	£1019.42
Ystalyfera	£1777.50	3232	£ 459.93
Cilybebell	£ 965.00	256	£ 36.43
Glynneath	£1903.50	5016	£ 713.78
G.C.G/Cwmgors	£2034.50	2574	£ 366.28
Lower Brynamman	£1565.50	1267	£ 180.32
Melyn Cryddan Community Conference	£1512.50	2494	£ 355.01
Cwmllynfell	£2177.50	2302	£ 372.58
Resolven	£1053.00	2317	£ 337.51
Ffordd Emlyn Residents Association	£ 232.00	304	£ 43.26
Coedffranc	£2951.50	2494	£ 355.01
Neath Town Council	£ 980.00	656	£ 93.35
Quarter Bach Community Council (Carmarthenshire County Council)	£1626.50	Nil	
Tonna Community Council	£ 214.50	Nil	

N.B Where calls for lamp failure are received following official switch on an additional recharge for response will be charged.

2014 Indicative Total (*) 2014 Costs + VAT

Briton Ferry	£5125.92
Ystalyfera	£2,237.43
Cilybebell	£1,001.43
Glynneath	£2617.28
G.C.G /Cwmgors	£2400.78
Lower Brynamman	£1745.32
Melyn Cryddan Community	£1867.51
Conference	
Cwmllynfell	£2550.08
Resolven	£1390.51
Ffordd Emlyn Residents	£ 275.26
Association	
Coedffranc	£3306.51
Neath Town Council	£1073.35
Quarter Bach Community	£1626.00
Council (Carmarthenshire	
County Council)	
Tonna Community Council	£ 214.50

(*) Fixed charge and indicative energy charge

Charges 2015	Pre Erection, Maintenance, Commissioning and Dismantling Recharge + VAT	Indicative Energy Usage (KWh) based on 2012	Indicative Energy Charge based on 0.1423p / KWh Ex VAT
Briton Ferry	£4188.50	7163	£1019.42
Ystalyfera	£1813.00	3232	£ 459.93
Cilybebell	£ 984.00	256	£ 36.43
Glynneath	£1941.50	5016	£ 713.78
G.C.G/Cwmgors	£2075	2574	£ 366.28
Lower Brynamman	£1597.00	1267	£ 180.32
Melyn Cryddan Community	£1546.00	2494	£ 355.01
Conference			
Cwmllynfell	£2221.00	2302	£ 372.58
Resolven	£1074.00	2317	£ 337.51
Ffordd Emlyn Residents	£ 237.00	304	£ 43.26
Association			

Coedffranc	£3,010.52	2494	£ 355.01
Neath Town Council	£ 1,000	656	£ 93.35
Quarter Bach Community Council (Carmarthenshire County Council)	£1659.00	Nil	
Tonna Community Council	£ 219.00	Nil	

N.B Where calls for lamp failure are received following official switch on an additional recharge for response will be charged.

2015 Indicative Total (*) 2015 Costs + VAT

Briton Ferry	£5207.92
Ystalyfera	£2,272.93
Cilybebell	£1,020.43
Glynneath	£2655.28
G.C.G /Cwmgors	£24441.28
Lower Brynamman	£1777.32
Melyn Cryddan Community Conference	£1901.01
Cwmllynfell	£2593.58
Resolven	£1411.51
Ffordd Emlyn Residents Association	£ 280.26
Coedffranc	£3365.51
Neath Town Council	£1093.35
Quarter Bach Community Council (Carmarthenshire County Council)	£1659
Tonna Community Council	£ 219.00

(*) Fixed charge and indicative energy charge

Christmas Lighting, Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe Town Centres.

Further to the Council's decision to delete the budget for the provision of Christmas lighting in the Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe towns centres. During the lead up to Christmas 2014 discussions took place with community groups in Neath and Port Talbot and income received £13,629 and £4,681 respectively excluding vat. Pontardawe Town Council placed an order for £1267 excluding vat. The council then undertook the necessary installation and dismantling. Further work will be undertaken in Christmas 2015 as may be requested/agreed.

Highway and Drainage Services Charges

	NPT 2014/15	Local Authority Average 2014/15 (#)	Proposed NPT 2015/16 (*)
Skip permit (<i>per 28 days</i>)	30	35	31
Scaffold permit (<i>per 28 days</i>)	45	65	50
Storage container or temporary office, hoarding builders materials permits (<i>per 28 days</i>)	45	40	46
Administration costs for constructing a dropped crossing	80	80	82
Licence fee for permitting tables and chairs	No charge	£31 per chair	No charge
Section 50 Streetworks Licence - <i>New Apparatus Multiple Dwellings</i>	335	450	400
Section 50 Streetworks Licence - <i>Single Dwelling</i>	335	400	400
Section 50 Streetworks Licence – <i>Repair or maintenance of Existing Apparatus</i>	335	330	345
Temporary Traffic Notices (<i>works under 5 days</i>) <i>Emergency Urgent works</i>	395	520	450
Temporary Traffic Orders (<i>works over 5 days</i>) not including advertisement costs	395	520	450

	NPT 2014/15	Local Authority Average 2014/15 (#)	Proposed NPT 2015/16 (*)
Temporary Excavations (<i>trial pits with no apparatus site inspections</i>)	No charge	255	82
A Frames	No charge	Swansea £58 per annum. £110 per annum for multiple businesses. Bridgend £52 per annum plus initial consideration charge of £75.	No charge
Oversail (Projections over a highway)	No charge	45 (per 28 days)	£50 per 28 days as scaffolding licences

NOTES

(*) Minimum cost increase of 2% in line with Corporate guidelines

(#) Current average of the Neighbouring Authorities Costs (Bridgend, Swansea, Powys and Carmarthen) rounded up to nearest £5 (unless otherwise included below)

A Frames - only Bridgend and Swansea charge

Oversail: Only Bridgend, Swansea, Carmarthenshire and NPT charge

Temporary Excavation only Carmarthen and Swansea charge

Tables and Chairs: only Bridgend, Carmarthenshire and Swansea charge

Gnoll Country Park – Vehicle Admission Charge

	2014/15	2015/16
Daily Charge	1	2
Annual Season Ticket	31	40

Cemetery Charges

	2014/2015	2015/2016
Purchase of New Grave (depth of 2)	£800.00	£816.00
Purchase of New Grave (depth of 4)	£1005.00	£1025.00
Full grave for Cremated Remains	£585.00	£597.00
Purchase of Cremation Plot	£285.00	£291.00
Extension of Exclusive Rights	£65.00	£66.00
Interment Fee	£620.00	£632.00
Interment of Cremated Remains	£260.00	£265.00
Scattering of Cremated Remains	£70.00	£72.00
Cremated Remains in/out of Vault (<i>Cymmer Cemetery Only</i>)	£70.00	£72.00
Additional Charge for Saturday Interment	Interment fee + 50%	
Erection of Memorial	£155.00	£158.00
Additional Memorial/Change of Memorial	£65.00	£66.00
Search of Cemetery Records	£35.00	£36.00

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ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF STREETCARE – M.ROBERTS

23RD APRIL 2015

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to review and take decisions in relation to the delivery of waste services.

Background

This is the latest in a series of reports concerning the Council's Waste Strategy and associated actions, the most recent being the report to Environment and Highways Scrutiny Committee of 18th December 2014.

This report considers issues relating to the following service aspects:

- Implications of recent changes to the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 With Respect to the Separate Collection of Certain Waste Materials
- Bring Sites
- Extension of the Pwllfawatkin HWRC Contract
- Opening Hours at all Household Waste and Recycling Centres
- Sale of Compost Bins
- Progress With Roll Out of 140 litre Wheeled Bins
- Progress With Recycle+ Roll Out, Next Steps and Funding
- Missed Collections, Collection Days and Route Optimisation
- Performance of Marketing and Engagement Plan
- Proposed Review of Side Waste Policy and the Needs of Larger Families
- Participation Survey
- Waste Composition Analysis
- Trade Waste Fees and Charges for 2015/16
- Strategic Waste Reserve

- Former Giant's Grave Landfill Site
- MREC Project Progress

As a result of actions to date taken under the Council's Waste Strategy, performance in Neath Port Talbot as measured by the national combined reuse, recycling and composting indicator has increased significantly, with current performance now standing at 58.61% for the nine months April to December 2014, and the Council being well on target to achieve Welsh Government's next statutory target of 58% by the end of March 2016. These service improvements do however come at a cost, which combined with reduction in levels of Sustainable Waste Management Grant, means all aspects of service delivery need to be kept under review.

Implications of Recent Changes to the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 With Respect to the Separate Collection of Certain Wastes

Changes in the above regulations came into effect on 1st January 2015 which, in line with European requirements, are intended to promote high quality recycling. Specifically, the regulation changes require collection authorities to establish separate collections for paper, metal, plastic and glass where Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable to do so (commonly referred to as where 'TEEP' to do so). Alongside these new regulations, Welsh Government has published guidance on 'TEEP' assessment. Whilst there effectively exists some flexibility on what can be done, for example where practical and other constraints may mean that two or more of the materials need be collected together, guidance makes it clear that the mixing of glass with other materials would not be considered acceptable due to its tendency to shatter and contaminate other recyclates. On the other hand the guidance indicates that co-collection of plastic and metals which are readily separated is considered acceptable.

Given the range of materials collected by the Council at the kerbside, and given that without moving to additional vehicles there are practically only so many compartments that can sensibly be provided in collection vehicles, it is therefore proposed to change current collections such that glass and cans are no longer collected together but plastics and metal cans are co-collected instead.

Essentially the Council is currently moving towards two basic service standards across the County Borough which, incorporating the proposed change, will look as follows:

Fortnightly black bag refuse service in areas of difficult access (circa 12% of County Borough) with fortnightly bagged plastic/cans collection, plus weekly bagged collection of other recyclables, green waste and food waste (with extra

vehicle support where necessary for additional green waste during the growing season);

and,

Fortnightly wheeled bin refuse service with fortnightly green waste collection, and weekly Recycle + collection service.

Collecting glass separately, and in the main delivering loose rather than bagged materials for bulking and sale to reprocessors, will help maximise future income from recyclates.

'Bring' Sites (i.e. use of recycling banks)

10 years ago when Councils started to invest in recycling, 'bring' recycling sites played an important role in providing outlets where residents could take their recyclable materials. These bring sites simply consisted of a row of banks, typically in car parks, where people could take a range of recyclable material. These sites have however been prone to certain issues such as littering and arson, and over the years the number has reduced.

With the introduction and development of the kerbside recycling service, which is offered across the County Borough; the use of the recycling banks has now reduced dramatically and the tonnages collected in comparison to that of the kerbside scheme are negligible. Furthermore, with the comprehensive provision of kerbside and trade waste recycling services their importance has reduced to such an extent that continued relevance need be questioned. In 2013/14 of the 18,405 tonnes of recycled waste, only 47 tonnes was collected via the recycling banks.

It is therefore proposed that the use of bring sites is discontinued as they no longer represent value for money, freeing up the net £12,300 identified in the budget for 'bottle banks' to be reinvested elsewhere in the waste budget. As a result the remaining recycling banks at Millands Road Neath, St. Mary's Car Park Port Talbot, and Darren Road, Ystalyfera would be removed.

Extension of the Pwllfawatkin HWRC Contract

The Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Pwllfawatkin deals annually with some 2,700 tonnes of domestic waste of which approximately 67% is recycled. The site is owned and operated by FCC Environment who also own and operate the adjoining landfill site. Following a report to the Environment and Highways Board in March 2012 the contract with FCC (at the time called Waste Recycling Group) was extended for three years until the 31st March 2015,

and there is now a need to consider a further extension of the contract from the 1st April 2015.

As the Pwllfawatkyn site is privately owned and operated, only FCC can offer the amenity site services provided and a more cost effective option does not currently exist.

The total cost for the provision of the HWRC in Pwllfawatkyn for financial year 2013/14 was some £337,000, with the projected outturn for the current year being circa £355,000, the increased cost being in the main due to landfill tax and inflation. A similar cost is anticipated for 2015/16.

The management of the Council's other two facilities at Briton Ferry and Cymmer are contracted out which is used to benchmark the costs at Pwllfawatkyn and ensure value for money. As a consequence it is recommended that, further to Contract Standing Orders 2.1(5) and 3(x), a further single negotiated tender is accepted to extend the contract with FCC for two years from 1st April 2015, with an option to extend for an additional one year to ensure that a service can continue to be provided in the North Western side of the County Borough.

Amendment of Opening Hours at all Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

The Council's HWRCs currently have extended opening hours as follows:-

Briton Ferry and Cymmer

1st April to 31st October – 8.00am to 8.00pm

1st November to 31st March – 8.00am to 5.30pm

Open 7 days a week, with the exception of Christmas day

Pwllfawatkyn

1st May to 30th September – 9.00am to 7.00pm

1st October to 30th April – 9.00am to 5.00pm

Open 7 days a week, with the exception of Christmas day

One issue is that opening hours have been cut back in adjoining areas and the question arises whether to similarly cut back provision in Neath Port Talbot as part of containing pressures in the waste budget. This has been considered and proposed revised opening hours are as follows:

Briton Ferry

8.30am to **5.00pm** 7 days a week for 12 months of the year

Pwllfawatkin

9.00am to **5.00pm** 7 days a week for 12 months of the year

Cymmer

11.00am to **5.00pm** 7 days a week for 12 months of the year

The opening hours for the Cymmer HWRC are reduced in the morning as well as the evening as the site is very small in comparison to the other facilities (during a one year period the Cymmer site deals with same amount of waste as the Briton Ferry site deals with every two weeks).

All sites would be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

This would realise savings of some £35,000 in year 1 increased to circa £41,000 per year thereafter. This does not account for any savings associated with waste being 'attracted' to the facility when it is open and facilities in neighbouring areas are closed.

Sale of Compost Bins

Subsidised compost bins have been offered for sale by the Council to residents of Neath Port Talbot over recent years as a means of promoting home composting.

Many compost bins are now in circulation and, in the context of the Council's financial pressures, for the service provision to be sustainable it is necessary to remove the subsidy and to now sell the compost bins at cost price. This would realise an estimated saving of £1,000 per annum for reinvestment elsewhere in the waste service. The table below gives a comparison of the current subsidised cost of a compost bin and the proposed cost in 2015/16 (equivalent to the cost price rounded up to the nearest pound)

Compost bin (size in litres)	Current subsidised price (per bin)	Current cost price (per bin)
330 litres	£6.00	£14.00
220 litres	£5.00	£13.00

It is further proposed that when the existing stock of compost bins are exhausted the Council cease to provide them, which are readily available in commercial outlets, to save all the associated administration.

Progress With Roll Out of 140 ltr Wheeled Bins

The final phase of wheeled bin replacement is ongoing and is programmed to be completed by the beginning of May 2015.

Progress With Recycle + Roll Out, Next Steps and Funding

Six kerb-sort vehicles are now in service and a further vehicle is due for delivery shortly. This new vehicle has a larger cardboard bay and as part of rolling out additional properties with this vehicle, final trials of collection receptacles are proposed taking on board feedback from members of the public and the collection crews.

Members will no doubt be aware of some complaints regarding the suitability of the large split white recycling bags used in the pilot rounds, and in the last report to members of the Environment and Highways Scrutiny Board it was highlighted that it was not intended that the use of the 180ltr split sack would form part of the final service configuration. Furthermore, it has since been identified that smaller bags or receptacles could speed up vehicle loading.

The Council recently received notification from Welsh Government that approximately 10,000 stackable kerbside recycling box units could be made available to the Council free of charge under the Collaborative Change Programme (CCP), which equates to a value of some £300,000 should the Council have purchased a similar number.

It is therefore proposed to undertake a trial using these stackable kerbside box units, as being used in Conwy, as well as trialling the use of two (or more) 80ltr bags in place of the current 180ltr bag. The stackable units are made up of three recycling boxes which means that the white recycling bag can be replaced whilst keeping the remaining service unchanged as the other two boxes in the stackable unit are of similar size and shape to that of the boxes currently in use (residents will also receive the usual containers for food and garden waste). These trials will feed into identification of the final service configuration for use across the County Borough.

In addition to the above, an application has been made under the Collaborative Change Programme (CCP) for grant funding towards the purchase of additional kerbside sort recycling vehicles, and funding of £804K from Welsh Government has been confirmed. This will provide monies for 7 of the further 13 vehicles required to complete the roll out. Funding for the balance of vehicles will be considered as part of producing a long term cost model associated with achieving the longer term recycling and composting targets, to be produced on completion of the MREC project later in the year.

Missed Collections, Route Optimisation and Collection Days

The latest figures for missed collections for waste and recycling services are given below:

In the 14 weeks from 1st November 2014 to 10th February 2015 the Council has undertaken in excess of 1.3 million collections of refuse and recycling from the 64,000 households in the County Borough. Of these, in the context of the changes that have been implemented recently, the Council has been contacted concerning the following missed collections:

Recycling	598
Recycling (whole street)	204
Recycling (pull out)	48
Refuse	351
Refuse (whole street)	73
Refuse (pull out)	45
Refuse and Recycling	52
Refuse and Recycling (whole street)	46
Refuse and Recycling (pull out)	19
Hygiene	22

[It is noted that there is some potential for duplication of missed collections should more than one resident report a missed collection for the same street. In order to prevent multiple calls being reported for the same street, the Council's IT department are in the process of developing a caller identification system so that only one missed collection is recorded in instances where the whole street has not been collected.]

Setting aside the recent one-off short term issues caused by refuse collection and staff changes under the Forward Financial Plan along with the normal Christmas time pressures, an imbalance in the volume of work throughout the working week has arisen due to uneven growth in recycling expansion across the county borough. Whilst the service has always tried to maintain the collection days for households there is now a need to move the collection days for some households to re-balance the workload during the week. This will be done in conjunction with route optimisation to maximise collection and resource efficiency under the ongoing 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' priority programme. The Council's IT section is currently completing modifications to a proprietary route optimisation system to meet the services needs and the round reviews will then be completed for both refuse and recycling. Resultant efficiency improvements will improve service reliability and reduce costs.

Ward Members will be kept informed where it is identified that changes in collection days need to take place.

Performance of Marketing and Engagement Plan

A year ago Members approved funding of £200,000 from the Strategic Reserve to cover a two year Marketing and Engagement Plan, subject to a review after 12 months.

Two members of staff were appointed in April 2014 who had previously been at risk of redundancy. Since their appointment, the Officers have engaged with both members of the public and local Schools in order to increase recycling participation levels amongst residents and businesses.

In the first year, officers have:

- Engaged with approximately 41,000 residents across the County Borough by various means,
- Organised and attended 15 road shows during the first phase of the Recycle + roll out,
- Organised and attended 8 ‘Full House Recycling’ road shows, in partnership with Waste Awareness Wales (WAW),
- Attended over 44 community based club and society events,
- Visited 30 schools and given lessons to approximately 2,500 pupils,
- Allocated and coordinated £10,000 of Tidy Towns Grant to promote recycling through 24 randomly selected schools engaging 4,300 pupils (in both Welsh and English languages),
- Organised 3 supervised tours of the Briton Ferry Recycling Centre,
- Engaged with residents via Facebook and Twitter (in line with the Council’s Social Media Policy),

The programme has been demonstrating its merit and it is therefore proposed to continue with the engagement plan to April 2016 as originally envisaged.

Member Enquiry Group to Review Side Waste Policy and the Needs of Larger Families

As part of ensuring that the Council continues to meet the increasingly challenging Welsh Government statutory recycling and composting targets, and to consider in detail concerns raised by Members of the Environment and Highways Scrutiny Board concerning larger families, it has been proposed to have a Member Enquiry Group to look at policy in relation to ‘side waste’ and larger families. It is proposed that the group will meet on three occasions re:

information discovery, a half day workshop to look at options, and a session to agree recommendations.

It is proposed the enquiry group will be arranged and completed before the summer recess and the composition of the group will be drawn from the Environment & Highways Scrutiny Board.

Participation Survey

During December 2013 the Council carried out a comprehensive Borough wide survey to establish how many of the residents are participating in the Council's kerbside recycling service. The results from this survey indicated an average participation rate of 71.5% across the County Borough, up from 62% on the previous sample survey. Another comprehensive survey has just been completed and participation has now increased further to 80.5%. A ward breakdown is given in Appendix A and the results will be used to target future awareness raising etc. The following points are noted:

1. Participation in one Ward has decreased (i.e. Gwynfi, -6%) and Officers will work with the Local Member to understand and address the reasons for the reduction. It is noted however it is possible there could have been an issue with the previous base data.
2. The area with the biggest increase is Pelenna (+21%) where smaller bins have been introduced along with complete coverage by the new Recycling+ service.
3. Participation has gone up by 16% in Aberdulais, where the smaller bins have been introduced but Recycling+ has yet to follow.

Waste Composition Analysis

Between 9th February and the 20th February 2015 waste composition analysis is being conducted in the County Borough, funded by Welsh Government, undertaken by Consultant M.E.L Research. As such the resultant data will be available for use by other authorities in Wales who share similar socio and demographic characteristics.

Previous analysis was undertaken via Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) as part of a national waste analysis in 2009, however since then many developments have taken place in the waste and recycling collection service within the County Borough (alongside the increase in recycling from 34% in 2009/10 to current levels of circa 58%).

The outcome of the latest survey will provide valuable data to feed into further development of the Council's waste strategy, as progress continues towards achievement of the long term statutory national recycling/composting target of 70%.

Trade Waste Fees and Charges for 2015/16

Under Delegated Powers approved by Council as part of adopting the budget, the trade waste charges for 2015/16 are being increased from 1st April 2015. To cover increased costs and encourage recycling, residual waste charges are being increased by 7% whilst recycling charges are being maintained at the 2014/15 level. Details are included as Appendix B.

Strategic Waste Reserve

As approved by Members of the Highways and Environment Board Report of July 2014, funds from the Council's Strategic Waste Reserve have been used to support implementation of the Waste Strategy, and remaining funds are currently ear-marked as shown in Appendix C.

Former Giant's Grave Landfill Site, Briton Ferry

The Giant's Grave landfill site in Briton Ferry is owned by the Council and is leased to and managed by Neath Port Talbot Waste Management Limited, the Council's LAWDaC. In January 2015 the Directors of the Company informed the Council that it is their intention to surrender the Environmental Permit issued by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for the use of Giant's Grave as a landfill site. The surrender of the permit will realise annual savings of approximately £20,000 per annum.

Although closed, the site remains under the regulatory control of NRW, which will remain the case throughout the aftercare phase, and the company is currently in discussions with NRW regarding a review of the original waste management licence to reflect the cessation of landfill operations. As with the planning permission for use of the site for landfill purposes which has lapsed, on surrender of the Environmental Permit any future activity would require reapplication under latest standards.

Given the financial and planning considerations it is proposed that NPTWML's intended surrender of the Environmental Permit is endorsed.

Materials Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC) Project Update

In March 2014 the Council commenced a procurement process for the management of waste disposal services at the MREC in Crymlyn Burrows. Consequently, four potential bidders for the new Contract have been short listed

for an invitation to tender; namely Viridor Waste Management, FCC Environmental Services, Biffa Waste Services and Cory Environmental Services.

The detailed Invitation To Tender is currently being finalised and it is expected the documents will be issued shortly. A detailed timetable will be confirmed once the remaining legal/tax issues are resolved with the current operator of the MREC, Neath Port Talbot Recycling Ltd.

Appendices

Appendix A – Participation Survey

Appendix B – Trade Refuse Annual Charges

Appendix C – Earmarked commitments against the Strategic Waste Reserve

Financial Implications

See relevant sections within report.

Sustainability Appraisal

The continuing development of waste services has a positive impact in relation to Environment and Sustainable Development.

Recommendations:

As per the proposals detailed in the report it is recommended that:

1. The proposed changes to the collection of recycling materials i.e. the separate collection of glass and associated changes, as detailed in the report are endorsed;
2. The Council dispenses with the use of bring Sites as proposed.
3. Further to Contract Standing Orders 2.1(5) and 3(x), a further single negotiated tender is accepted from FCC to extend the HWRC contract and service provision at the Pwllfawatkin site for two years from 1st April 2015, with an option to extend for an additional one year.
4. The Briton Ferry, Cymmer and Pwllfawatkin HWRC opening times are amended as detailed in the report.
5. The current Council subsidy on the sale of compost bins is removed and that bins are offered to the public at cost price, rounded up to the nearest

pound until the current stock of bins is exhausted when they will cease to be supplied.

6. The current position regarding the roll out of 140ltr bins and Recycle+ are noted, and that the proposed further collection trials, round reviews and route optimisation are endorsed;
7. The Marketing and Engagement Plan is continued for a second year as originally planned, and that the Recycling Officer and Assistant Recycling Officer posts are extended accordingly;
8. The proposed Member Enquiry Group to consider 'side waste' policy and the needs of larger families is endorsed, as detailed in the report.
9. The position concerning the latest participation survey, ongoing waste composition analysis, and Trade Waste Charges for 2015/16 is noted;
10. Commitments against the remaining funds in the Strategic Waste Reserve are noted.
11. NPTWML's proposed surrender of the Environmental Permit for the former Giants Grave Landfill Site is endorsed; and,
12. Progress with the MREC Project is noted.

Reason for Proposed Decisions

To enable the Authority to discharge its responsibility as a Waste Disposal and Waste Collection Authority and to meet budget requirements.

List of Background Papers

E & H Report – Waste Strategy Progress Update report, December 2014

E & H Report – Waste Strategy Progress Update report, July 2014

E & H Report – Extension of the Contract for the Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Pwllfawatkin Waste Management Facility, Pontardawe, March 2012

Welsh Government - Statutory Guidance on the Separate Collection of Waste Paper, Metal, Plastic and Glass, as prescribed by the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended)

Wards Affected

All

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COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

(a) Implementation of Decision

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

(b) Sustainability Appraisal

Community Plan Impacts

Economic Prosperity	No Impact
Education & Lifelong Learning	No Impact
Better Health & Wellbeing	No Impact
Environment & Transport	Positive Impact
Crime & Disorder	No Impact

Other Impacts

Welsh Language	No Impact
Sustainable Development	Positive Impact
Equalities	No Impact
Social Inclusion	No Impact

(c) Consultation

There has been no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Appendix A

WARD	PERCENTAGE 13/14	PERCENTAGE 14/15	DIFFERENCE + or-
GWYNFI	71	65	-6
CADOXTON	84	86	2
GCG	72	75	3
BRYNCOCH NORTH	87	90	3
CIMLA	87	90	3
BAGLAN	79	83	4
GLYNCORRWG	69	74	5
ONLLWYN	71	76	5
DYFFRYN	71	76	5
CRYNANT	74	79	5
RESOLVEN	80	85	5
TONNA	81	86	5
PONTARDAWE	69	75	6
CWMLLYNFELL	75	81	6
GODREGRAIG	75	81	6
BRYNCOCH SOUTH	82	88	6
YSTALYFERA	66	73	7
TAIBACH	75	82	7
COEDFFRANC N	80	87	7
RHOS	87	94	7
COEDFFRANC C	66	74	8
NEATH NORTH	66	74	8
GLYNNEATH	70	78	8
SEVEN SISTERS	75	83	8
SANDFIELDS EAST	64	73	9
LOWER BRYNAMMAN	71	80	9
SANDFIELDS WEST	72	81	9
CYMMER	65	75	10
BRITON FERRY WEST	66	76	10
MARGAM	80	90	10
NEATH EAST	58	69	11
ABERAVON	66	78	12
COEDFFRANC W	70	82	12
ALLTWEN	75	87	12
TREBANOS	71	85	14
BRYN AND CWMAVON	71	85	14
BLAENGWRACH	72	86	14
NEATH SOUTH	69	84	15
ABERDULAI	76	92	16
PORT TALBOT	65	82	17
BRITON FERRY EAST	57	76	19
PELENN	70	91	21

Trade Refuse Annual Contract Charges

Refuse component - weekly

Bin size (litres)	2014/15 collection (£)	Annual Rental (£)	2015/16 Collection * (£)	Annual Rental (£)
240	270.00	25.00	288.90	26.75
360	400.00	38.00	428.00	40.66
660	610.00	69.00	652.70	73.83
1100	840.00	116.00	898.80	124.12
Trade refuse sacks	£52.00 (per 26)		£55.64 (per 26, see Note 1)	

Note 1: Minimum requirement of agreement is to purchase 26 bags/year.

Excess waste – charged at £2.50 per bag

*Two collections per week will attract twice the collection charge (where available).

Refuse component - fortnightly

Bin size (litres)	2014/15 collection (£)	Annual Rental (£)	2015/16 Collection (£)	Annual Rental (£)
240	135.00	25.00	144.45	26.75
360	200.00	38.00	214.00	40.66
660	305.00	69.00	326.35	73.83
1100	420.00	116.00	449.40	124.12
Trade refuse sacks	£52.00 (per 26)		£55.64 (per 26, see Note 1)	

Note 1: Minimum requirement of agreement is to purchase 26 bags/year.

Excess waste – charged at £2.50 per bag

Recycling Contract Charges

For 2015/16, collection fee of £5.00 per week for all of the range of trade recycling options provided plus half price bin rental where bins are required, with the exception of trade sack and single 240 bin customers where the charge will be £3.00 per week. Traders who wish to access the Household Waste and

Recycling Centres (HWRCs) for the disposal of recyclable commercial waste will be charged £260.00 per annum (52 permits in each book purchased).

Registered Charity Contract Charges (Charity Shops)

Refuse component - weekly

Bin size (litres)	2014/15 collection (£)	Annual Rental (£)	2015/16 Collection * (£)	Annual Rental (£)
240	135.00	25.00	144.45	26.75
360	200.00	38.00	214.00	40.66
660	305.00	69.00	326.35	73.83
1100	420.00	116.00	449.40	124.12
Trade refuse sacks	£26.00 (per 26)		£27.82 (per 26, see Note 1)	

Note 1: Minimum requirement of agreement is to purchase 26 bags/year.

Excess waste – charged at £2.50 per bag

*Two collections per week will attract twice the collection charge (where available).

Refuse component - fortnightly

Bin size (litres)	2014/15 collection (£)	Annual Rental (£)	2015/16 Collection (£)	Annual Rental (£)
240	68.00	25.00	72.23	26.75
360	100.00	38.00	107.00	40.66
660	152.00	69.00	163.18	73.83
1100	210.00	116.00	224.70	124.12
Trade refuse sacks	£26.00 (per 26)		£27.82 (per 26, see Note 1)	

Note 1: Minimum requirement of agreement is to purchase 26 bags/year.

Excess waste – charged at £2.50 per bag

Recycling Contract Charges

Note: There is no legal requirement to discount recycling for charity shops as the discount relates purely to waste disposal. Therefore the same recycling charges also apply to charity shops.

Collection fee of £5.00 per week for all of the range of trade recycling options provided plus half price bin rental where bins are required, with the exception of trade sack and single 240 bin customers where the charge will be £3.00 per week. Charity shops who wish to access the Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) for the disposal of recyclable commercial waste will be charged £260.00 per annum (52 permits in each book purchased).

Trade Refuse/Recycling Service is a non-Vatable service.

Earmarked Commitments against the Strategic Waste Reserve

	<u>£'000</u>
Balance of agreed awareness and community engagement plan	75
MREC procurement (with Bridgend)	200
Allowance for winding- up of MREC operating company	200
Provision for long term residual waste treatment procurement	200
Continued investment in recycling development	235

Total	910

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2014/2015 FORWARD WORK PLAN

ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS CABINET BOARD

FOR 23RD APRIL 2015

26th May 2015	1) Offers of Grant & Acceptances	For Decision	
	2) Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) 2013/14 – 2014/15 Settlement		
	3) Sustainable Development Policy (Karen Jones)		
	4) Business Plans: D. Griffiths M. Roberts N.Pearce		

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