

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014-2017 – HALF YEAR PROGRESS REPORT (1.04.14 TO 30.09.14)





IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE 5
Increase the percentage of waste recycled and composted

RAG Status	Comments
Amber	Work is progressing to implement the Waste Strategy that was presented to Cabinet on 24 th April 2013. The overall RAG status is given as amber as further funding needs to be identified to fully implement the agreed strategy.

What we said we would do:

- 1. Progress with the implementation of the Council’s Waste Strategy to increase recycling and composting to achieve statutory recycling targets. We aim to increase our rates to 55% and work towards achieving the 2015-2016 statutory target of 58% (which is currently 52%)**

How are we doing? - The first six months performance of 60.78%, indicates that we are on target to exceed the 55% forecast for 2014/15 and on track to achieve the statutory recycling target of 58% in 2015/16.

- 2. Implement the Council’s communications and engagement plan to improve public participation by undertaking surveys to identify areas of low participation and prioritise efforts to increase participation in these areas**

How are we doing? - A recycling participation survey will be completed by December 2014. Following this survey, areas will be prioritised through our Communications and Engagement Plan to increase participation. We will also review the delivery of our Communications and Engagement Plan by the end of March 2015.

3. Introduce a phased roll out ‘Kerbside Sort’ recycling waste collection service in 2014-2015, to all accessible areas of the County Borough

How are we doing? - The council currently operates six new waste collection vehicles for kerbside sort of recyclable waste. Progress with the new service has meant that circa 20,000 households now receive the new service. The evaluation of this new service is ongoing.

4. Continue the introduction of smaller wheelie bins, prioritising the areas that have low recycling participation

How are we doing? - The Council has removed around 1,000 excess bins from some households that had more than one bin. Progress with the rollout of smaller bins is around 70% complete and has contributed to our on going improvement in recycling performance.

5. Introduce specific enforcement of commercial waste, to ensure all businesses comply with legislation by writing to all businesses. We will ensure they have valid trade waste agreements, take action against businesses that do not and undertake ad hoc inspections to ensure that businesses are presenting appropriate waste in line with their agreements (trade waste agreements with the Council only)

How are we doing? - All businesses that are not customers of the council will be contacted by March 2015 to determine their arrangements for waste collection. This will assist in ensuring that legitimate arrangements for business waste collections are in place for all businesses in the County Borough. Random ad-hoc inspections of business waste have taken place and will be ongoing to ensure waste presented matches the relevant waste agreement. By the end of March 2015 we will measure if there has been an increase in the percentage of traders (non council customers) with a waste agreement.

6. Increase the level of waste recycled by council staff in the three main centres namely Neath Civic Centre, Port Talbot Civic Centre and The Quays by increasing the recycling provision available, offering food waste recycling provision and rationalisation of ‘general’ waste bins

How are we doing? - In Neath Civic Centre and the Quays we have introduced a 40 litre box for glass at each break-out area's recycling station. We have also added a food waste caddy in each break-out kitchen area. A 1100 litre container for cardboard and two, 240 litre containers for glass have been added to the outside waste collection area at Neath Civic, as well as a 240 litre bin for glass, to the outside waste collection area at the Quays. Following a trial to recycle food waste in Port Talbot Civic Centre, it was not feasible to accommodate food caddies in all offices and this was also hindered by the ongoing accommodation changes within the building. We are considering alternative options to increase recycling amongst staff as the original options similar to those in Neath Civic Centre and the Quays may no longer be feasible. Overall, approximately 2,480 litres of extra capacity for recyclable waste equipment has been provided. We will measure the quantity of waste recycled in each building to establish a baseline and use this data to monitor the success of our staff recycling more.

In partnership, we will continue to participate in procurement of the regional treatment of food waste through Anaerobic Digestion (conversion of food waste into energy and fertilizer) which will contribute to the Council achieving statutory recycling targets

How are we doing?

- Our regional waste procurement process began in 2009 but ended in 2013/14 with the regions preferred bidder withdrawing from the procurement process. Delivery of the regional anaerobic digestion facility has therefore slipped and we are currently considering a way forward.