



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment, Regeneration and Street Scene Scrutiny Committee

19th April 2024

Report of the Head of Streetcare – Mike Roberts

Matter for Monitoring

Wards Affected: All Wards

Update on the implementation of measures in the Waste Strategy Action Plan

Purpose of Report:

To provide Members with an update on the implementation of the measures contained in the Waste Strategy Action Plan, as approved by Cabinet Board in April 2023, and progress towards achievement of the next statutory recycling performance target of 70% at the end of 2024-25.

Executive Summary:

This monitoring report has been requested by the Chair of Scrutiny further to Rule 10.1 of the Council's Constitution and provides an update in line with the purpose of the report.

Background:

Waste Strategy Action Plan

A summary update on delivery of the approved Waste Strategy Action Plan is given in Appendix A, with some additional information provided in the narrative below.

A briefing note in relation to Measure 11 regarding conducting formal consultation with respect to three weekly collections of non-recyclable residual waste and increasing recycling performance in general is given in Appendix B. Members are invited to comment on Addendum 3 to Appendix B in particular, which provides the detailed consultation information, which will be finalised with the Cabinet Member for Streetscene following the meeting.

Additional Information

Since appointment, the Recycling Officer has progressed with the following programme of works/activities:

- i. The Recycle4NPT account has now been re-activated with regular messages posted offering collection advice, how to recycle correctly etc. Engagement with the posts has increased considerably since its re-introduction and followers to the account is now circa 2,700. A stand-alone Welsh language Facebook page has also been introduced and the creation of an Instagram account is pending to further increase activity. Via these platforms the Recycling Officer will be carrying out weekly tips on recycling and a bi-weekly Questions & Answers based on questions or comments posted on the page.
- ii. Activity packs for school children has been developed and purchased, with visits to some schools and the scouts already taken place;

- iii. The recycling mascot Green Bob has been reintroduced which has proved very popular;
- iv. Introduced a programme of school visits by the Council's first electric recycling vehicle 'TREV' (The Recycling Electric Vehicle) together with Green Bob;
- v. Arranged further school visits to promote recycling for older school children where neither mascot is appropriate. Presentations are being developed for these visits which will also be available in bi-lingual format to schools who wish to give the presentation themselves;
- vi. First school visit to the Transfer Station in Crymlyn Burrows to see the processing of recycling in operation has been arranged for May 24. Some minor health and safety works have been carried out for improved access and children's PPE has been purchased in readiness;
- vii. Small community pop-up events have been held at Margam Park and Gnoll Country Park, as well as Neath Food Festival and Viva Port Talbot Christmas parade;
- viii. Community events have been held in Seven Sisters, where food waste participation is very low to reverse this trend (Re: Measure 10);
- ix. The filming of videos showing the end-to-end process of collections and reprocessing have commenced. On completion the videos will be added to the council's website and shown at community events/school visits.
- x. A former road safety event trailer has been transferred to waste services to facilitate recycling promotion at larger scale events, which will include the videos above and public feedback stations. Members will be invited to view the new Community Roadshow once works on the trailer have been

completed and also to discuss opportunities for use within individual wards.

Further to the re-introduction of free biodegradable dog waste bags for public use, it is noted that in developing the strategy the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group requested that progress on the re-introduction of the bags be reviewed in a year's time. However given the other measures within the approved strategy aimed at increasing recycling participation, particularly food waste (i.e. Measures 2, 9, and 10), Officers have been unable to determine a reliable indicator as to whether the introduction of dog waste bags has reduced the demand on food waste bags. The Waste Enforcement Section who deal with incidents of dog fouling have also improved their online reporting of incidents, and increased the number of whole team dog fouling patrols since the introduction of the dog waste bags, actively encouraging residents to report incidents and handing out dog bags. Therefore it would also not be a reliable indicator to compare whether the introduction of the dog bags have reduced the number of reported dog fouling incidents.

After the rollout of the in-cab 'live feed' data systems (Measure 1), it is proposed to present a new Side Waste Policy to Members for consideration (Measure 6), and review with Members the missed bin policy.

A new Streetcare Enforcement Policy is currently being developed (Again linked to Measure 6). The output will be presented to Members in due course for approval. As part of, or alongside this, it is also proposed to review the current value of Fixed Penalty Notices.

Alongside the main roles of dealing with waste presentation issues, applications for side waste exemptions, requests for assisted collections, the provision of recycling guidance, bin numbering and collection point changes, the Recycling Awareness and Compliance Officers have, since the introduction of the action plan:

- i. Issued in excess of 1,500 presentation warning letters;

- ii. Issued 200, S46 Enforcement Notices (*);
- iii. Issued 5 Fixed Penalty Notices, 1 paid to date;
- iv. Prosecutions for non-payment of 2 FPNs are currently being actioned, whilst 2 more will be issued in due course.

[(*) A legal notice under the Environment Protection Act about dealing with rubbish and bins. Households who have this notice served on them need to follow the rules about what they should do with their domestic waste in terms of when, where and how it is presented.]

Alongside the action plan, the Waste Service team has also conducted a review of all properties on the assisted collection service, with the support of the Survey Team. The service was last reviewed in 2020 when a total of 419 properties were removed from the list as no longer required. A similar review in 2023 has resulted in 342 properties being removed from the list as no longer required, thus ensuring capacity within the collection crews to provide assisted collections to those residents most in need.

Performance

The statutory Welsh Government target for recycling performance is currently 64%, increasing to 70% at the end of 2024/25.

The Council's overall accumulative recycling performance for Q3 (April to December) 2023 is 67.80%, up 2.65% on the same period in the previous year (subject to the usual validation by NRW). This is a third consecutive increase in the council's recycling performance compared to last year and the introduction of the Waste Strategy Action Plan adopted by Council in April 2023. The headline recycling figure for Q3 means the Council is above the current statutory target of 64%, whilst ongoing improvement is very encouraging in terms of achieving the 70% target in due course. However, whilst improvement is encouraging, at this point there can be no certainty that the Council will achieve the 70% target at the end of next year.

It is also noted that discussions have started within Welsh Government on future targets, and it has been indicated that targets will only become more challenging, with a suggested recycling performance of 80% to be required by 2035, in line with the national target to achieve zero waste by 2050.

Financial Impacts:

No implications. This report is for monitoring only.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

This report is for monitoring only and there is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No implications. This report is for monitoring only.

Workforce Impacts:

No implications. This report is for monitoring only.

Legal Impacts:

No implications. This report is for monitoring only.

Risk Management Impacts:

No implications. This report is for monitoring only.

Consultation:

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

Recommendations:

None. This report is for MONITORING only.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Summary action plan progress update

Appendix B – Member Briefing note on Measure 11 + addendums

List of Background Papers:

Environment & Highways Scrutiny Committee report of 28th January 2016 – Side Waste Restriction

Streetscene and Engineering Cabinet Report of 20th July 2018 – Waste Strategy Update

Cabinet Report of 20th September 2020 – Kerbside Textile Collections

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

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

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

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