



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27TH MARCH 2018

**SUBJECT: WASTE REVIEW – MEMBERSHIP AND SCOPE OF SCRUTINY
WORKING GROUP**

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update members on the Collaborative Change Programme (CCP) and seek the views of the Scrutiny Committee on the establishment of a Cross Party Working Group, the scope of its work programme and timescales for reporting back to the full committee.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The CCP was established by Welsh Government to facilitate the delivery of more sustainable waste management services across Wales by offering strategic and tailored support to assist local authorities in Wales in achieving the outcomes of the Towards Zero Waste Strategy and associated sector plans. Caerphilly has been actively engaged in the CCP since 2015. A series of reviews have been undertaken by Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and their appointed consultants on the key range of Waste Management services including kerbside collection services, household waste recycling centres and waste transfer station/depot infrastructure. These reviews have culminated in a series of reports which have informed a business plan and cost benefit analysis process again undertaken by Consultants appointed by WRAP.
- 2.2 It is proposed that a Cross Party Working Group is established to discuss and review the findings of the workstream reviews plus the cost benefit analysis and report back to the full committee later in the year, prior to consideration by Cabinet and Full Council.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 sets out a number of goals/principles which public bodies must apply in the strategies and services they deliver. These include:-
- A prosperous Wales;
 - A resilient Wales;
 - A healthier Wales;
 - A more equal Wales;
 - A Wales of cohesive Communities;
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language;
 - A globally responsible Wales.

The Act requires public bodies to think more about the long-term, work better with local people and communities, prevent problems and take a more joined up approach. The content of this report links into a prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales and a globally responsible Wales.

- 3.2 The Community and Leisure Services Divisional Service Plan contains specific objectives to meet a range of statutory and non-statutory targets. The plan also outlined the division's contribution to the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 3.3 Towards Zero Waste One Wales: One Planet 2010, is the overarching Waste Strategy for Wales which sets out Welsh Government's long term framework for resource efficiency and waste management including high level Statutory Recycling targets and outcomes. In 2011, the strategy was supplemented with a series of sector plans including the Municipal Sector Plan which outlines the Welsh Government's recommended service profile for the collection of waste from households (i.e. the collection blueprint, this being the WG preferred service model).

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Welsh Government Collaborative Change Programme (CCP) offers strategic and tailored support and advice to help local authorities work towards the outcomes of the Towards Zero Waste Strategy. The support covers four key phases:-
- Business Planning Toolkit;
 - Identification of gaps and changes needed to assist in achieving targets;
 - Detailed planning with forward cost forecast;
 - Implementation of the plan.
- 4.2 The Authority has been fully engaged in the process since 2015 and has been allocated support from Welsh Government via the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and their appointed consultants to undertake service reviews across a range of waste management services i.e.:-
- Kerbside collection (KAT) – Recycling, Organics and Residual Waste (considering alternative collection methods and frequencies);
 - Commercial Waste Collection (considering future pricing options and potential to increase recycling);
 - Household Waste Recycling Centres (considering future number of sites, size of sites and locations);
 - Waste Transfer Station/Depot Infrastructure (considering future WTS and depot requirements).
- 4.3 The final reports for each of the above work streams were received in 2017 and have been taken forward to the business planning stage which identifies the gaps/changes recommended by the Consultants to help achieve future statutory targets.
- 4.4 In recognition of the profile, cost and high satisfaction levels with the Authority's current waste service the review has been included as one of the Authority's Improving Services Projects reporting to the Business Improvement Portfolio Board.
- 4.5 Prior to the findings being presented to full Council, it is proposed that a Cross Party Working Group, with full geographical representation, is established to discuss and consider the initial findings of each of the workstream reviews of the CCP along with the cost benefit analysis. This group will report back to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee later in the year, prior to a recommendation being considered by Cabinet and Full Council.
- 4.6 It is proposed that the Scrutiny Committee considers the following:
- (i) Membership of the Working Group;
 - (ii) Timescale for the final report to inform the Forward Work Programme;

- (iii) Scope of work for the Scrutiny Working Group (e.g. financial implications, service delivery options, projected performance, risk analysis, capital investment, consultation and public engagement, and timescales).
- (iv) Timetable for future meetings of the working group.

4.7 It is suggested that the Working Group may want to undertake site visits to view services and infrastructure in other Local Authorities in Wales and/or across the UK so it is proposed that a minimum of 6 meetings would be required. An initial inception meeting for the group has been proposed for 25th April 2018. The group will also need to consider financial implications (including need for Capital Investment in vehicles and infrastructure), service delivery options, performance against Statutory Recycling Targets public consultation etc. and sessions on these topics can be arranged accordingly.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 The delivery of sustainable waste management services contributes to many of the 7 well-being goals but in particular:

(i) A prosperous Wales

The delivery of sustainable waste management services promotes the efficient use of resources and provides employment opportunities to the local communities.

(ii) A resilient Wales

Effective management of our natural and built environment enables the County Borough to contribute to ensuring resilience to our changing climate and global demands for greater care of the environment and its habitats.

(iii) A globally responsible Wales

In the delivery of future waste management services we need to ensure that they make a positive contribution to the global well-being of Wales and have the capacity to respond to change.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The waste budget is under significant pressure largely due to the increase in recycling processing costs and the reduction in grant allocation. Initially, these pressures were absorbed by the service area, however over the last 2 years £1.6m contingency has been allocated to cover these budget pressures (£800,000 for 2016/17 and £800,000 for 2017/18) plus the service area has deferred replacing vehicles in 2017/18, using almost £400,000 to help balance this years budget. Whilst it was hoped that these measures would assist in balancing next years budget (accepting the vehicle replacement's were only ever deferred and would need funding at some time in the future) this position has now been jeopardised with a late announcement by Welsh Government of a further £270,000 reduction in the 2018/19 funding of the Sustainable Waste Management Grant. In the last few weeks we have also been made aware of an increase in the recycling gate fee by an additional £20 per ton. This is a direct result of a significant downturn in the paper market. The anticipated impact of this is approximately an additional £300,000 per annum.

7.2 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report, although finance (current and future) will be a key consideration for the Scrutiny Working Group.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications associated with the report, although current and future staff resources will be a key consideration for the Scrutiny Working Group.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 The consultees listed below have been consulted and their views have been incorporated accordingly.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee agree to establish a cross-party working group of approximately 10 Members to discuss and review the initial findings of the CCP.
- 10.2 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the content of the report and agree the following:
- Membership of the Working Group;
 - Timescale of the Groups Final Report;
 - Scope of work for the Group.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To update the Scrutiny Committee on the initial findings of the CCP and to agree the future membership and scope of work for the Scrutiny working group in this regard.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government Acts.
Environmental Protection Act 1990.

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Consultees: Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director Communities
Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Tudor Davies, Chair of Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Christine Forehead – Vice Chair of Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny
Richard Harris, Audit Manager, Deputy Monitoring Officer
Lisa Lane, Corporate Solicitor
Robert Hartshorn, Head of Policy and Public Protection
Cath Forbes-Thompson, Scrutiny Manager
Tony White, Waste Strategy & Operations Manager
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager
Shaun Watkins, Principal Personnel Officer
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer