



## **CABINET – 12TH DECEMBER 2018**

**SUBJECT: PROOF OF RESIDENCY AT HOUSEHOLD WASTE  
RECYCLING CENTRES**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITIES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek Cabinet approval to restrict the use of the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to Caerphilly County Borough residents only and for the introduction of arrangements to require proof of residency.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A considerable number of residents living outside the County Borough are using our Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). A recent survey undertaken at the HWRCs indicated that non-resident usage accounts for between 15 – 50% of all site traffic. This is largely dependent on the location of the site and the time of day. It is evident that since the implementation of strict user rules at some of our neighbouring Authority's disposal facilities there has been a significant influx of cross border traffic into our sites. The additional traffic has put a considerable burden on our resources and our disposal costs have increased significantly. Implementing a 'proof of residence' check system will effectively control the matter and ensure that we are only receiving and disposing of material arising from residents of the County Borough.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The proposed service charges will contribute to providing more efficient, effective and compliant services, enable the Authority to continue to meet the statutory recycling targets and support the circular economy by providing secondary material for the resource recovery sector.

Caerphilly County Borough Council's impressive recycling performance reinforces our credentials as a better place to do business and hopefully attract further inward investment and create a cleaner greener environment for all.

A sustainable waste management service contributes to the following Well-being Goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- A prosperous Wales;
- A resilient Wales;
- A healthier Wales;
- A more equal Wales;
- A Wales of cohesive Communities;
- A globally responsible Wales.

#### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 It is clear that the 'cross border' use of this Council's 6 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) has been commonplace for some time. This is in part a reflection of our established network of sites being located close to population catchments on our borders particularly Trehir (near Cardiff Council), Crosskeys (near Newport City Council), Penallta (near Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council) and Rhymney (near Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Councils). Even the centrally located sites at Penmaen and Aberbargoed have experienced significant outsider traffic. Within the last two years the number of people using our sites has risen dramatically and it is quite clear that changes in neighbouring Councils' waste rules have led to an increase in traffic at all Caerphilly Council sites. Several factors have compounded matters and led to additional material having to be treated, disposed of and paid for by this Authority.
- 4.2 Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil now have strict user requirements and a lot of their residents are now driving to HWRC sites within Caerphilly county borough where such restrictions are presently not in place. Furthermore, there has been a noticeable trend for many Local Authorities to reduce the number of facilities they operate. Most neighbouring Authorities have rationalised the number of facilities on offer (see table 1 below).

<b><u>Local Authority</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Sites</u></b>	<b><u>Population</u></b>
Cardiff	2	363,000
Rhondda Cynon Taff	7	240,000
Newport	1	150,000
Blaenau Gwent	1	69,500
Merthyr Tydfil	2	60,000
Torfaen	1	93,000
Caerphilly	6	182,000
Vale of Glamorgan	2	128,000

The consequence of this is more restricted access and tighter controls on site use at the remaining HWRCs in these local authorities resulting in more non-residents coming to Caerphilly County Borough to take advantage of our disposal facilities.

- 4.3 Caerphilly has now been burdened with dealing with extra amounts of waste arising outside the County Borough. Moreover, this material has increased contamination issues resulting in additional treatment costs. This situation cannot be sustained by current operational budgets and it threatens to compromise statutory recycling performance.

- 4.4 A proof of residency requirement would control this issue. Proof of residency is now commonplace at Local Authority HWRCs and there are a number of different systems in place across the country including permit systems and requirements to show documents proving identification and home address. Following a review of options, it is proposed that users of Caerphilly Council HWRCs will be required to prove that they are a resident of the county borough by production of a valid driving licence before being allowed to use the HWRC. This is a simple proof of residency as a driving licence includes address details, a photo, and moreover it is a legal requirement to be able to produce your driving licence to the Police when driving. It is understood that the implementation of this straight forward measure in other local authorities has resulted in significant reductions in disposal costs.
- 4.5 In order to minimise disruption to residents a communication plan will be developed and implemented in advance of the proposed changes. This will include website updates, signage and leaflets on sites. Technical Assistants will assist site operatives for the first 2 weeks following implementation to engage with users and answer any queries that may arise. Additionally, neighbouring local authorities will be advised of the changes in order for them to communicate to residents and plan for any changes to their waste arisings.
- 4.6 It is therefore proposed that from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, subject to Cabinet approval and following a public awareness campaign, use of the Council's 6 Household Waste Recycling Centres will be restricted to users who are able to produce a valid photocard driving licence on request.

## 5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This proposal contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in the Links to Strategy above.
- 5.2 The delivery of a sustainable waste management service to the public fits in with the aims of the Well Being of Future Generations Act in particular the 5 ways of working:-
- **Long Term** - The proposal will help the Authority to manage its household waste arising more efficiently, effectively and resourcefully and therefore help to attain the ever increasingly stringent recycling targets.
  - **Integration** – The proposal will help to regulate site usage and harmonise operations to the benefit of Caerphilly County Borough Council residents.
  - **Inclusive** – Site users, staff and the regulatory Authorities responsible for Highways, Health and Safety and Environmental Protection are involved in this new policy implementation to deliver safer more effective services.
  - **Collaboration** - We are working with our neighbouring Authorities, government agencies to ensure we deliver best practice.
  - **Prevention** – This policy proposal will enable the Authority to provide a service that is compliant with environmental protection and safety legislation and provide a better service offer to the residents of our County Borough.

## 6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An equalities EIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Authority's strategic Equality Plan requirements.

- 6.2 This proposal is targeting people residing outside the County Borough. We will be alerting our neighbouring Councils of our intentions. The HWRC sites across the County Borough are designed for residents with vehicles. Therefore there is a positive impact to Caerphilly County Borough residents in that this proposal will free up capacity for the benefit of Caerphilly County Borough residents.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Proof of residency checks will be implemented within existing resources. Waste disposal costs from the HWRCs currently amount to £2,099,249 per year (based on 2017/18). It is anticipated that significant savings will be generated from the implementation of this policy.

## **8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications although the proposal will involve deploying our existing workforce to implement, monitor and enforce the new policy.

## **9. CONSULTATIONS**

- 9.1 The report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all consultations responses have been incorporated in the report.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 Cabinet are asked to approve the implementation of the proof of residency requirement for users at all of the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres as set out in section 4 above.

## **11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 To ensure that the Council is only disposing of and treating waste arising from residents of Caerphilly County Borough.
- 11.2 To ensure compliance with household waste recycling site licence conditions and to reduce the financial burden on the Authority.

## **12. STATUTORY POWER**

- 12.1 Local Government Act 2000 and Environmental Protection Act 1990

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Consultees:

Hayley Jones	Waste Strategy and Operations Manager
Councillor Nigel George	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services

Councillor John Bevan	Chair Waste Review Group
Councillor Denver Preece	Vice Chair Waste Review Group)
Mark S. Williams	Interim Corporate Director of Communities
Rob Hartshorn	Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services
Rob Tranter	Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Mike Eedy	Finance Manager
Anwen Cullinane	Senior Policy Officer
Shaun Watkins	HR Manager
Corporate Management Team	