



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY,
COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

14TH JANUARY 2021

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF
PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT AND
FRONTLINE SERVICES.**

Agenda Item No: 3

**REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF COVID
19 ON COMMUNITY RECYCLING
CENTRES**

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on the impact on the Community Recycling Centres during Covid 19 period.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report:
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth any further matters.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This Council as did all councils in Wales had to close the Community Recycling Centres due to the initial lockdown and then the subsequent firebreak. As these closures were taking place at the same time as many businesses were under lockdown, it meant many residents were at home having clear outs or undertaking DIY to their properties which resulted in many being unable to dispose of unwanted goods at the Centres.

4. UPDATE /ISSUES ENCOUNTERED/ CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 RCT Council incrementally year on year has improved its recycling figure, this year has seen us battle with the impact of Covid 19 which had the potential to greatly affect the services performance, this is due to a number of factors in particular the closure of the Community Recycling Centres due to Covid restrictions, together with the legislation stating that travelling to them would be classed as a non-essential journey.
- 4.2 These changes affected all Councils and not only our Council, but the closure of the CRC's. The ceasing of enforcement were real concerns as both had the potential to have a significant impact on our recycling figures.
- 4.2.1 As stated in 4.1, due to the lockdown more residents were at home undertaking house and garden tidy ups and the closure of the CRC's had some unintended consequences.
- 4.2.2 The sites reopened on the 22nd May 2020, many councils adopted a booking system, but we didn't as it was felt it could slow down the operation of them. We set out a number of rules which the users had to comply to in order for us to comply with the Covid legislation:
- Only 5 vehicles on site at one time
 - No large vans or high sided vehicles
 - Time limit of 10mins
 - Only one person to leave the vehicle
 - All material had to be able to be handled by one person
 - Staff were there only to direct residents not to assist
 - Social distancing to be adhered to at all time
 - If in a queue residents were not to leave their vehicle
 - Anyone abusive to staff would be refused entry/asked to leave
 - Proof of residency
 - Compliance with Covid legislation
- 4.2.3 The sites were extremely busy on reopening, but nearly every resident was respectful to our staff and complied with the rules, due to this, within a few days the sites were within reason working efficiently.
- 4.2.4 The legislation changed slightly in the recent lockdown and the CRC's were deemed essential and have remained open whilst there has been a slight tweak in the legislation allowing a journey to the site being now not classed as non-essential. This decision has been received really well by the general public and sites are operating in line with the guidance.

4.2.4 In addition to the points mentioned in above, we have seen a significant increase in residual waste levels and a higher proportion of contamination in the recycling with no real reason for this except more residents are at home, despite this, the new MRF at Bryn Pica has been able to deal with the contamination levels and still producing a high level of quality recycle.

4.2.5 The table below shows our performance during the first 6 months of this financial year. These figures are subject to ratification by Waste date flow and any change will be minimal.

4.2.6

	Q1 2020/21	Q2 2020/21	Total For 2020/21
Dry Reuse	0.24	271.41	271.65
Dry Recycling	15,629.22	20,561.97	36,191.19
Composting	5,937.24	6,430.90	12,368.14
Total municipal waste	32,508.95	38,923.83	71,432.78
WMT 10(iv) - Dry reuse rate	0.00%	0.70%	0.38%
WMT 10(v) - Dry recycling rate	48.08%	52.83%	50.66%
WMT 10(vi) - Composting rate	18.26%	16.52%	17.31%
WMT 09b reuse, recycling and composting rate	66.34%	70.05%	68.36%

4.2.7 For the record the performance highlighted in the table, shows that we have achieved the target set out by Welsh Government whilst only being down .0.56% on this time last year which when you take into account the pandemic it puts in a good position to be able to maintain this for the remainder of the year, thus avoiding any fines.

4.2.8 It should also be noted that last year's figures at this point were the highest ever achieved by this Council and to be so close to them on what we have encountered is testament to the resilience of our staff and our collection processes.

4.2.9 The next target for this Council is the 2024/2025 target of 70% so if we can maintain this performance and improve slightly we are well on course to achieve this considerably earlier than we need to. It is clear that provision of the new MRF at Bryn Pica has gone a long way in helping us maintain our performance .

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications aligned to this report

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 There are no Consultation implications aligned to this report

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are Financial implications in failing to achieve the statutory targets.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 There are no Legal Implications aligned to this report

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP

9.1 The recycling processes we adopted align itself to the Corporate Plan and Corporate Priorities.

9.2 This clearly is linked with the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, helping to create a resilient Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 RCT Council are proud of its recycling services and prides itself being at the forefront of continuous improvement in this area.

10.2 This is highlighted with the Eco Park plans and the development of the new Material Recycling Facility at Bryn Pica.