



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019**

**RECYCLING IN COMMUNAL AREAS – SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP**

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIROMENT, LEISURE & HERITAGE SERVICES**

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with the interim report of the Scrutiny Working Group established to deal with 'Recycling in Communal Areas' following a report from the Director of Highways and Streetcare Services to the Public Service, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on the [27<sup>th</sup> of September 2018](#).

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

2.2 Acknowledge the Interim report of the Scrutiny Working Group;

2.3 Consider the Interim recommendations put forward by the Scrutiny Working Group, as set out below;

2.4. That a community recycling engagement event, as set out in paragraph 4.6, is held at one of the following areas, which have been identified as areas of poor recycling and high levels of black bag waste, in partnership with the Social Housing Landlords and the Council's Streetcare Services team:

- Fernhill;
- Penrhys; or
- Rhydyfelin

2.5 Subject to 2.4, consider progressing an appropriate pilot scheme in one of the above areas, such as the coloured refuse bags scheme/ or the 'Red/Amber/Green' letter scheme, as referred to in paragraph 4.6.

2.6 Direct the Council's legal department to undertake meetings with the

Housing Associations in respect of data sharing and/or Service Level Agreements, as set out in paragraph 4.7; and,

2.7 That Waste Services are consulted on major planning applications, as appropriate and as referenced in paragraph 6.2.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

3.1 At the meeting of the Public Service, Communities & Prosperity Working Group held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2018, Scrutiny received a presentation in respect of Communal Area Recycling from the Director, Highways & Streetcare Services who outlined the barriers facing the service area, particularly when collecting from bin collection points (BCP's) across the County Borough.

3.2 In order to meet the Council's statutory recycling target of 70% by 2024/25, the Council needs to implement various changes to its collection methods and targeting communal areas could mean the Council captures material that is more recyclable and in turn increase its percentages.

3.3 Scrutiny learned that the key issues for consideration in respect of the communal area recycling are lack of ownership, the inability to identify offenders of contamination and the potential for becoming magnets for fly tipping. The Director advised the Committee that for all residents to comply with the waste allowances and guidelines, those areas of concern would need to be reviewed and potentially a long term waste strategy could be set up.

3.4 Following consideration of the report, Members agreed to establish a Working Group to look at how the Council could reduce black bag waste and increase quality recycling at communal bin collection points. Subsequently, nominations were sought from the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee for those Members who wished to sit on the Working Group and it was agreed that the inaugural meeting would be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

3.5 The Working Group Members comprised of County Borough Councillors S. Bradwick (Chair), C. Williams (Vice Chair), S. Owen-Jones, G. Hughes, M. Weaver, W. Owen, W. Treeby, S. Pickering, G. Stacey, D. Grehan.

3.6 At its inaugural meeting, the Scrutiny Working Group looked to establish two sub groups to oversee two specific programmes of work:

- (i) Recycling and the role of Social Landlords; and
- (ii) Recycling Enforcement issues

3.7 At that meeting, nominations were also sought for each sub group. It was agreed that a nominated chair, with the support of a lead officer, would organise the sub group's activities.

3.8 Upon completion of the review of the two sub groups, it was resolved that all

members of the Scrutiny Working Group would reconvene to review the remaining areas under the remit of the terms of reference. At the end of the review, the Scrutiny Working Group will formulate its findings and present its recommendations to the Executive.

#### **4 SOCIAL LANDLORDS SUB GROUP**

4.1 Members of the social landlords sub group met on four occasions, i.e 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2019 and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The Social Landlords sub group's membership comprised of County Borough Councillors S. Bradwick (Chair of the sub group), D. Owen, G. Hughes, M. Weaver, W. Owen.

4.2 At its inaugural meeting, held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2018, Members resolved to invite the six major Social Landlords in the County Borough to attend a meeting of the Working Group. The sub group quickly identified a list of proposed trial areas and Members acknowledged that any changes to the Council's recycling policy would depend on successfully educating residents.

4.3 At subsequent meetings, Members of the Working Group considered the relationship between Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) and communal area recycling and the role of Supplementary Planning Guidance in relation to waste management.

4.4 On the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2019, Members welcomed the following representatives from the Housing Associations to a meeting of the Working Group:

- Rhondda Housing
- Cynon Taf Housing
- Trivallis
- Newydd Housing
- Hafod Housing
- Wales and West

4.5 Following discussion, it was proposed that;

- Consideration is given to the development of a Service Level Agreement and/or data sharing agreement;
- That key trial areas are identified; and,
- That the Council work collaboratively with the Housing Associations in respect of fly tipping and waste management.

4.6 On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2019, officers from Waste Services met with representatives from Trivallis to discuss running a joint community recycling engagement event. The recycling engagement event would involve door knocking and letter dropping to promote recycling in the designated area and to identify if there are any barriers to recycling efficiently. The event could be utilised to distribute free nappy waste bags, food bins and to trial the 'Red/Amber/Green' letter scheme. The status of the letters indicate how well residents are recycling.

4.7 Should a data sharing agreement be established, it would focus on identifying the culprits of contamination through sharing information with the Housing Associations in respect of fixed penalty notices.

4.8 On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2019, Members of the Working Group agreed with the proposals in relation to a community engagement event and agreed that the Council's legal department undertakes meetings with the Housing Associations in respect of data sharing.

4.9 It is anticipated that when the trials are completed a wider strategy will be developed and implemented.

## **5. ENFORCEMENT SUB GROUP**

5.1 Members of the enforcement sub group included Councillors T Williams (Chair), D Grehan, S Pickering, G Stacey and W Treeby and in total met on three occasions, i.e 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019.

5.2 The Enforcement Sub Group considered the following;

- The development of an appropriate pilot scheme, such as coloured refuse bags; a project plan will be developed to outline the timescales for identification of the trial areas, a communication timeline, a 'go live' date, follow up consultation and monitoring;
- That further investigation is given to the option of CCTV as a deterrent in overcoming repeat contamination in recycling;
- That successful prosecutions in respect of those residents who continuously refuse to recycle should be promoted and publicised by appropriate means to act as a deterrent to other residents; and
- That communication is improved between the individual service areas in respect of recycling, street waste and particularly recycling in communal areas so that all departments are working towards a common vision and goal.

5.3 An update report was presented to the overarching Scrutiny Working Group on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2019 outlining the work of the Enforcement Sub Group and has informed the Working Group's recommendations to the Executive.

## **6. WAY FORWARD**

6.1 The Council has to meet its statutory recycling targets to avoid financial penalties. The fines are significant, and therefore changing the way the current service provision is conducted in communal areas will have a positive

impact on the municipal targets to capture more recyclable material and in turn increase its percentages.

6.2 At its previous meeting, the two sub groups joined together as one. Members of the Working Group received an update from the Waste Services & Strategic Ops Officer and Planning Policy Team Leader in relation to Supplementary Planning Guidance and waste management. In conclusion, the Scrutiny Working Group agreed to the following proposals;

- Waste Services will be consulted on major planning applications, as appropriate, and that consideration will be given to all other planning applications as to whether aspects of the proposals require consultation with Waste Services.
- Such consultation would also allow for the consideration of a condition to be formulated for temporary storage of refuse provision during the development phases of a site; and,
- Alongside this, Waste Services will seek to prepare leaflets/information packs, and liaise with the developers on how to inform residents on new build housing estates with regards to waste storage and collection.

6.3 Officers from Waste Services will continue to meet with representatives from the six major Housing Associations on a one to one basis and feedback to Members of the Working Group at every opportunity and, with the agreement of Cabinet, community engagement events will be rolled out.

6.4 Following its work, the Scrutiny Working Group will produce an evaluation report with clear recommendations to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

## **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Equality and diversity implications will be considered as part of the Working Group's recommendations and any subsequent implementation arrangements.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

8.1 There are no consultation implications arising, as yet, from this report. However, where appropriate through the process, engagement and involvement with key stakeholders will be considered as part of the development of any specific recommendations.

## **9. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Financial and resource implications will be considered as part of the

Working Group's recommendations as will any subsequent implementation arrangements going forward.

## **10. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

10.1 The proposals in this report are consistent with the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan, in particular "Place – creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work":

- Rhondda Cynon Taf's local environment will be clean and attractive...
- Rhondda Cynon Taf's parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents...

These proposals are also consistent with the Well-being Goals under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- A healthier Wales – a society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
- A Wales of cohesive communities – attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972**

**as amended by**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**List of Background Papers**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER  
FOR ENVIROMENT, LEISURE & HERITAGE SERVICES**

Item – Recycling in Communal Areas Working Group Report

**Freestanding Matter**

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