

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013-2014

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

27th January 2014

**REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR,
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Agenda Item No. 5

REFUSE/RECYCLING UPDATE

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1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report outlines an update on current position in regard to the recent changes in the refuse/recycling service.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

2.2 Note the information contained within the report.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council up until the recent changes in the service undertook the collection of black bag through a weekly collection service.

3.2 The new fortnightly collection service of black bag/bin started on the 3rd June, 2013. Whilst the recycling service remained on a weekly basis.

3.3 As part of the fortnightly collections, the council also introduced a weekly opt in nappy recycling scheme whereby a resident could register to be part of the scheme and have their nappies collected on a weekly basis again free of charge.

4 IMPACT OF SERVICE CHANGES

4.1 During the first two months, there was some disruption to the service due to a number of reasons, e.g. volume of recycling making it difficult to get all the material off the street on the right day.

- 4.2 In addition to this, there was confusion in some areas of what was the right day of collection resulting in some areas having bins/bags out on the wrong day or week and the service missing collections in some instances.
- 4.3 The introduction of the nappy scheme was targeted towards the new born and initially there was an expectation that the scheme would be built up over time with an initial take up from residents of between 500-1000.
- 4.4 The actual take up has been well in excess of 5000 requests to join the scheme with a number of these requests relating to incontinence pads.
- 4.5 Despite these teething problems, it was clear the change had the desired effect of improving the recycling rate.

5 Where are we now?

- 5.1 Despite the initial difficulties with the collections, we are now back on an even keel, and collections are undertaken on their correct day with the exceptions of vehicle breakdowns.
- 5.2 A further round review analysis has taken place where issues had been identified and we are in the process of implementing those changes.
- 5.3 The recycling figures have shown an improvement to the extent that the WG figures highlighted our council as the most improved council on recycling for the first two quarters of the year.