



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

23rd JANUARY 2020

RECYCLING WITHIN RCT – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION IN CONSULTATION WITH COUNCILLOR ANN CRIMMINGS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Cabinet with the recommendations of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group, which considered a report on the recycling performance for the first 6 months of 2019/20, the new Materials Recovery Facility, future developments at Bryn Pica and potential legislative changes.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report considered by the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group on the 18th December 2019 (attached as Appendix 1) and;
- 2.2 Agree the recommendations of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group, which is to change the recycling target to 80% by 2024/25.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To acknowledge the work of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group and their recommendation to change the recycling target in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Recycling saves energy, reduces greenhouse gasses and helps tackle climate change. Recycling will play a pivotal role in helping the Council achieve its target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.
- 4.2 RCT Council incrementally year on year has improved its recycling figure and as of the first six months of the current financial year, RCT has achieved its

recycling target set by Welsh Government, with the highest figures achieved by the Council.

- 4.3 As members will be aware, the Council has statutory targets set by Welsh Government. This year the target is 64%, failure to meet these targets could result in the Council receiving a substantial fine. The fine is based on confirmed performance, meaning every ton missed in relation to this target, could result in a minimum fine of £200 per ton.
- 4.4 In order to achieve these targets, the Council continually seeks to develop new systems to meet these targets including the development of a new Materials Recycling Facilities, to support the circular economy whilst ensuring this Council is well placed to meet current and future legislative requirements.

5. THE CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

- 5.1 The Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group met on the 18th December 2019, where they considered the report of the Group Director, Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services.
- 5.2 Outlined within the report was RCT's positive performance during the first 6 months of the financial year, which evidenced that the Council was in a position to achieve its recycling target set by Welsh Government. Members were pleased to note that the figures are the highest ever achieved by the Council.
- 5.3 The Group Director advised that the next target for the Council would be the 2024/2025 target of 70% and recommended that it is changed to 80%, along with a suitable marketing campaign informing resident enforcement action will be taken if they do not recycle.
- 5.4 The Steering Group acknowledged the Council's simple and effective method of recycling by using a singular clear bag, in comparison to other Local Authorities.
- 5.5 The Group Director informed the Steering Group of the initiatives RCT had in place to improve recycling such as the interactive education centre in Bryn Pica, the Anaerobic Digestion Facility, the Mattress Recycling Facility and the Leachate Treatment Plant. Members were informed that the ambition was to develop an Eco Park on site, which would develop a recycling process for hard plastics whereby plastics are grinded down and washed to either sell the material or turn it into a product on site.
- 5.6 Following a lengthy discussion, the Steering Group were of the view that RCT Council is at the forefront of continuous improvement in the area and was therefore, in a positive position to change the recycling target to 80% by 2024/25.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

6.1 There are no Legal Implications aligned to this report.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no equality or diversity implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

8.1 There are no Consultation implications aligned to this report.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

9.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

10.1 The recycling processes and future plans align to the Corporate Plan and Corporate Priorities.

10.2 It is also linked with the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, helping to create a resilient Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 On the 18th December 2019, the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group met to discuss the report on the recycling performance for the first 6 months of 2019/20, the new Materials Recovery Facility, future developments at Bryn Pica and potential legislative changes.

11.2 At the meeting, following a number of queries, Members resolved to recommend to Cabinet, to change the recycling target to 80% by 2024/25.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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