



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

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

15TH JULY 2021

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

Agenda Item No: 4

**REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF COVID
19 ON RECYCLING PERFORMANCE
2020/21**

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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 Council's Recycling performance 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 have all Councils in Wales has statutory targets set by Welsh Government. This year the target is again 64%, failure to meet these targets will result in the Council receiving a substantial fine. The fine is based on performance

with every tonne we miss the target by, will result in a minimum fine of £200 per tonne.

- 3.2 The Council's Recycling (& Waste) Service comprises 165 operational staff based in 3 main depots – Rhondda (Dinas Depot, Porth), Cynon (Ty Amgen Depot, Llwydcoed) and Taff (Ty Glantaf, Treforest Estate) and is responsible for the collection and management of household waste and related services.
- 3.3 The impact of the restrictions under the various periods and severity of lockdown measures has in the main been managed by changing operational practices to meet the Covid rules and guidelines to ensure services have been delivered safely both for staff and residents.

4. UPDATE /ISSUES ENCOUNTERED/ CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 RCT Council incrementally year on year has improved its recycling figure, this year has seen us contend with the impact of Covid 19 which had the potential to greatly affect the services performance, this is due to a number of factors such as closure of the Community Recycling Centres (CRC's) due to social distancing restrictions, the ceasing of enforcement on contamination of recycling, availability of distribution points for recycling bags and the social distancing rules for collection staff.
- 4.2 These changes affected all Councils, not only our Council, but the closure of the CRC's and the ceasing of enforcement were real concerns as both had the potential to have a significant impact on our recycling figures.
The absence levels of operational staff were a concern with staff having to shield or isolate with additional agency staff or staff from other services providing support.
- 4.3 Another factor which affected the service was the closing of numerous distribution points for recycling bags which could have made it difficult for residents to be able to get recycling bags, but to counter that, we opened a bag request system online and redirected the enforcement team to deliver to our residents.
- 4.4 The social distancing legislation made it impossible for our crews to run with 3 in a cab, therefore we had to implement a convoy system whereby we have two staff in a cab and another following in a support vehicle, this has been an added expense to the service, but has allowed us to continue with the level of service we provide and we are still implementing that system.
- 4.5 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 Material Recycling Facility (MRF) at Bryn Pica has been able to deal with the contamination levels and are still producing a high level of quality recycle.

- 4.6 The table below shows our performance during the **full year 2020/21** as **68.55%**. These figures are subject to ratification by Waste date flow and any change will be minimal.

	Q1 2020/21	Q2 2020/21	Q3 2020/21	Q4 2020/21	Total For 2020/21
Dry Reuse	0.24	271.41	256.78	49.01	577.44
Dry Recycling	15629.22	20,522.30	17,987.87	21,512.74	75,652.13
Composting	5,937.24	6,430.90	4,203.74	4,344.34	20,916.22
Total municipal waste	32,508.95	38,687.74	32,063.04	38,457.60	141,717.33
WMT 10(iv) - Dry reuse rate	0.00%	0.70%	0.80%	0.13%	0.41%
WMT 10(v) - Dry recycling rate	48.08%	53.05%	56.10%	55.94%	53.38%
WMT 10(vi) - Composting rate	18.26%	16.62%	13.11%	11.30%	14.76%
WMT 09b reuse, recycling and composting rate	66.34%	70.37%	70.01%	67.36%	68.55%

- 4.7 For the record the performance highlighted in the table, shows that we have achieved the target set out by Welsh Government which when you take into account the pandemic is a considerable achievement and has avoided any fines.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 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.

- 4.10 The table below illustrates the tonnages for **green, nappy** and **food waste**

Waste type	Annual tonnages	Weekly average tonnage
Green Waste (seasonal)	8,450	230
Nappy Waste (8,000 customers)	2,154	35 - 40
Food Waste	12,946	240

4.11 The table below illustrates the tonnages for **Community Recycling Centres (CRC's)**

CRC	Annual tonnage 2020/21
Dinas	9,171
Llantrisant	8,473
Llwydcoed	7,243
Treforest	6,404
Treherbert	4,453
Ferndale	2,747
Total 2020/21	38,494 tonnes
Total 2019/20	37,440 tonnes

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 how it performed during the pandemic to continue to deliver services and meet statutory targets.