



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23

**CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES
& PROSPERITY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

26TH OCTOBER 2022

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF
FRONTLINE SERVICES.**

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Agenda Item No: 6

**REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S
RECYCLING PERFORMANCE
2021/22**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members of the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on the Council's Recycling performance.

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 pandemic 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 continued impact of Covid 19 which had the potential to greatly affect the service's performance, this is due to a number of factors such as the reduction in enforcement activity on contamination of recycling, reduced awareness campaigns (eg door knocking) to further raise awareness of services available for recycling.

4.2 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 performed well to maintain reasonable levels of recovery of quality recycle.

4.3 The table below shows our performance during the **full year 2021/22** as **67.23%** with the performance of **67.48% for the first quarter of 2022/23**.

	Recycling Rate	Food Waste	AHP	Green Waste
2019-20	64.78%	11,653.70	1,978.91	7,965.78
2020-21	66.74%	12,957.46	2,154.82	8,449.49
2021-22	67.23%	12,306.52	1,949.88	7,163.12
Q1 2022-23	67.48%	2,816.72	460.16	2,090.50

4.7 For the record the performance highlighted in the table, shows that we have achieved the target set out by Welsh Government (for 2020 of 64%) 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 continue at that level against the continued challenges of the pandemic 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% (with the target of 80% being the Council's aspiration) so we need to work on further strategies and changes to further improve to reach the 70% target and work towards 80%.
- 4.10 The new MRF at Bryn Pica has gone a long way in helping us maintain our performance and recover high levels of recycling although the issue of contamination of recycling presented for collection by residents needs addressing.
- 4.11 The table below illustrates the tonnages for **green, nappy and food waste**

Food Waste

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2019-20	2,729.10	2,751.22	3,061.76	3,111.62
2020-21	3,218.88	3,064.56	3,301.48	3,372.54
2021-22	3,080.86	2,970.98	3,171.60	3,083.08
2022-23	2,816.72			

AHP

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2019-20	463.48	430.48	552.82	532.13
2020-21	522.16	511.08	534.94	586.64
2021-22	497.50	462.10	499.64	490.64
2022-23	460.16			

Green Waste

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2019-20	2,750.09	3,199.60	1,021.54	994.55
2020-21	2,827.43	3,496.82	1,034.57	1,090.67
2021-22	2,685.15	2,678.68	1,076.82	722.47
2022-23	2,090.50			

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. The

Council is grateful to the residents of RCT for positively engaging in the waste collection and recycling processes established across RCT.

- 10.2 The future 80% recycling targets set by RCT Council in the short term and those of the Welsh Government of zero waste towards 2050, will require fundamental changes across, not only the waste industry, but reaching into the supply side; all manufacturers, suppliers and producers of all materials, foods, packaging, electrical products, etc.