

Executive Board
DATE: 29TH JULY 2019

SUBJECT:
Kerbside Residual Waste Restriction

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present a way forward to increase Carmarthenshire's recycling performance through a policy of restricted residual waste from kerbside collections.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- To adopt and approve the Restricted Residual Policy
 - 3 residual sack/black bag kerbside limit
 - Residual sack/black bag engagement and sorting at HWRCs
- Review Policy in 12 months

Reasons:

Implementing the proposed policies will encourage householders to use the correct disposal/recycling methods for their different waste streams which will divert recyclable materials such as food, plastic, metals and paper from the residual waste stream (black bag) into our recycling schemes.

This increased recycling participation will deliver economic and environmental benefits to the Authority and avoid the potential for costly fines by ensuring our Welsh Government statutory recycling target of 64% is met.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: N/A

Exec Board Decision Required	YES
------------------------------	-----

Council Decision Required	NO
---------------------------	----

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Hazel Evans (Environment Portfolio Holder)

Directorate Environment	Designations:	Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses:
Name of Head of Service: Ainsley Williams	Head of Waste and Environmental Services	(01267) 224500 AiWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Daniel John	Environmental Services Manager	01267 228131 djohn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Board

DATE: 29th July 2019

Kerbside Residual Waste Restriction Policy

1. Carmarthenshire County Council provides waste services to approximately 89,000 households and offers a fortnightly residual black bag waste collection with a limit of four bags per household, a fortnightly co-mingled kerbside recycling service and a weekly food collection. Kerbside bulky and garden waste are also offered as separate chargeable services.
2. In 2017-18 Carmarthenshire County Council was exceeding the Welsh Government recycling target of 64%, with an overall recycling rate of 66%. However, our performance this year has dropped to just under 59%, meaning we have narrowly met the 2017-18 statutory target of 58%.
3. At present there is a significant risk of not meeting the statutory recycling target of 64% in this financial year (2019/20) and therefore being potentially exposed to significant financial penalties from Welsh Government.
4. In the absence of any other developments, in-year changes to the way the service operates will be required to meet the targets of 64% in 2019-20 and 70% by 2024-25, with officials from Welsh Government already proposing the introduction of more challenging targets beyond this timescale.
5. The Council have already implemented additional policies and controls at HWRC sites in March of this year to increase recycling performance, with residual waste sorting to commence on sites in October this year. However, due to the ambitious Welsh Government target of 64% which needs to be met this year, additional measures must be considered to increase our recycling performance to avoid a potential fine of £164,000 for every 1% failure of the target.
6. It is the duty of Carmarthenshire County Council to arrange for the collection and disposal of household waste as stated in Section 45 and 48 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA). The EPA (46(1)) permits Councils to require householders to place waste for collection in receptacles of a kind and number specified. At present Carmarthenshire County Council stipulates that no household is permitted to place more than 4 black bags out for collection in any given collection period (two weeks). In order to meet statutory targets a review of this policy is required to ensure an uplift in our recycling performance.
7. To support Carmarthenshire with our current service review programme WRAP Cymru have been engaged through the Welsh Government sponsored Collaborative Change Programme (CCP). The CCP programme for Wales offers strategic and technical support to aid local authorities develop and deliver detailed reviews and plans to achieve the outcomes of the Welsh Government's Waste Strategy - Towards Zero Waste. WRAP Cymru have provided specific support on behalf of the Welsh Government for our review into residual waste restrictions and wider collection methodology in future.
8. Without implementing in- year changes and not adopting tighter restriction to the black bag system, it will be extremely challenging to achieve the statutory recycling target of 64% in 2019/20. With the potential of WG to levy fines of £164,000 for every 1% we miss this target there is a major risk of increased costs and reputational damage to Carmarthenshire in failing this target.

9. For cost comparison purposes for every 1% failure of the target the fine is the equivalent of 3.5 teachers or 6.6 domiciliary care workers. If as a Council we were not to improve on the 2018/19 recycling performance of 59% it could result in a fine of £820k. This is the equivalent of 17 teachers or 33 domiciliary care workers.
10. It is therefore proposed that a reduction is implemented to the black bag household limit with the approval of a detailed residual restriction policy to take effect in October 2019 (Attached in appendix). This policy proposes a reduction in the limit from 4 to 3 sacks per fortnight per household with current exemptions to the policy still accepted (e.g. large families). It is further proposed that we review this limit again in 12 months with a view to further reducing the limit on black bags if the recycling target is not being met. In addition to this, we will be reviewing the nappy and absorbent hygiene product collection service over the next 12 months to support households with any potential further restrictions in October 2020.
11. Whilst controls on commercial use and non-resident use implemented in April 2019 has resulted in a reduction to overall waste through the HWRC network further action to address the amount of residual waste onsite is necessary to increase our overall recycling performance.
12. It is proposed that designated sorting areas within each of the HWRCs are provided. Residents will be supported through education on correct material segregation from within the mixed residual bag waste presented, into the appropriate receptacles for recyclable materials and will be provided with the necessary receptacles if they do not currently have them at home.
13. A summary of predicted performance based on current year interventions to meet target of 64% are set out as follows:
 - 2018/19 baseline recycling result = 58.9%

Proposed new intervention measures and predicted effects on recycling:

 - HWRC Controls – Black bag sorting = 3.1% (62% cumulative recycling figure).
 - New residual waste treatment contract = 1.1% (63.1% cumulative recycling figure).
 - Food Uplift only (use of liners) - 1.29% (64.39% cumulative recycling figure).
 - Black bag Restriction including food uplift figure above = 3.3% (cumulative = 66.4%).
14. In order to deliver resident awareness, recycling participation and reduce any objections to the policy changes, a full communication strategy will be developed and delivered alongside the corporate marketing team.

Summary of Recommendations for approval:

The following policy recommendations for approval are:

- Approve the Carmarthenshire County Council Restricted Residual Policy – to include
 - Kerbside black bag restriction 4 bags to 3 per fortnight
 - Implement HWRC controls for residual bags - engagement and sorting
- Review restricted residual policy in 12 months based on performance.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Ruth Mullen Director of Environment

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Finance

All recommendations are within current budgets and will potentially, dependent on the possible additional operational costs, produce efficiencies as well as avoiding WG penalty fines if recycling targets are met.

RhJ 15.06.19

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Ainsley Williams Head of Waste and Environmental Services

1. Scrutiny Committee
2. Local Member(s)
3. Community / Town Council
4. Relevant Partners
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection