

Appendix 2

Joint Scrutiny Committee 27th March 2023

Members supported and agreed that the authority must make changes to waste collection in order to meet the targets set by Welsh Government and this action needed to be urgently taken in order to prevent non-compliance fines being imposed on the Local Authority.

However, concern was expressed that the failure to meet targets had not been highlighted sooner, rather than rushing through a strategy now without sufficient notice to Members.

Members emphasised that the reducing and reusing message should share equal importance with recycling and asked what if any partnership could be formed with local supermarkets not only in terms of reducing packaging, but also in the way in which perishable foods were packaged in large quantities encouraging people to purchase loose vegetable and fruits in smaller amounts and therefore reduce food waste.

Members highlighted the various references within the strategy to processing via the Bryn Group and raised concerns about the impact of increased heavy vehicle movements through communities where there were already traffic concerns.

Members on the whole did not support the offer of food caddy bags as an incentive to recycle food waste and saw this as an unnecessary expense, particularly as any type of bag can be used for this purpose.

In relation to the 3 weekly collection and the consultation process Members expressed concern that if this was not a realistic proposal then it should not be offered as a consultation option. If Officers were of the opinion that only a 4 weekly collection would ensure that the required targets are reached, then only the 4 weekly options should be offered to residents.

Members sought assurances that if the 3 weekly collection was proven to be the residents preferred option following the consultation, then this would be upheld. There was more support for three weekly collections which it was felt may be more acceptable to the public and there was limited support for four weekly collections.

Members debated the 3 weekly and 4 weekly collection options and concerns were expressed for those with larger families and what would happen to waste once the bin became full and that there was a real risk of increased fly tipping as a result. But supported the proposal to align collection days which they agreed would make it easier for residents.

In relation to Household Waste Recycling Centres, Members felt that the closing of the Penmaen Centre would be counter intuitive when trying to actively encourage the people to recycle.

Members discussed the proposal to introduce a booking system at HWRC, and many concerns were expressed in relation to this and the impact that it would have on those working full time, and that this would again lead to increased fly tipping. Assurances were also sought on identification checks at sites to ensure that people from outside the borough were not using the sites. Members expressed concern that on visits they had made, no checks had been taken. Members queried whether the booking system would mean that later evening appointments would be offered. They also expressed the concern that the booking system could lead to increase road journeys for residents who could not secure appointments at their local site and that this again would have a negative impact in terms of carbon emissions from increased journeys.

Members requested greater details on the rationale for the proposed closure of the Penmaen site.

Members were very supportive of the Education, Engage, Encourage proposals within the strategy and agreed that education and engagement would be key. It was also felt that education and engagement should be extended to involve schools and community groups.

In relation to enforcement, although only considered when all other options had failed, Members agreed that this needed to be clearly defined and that a strategy for enforcement needed to be developed.

Members were pleased to note the proposal to offer nappy/hygiene collection service and queried if there were any proposals to do the same for animal waste.

Members expressed concern that Waste Staff had been subject to abuse when trying to enforce recycling practice.

In relation to the proposal to introduce a task and finish group, Members highlighted that a similar group had been previously established although the outcome of the groups work, and any recommendations made had not been fed back to the Scrutiny Committee and that these should be used as a starting off point should a new group be established.

Members requested sight of the public consultation document before it was circulated.