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Bridgend County Borough Council



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**Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief  
Executive's Directorate**

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643696

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Mrs Julie Ellams

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

**Dyddiad/Date:** Tuesday, 17 July 2018

Dear Councillor,

**SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3**

A meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB on **Monday, 23 July 2018 at 09:30.**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence  
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including whipping declarations)
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 14  
To receive for approval the minutes of the meeting of the 19/04/2018 and 12/06/2018
4. Forward Work Programme Update 15 - 26
5. Plastic Free Bridgend County 27 - 58

**Invitees:**

Zak Shell, Head of Neighbourhood Services

Andrew Hobbs, Group Manager Streetworks

Paul Thomas, Principal Surveyor – Property & Facilities Management

Cllr Richard, Young Cabinet Member Communities

6. Urgent Items

To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

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Yours faithfully

**K Watson**

Head of Legal and Regulatory Services

Councillors:

SE Baldwin  
TH Beedle  
N Clarke  
P Davies  
DG Howells  
A Hussain

Councillors

DRW Lewis  
JC Radcliffe  
RMI Shaw  
JC Spanswick  
RME Stirman  
G Thomas

Councillors

JH Tildesley MBE  
E Venables  
MC Voisey  
DBF White

# Agenda Item 3

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 - THURSDAY, 19 APRIL 2018

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 19 APRIL 2018 AT 09:30

#### Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

SE Baldwin	TH Beedle	P Davies	DG Howells
A Hussain	RMI Shaw	RME Stirman	G Thomas
E Venables	MC Voisey		

#### Apologies for Absence

N Clarke and DRW Lewis

#### Officers:

Sarah Daniel	Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

#### Invitees:

Lynne Berry	Group Manager Housing & Community Regeneration
Andrew Jolley	Corporate Director Operational & Partnership Services
Martin Morgans	Head of Performance and Partnership Services
Councillor Dhanisha Patel	Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations

#### 35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:-

Councillor N Clarke  
Councillor DRW Lewis

#### 36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

#### 37. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services submitted a report which was presented by the Scrutiny Officer which, was to:

- a.) Present the items prioritised by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC), including the next item delegated to this Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- b.) Present the Committee with a list of further potential items for comment and prioritisation;
- c.) Ask the Committee to identify and further items for consideration using the pre-determined criteria form;

- d.) Consider and approve the feedback from the previous meetings of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3, and note the list of responses, including any still outstanding at Appendix A to the report.

The report gave some background information, then referred to the attached Appendix B, the overall Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees (SOSC's), which included the topics prioritised by the COSC for the next set of SOSC's in Table A of the report, as well as topics that were deemed important for future prioritisation at Table B.

A Member was of the opinion that the subject of Empty Properties should be followed-up, and therefore, this important Item should remain on the FWP and revisited in 6 months' time.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be approved and noted.

38. **EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION**

The Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services presented a report on the provision of emergency accommodation for people presenting as homeless within Bridgend. The report also focused on the hostel provision at Brynmenyn, with a view to responding to Committee's queries regarding its quality and appropriateness of provision. Finally, the report also identified a number of 'long list' options for consideration as a potential replacement provision (for the Brynmenyn hostel).

The Group Manager Housing and Community Regeneration gave an outline of the report and advised that the Housing Act (Wales) Act 2014 had changed the focus of support for homelessness and housing to prevent and relieve homelessness, and to ensuring that people in this position, receive help as soon as possible.

The table in paragraph 3.2 of the report, reflected that Total Presentations of people presenting themselves as homeless had increased in the last few years. This was due to the fact that everyone that was considered eligible was entitled to help; however, the number of 'final duty' priority need unintentionally homeless acceptances had substantially fallen.

She added that the Authority together with its partners had to respond in a reactive manner within a short timescale, to ensure that interim/emergency accommodation was available for people we had a homelessness duty to particularly those individuals who were regarded as vulnerable, until such time suitable permanent accommodation was found. If the number of homelessness applications and 'final duty' acceptances increased, then the expected demand for interim/emergency accommodation would also be higher.

The Group Manager Housing and Community Regeneration, confirmed that emergency accommodation was provided at the hostel in Brynmenyn, as well as in Ty Ogwr and Cornerstone, emergency bed space at the Kerrigan project and leased temporary accommodation. Although not part of this emergency accommodation, information on the nightly floor space (floor space at the Kerrigan run by Gwalia) had been highlighted in the report, in order to provide context to the needs of street homeless provision for those that the Authority had no housing 'duty' towards, but which nevertheless require a place to sleep overnight. This was in the form of a direct access provision which had 9 nightly floor spaces for street homeless people.

The Group Manager Housing and Community Regeneration confirmed that it was not just families that required emergency housing, as there was now a trend also for the support of single people without children.

The Cabinet Member - Future Generations and Wellbeing, advised Members that the main place in the County Borough at Brynmenyn Hostel, where individuals could be afforded accommodation as a matter of urgency, was mostly effective in terms of a provision of service. The problem was that the building was old and outdated, and required modernising as well as certain other adaptations.

A Member felt that the service that was being provided in terms of the provision of Emergency Accommodation was well regarded. There was an issue however with individuals being provided this in the valley areas, as they were remote from a town, with these people having limited resources to pay for public transport in/out of such a location, where there was more to offer them.

The Group Manager Housing and Community Regeneration, advised that there were floating support systems available for all areas which included the more remote areas of the County Borough. Housing Support Services actually encouraged and supported individuals to remain in-tenancy, regardless where this was within the County Borough, as it was important that all the different types of accommodation available were being taken up by tenants, whether this was through a Registered Social Landlord or by other means, as this meant that there were less people classed as being 'homeless.'

A Member asked if the situation could ever arise, whereby those people who presented themselves to the local authority as being homeless, were refused some kind of accommodation, whether this be temporary through being provided with emergency housing, or something more permanent.

The Group Manager Housing and Community Regeneration advised that the Council were required to meet its obligations under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, under which some individuals met the requirements of being offered emergency accommodation, though others did not. She advised Members that some people actually chose to sleep on the streets, and others were not able to secure or remain in-tenancy due to ongoing behavioral issues. These people were often then evicted because of their behaviours, which meant that although the Council had met its duty to house these people, it was unsuccessful. Under the direct access arrangements the Authority were still able to provide a further option for some of these people with direct access bed space if they subsequently sought this, whereby they would then be given access to the short term direct access provision ie an area of floor space. She added that there were a considerable number of complexities associated with homelessness was incumbent upon the Authority to attempt to resolve this.

A Member advised that he was aware from previous experience, that as many as 51% of single males who were looking to be housed on a more permanent basis, failed in this regard, He felt that this was far too high a percentage.

A Member asked what the success rate was for individuals who were initially provided emergency floor space, then proceeded to secure more permanent accommodation through a tenancy arrangement.

The Group Manager Housing and Community Regeneration, advised that they were initially interviewed and assessed for housing which included information on their health needs, requirements and their financial status. They would be offered advice and guidance and where suitable offered and provided with rented or temporary accommodation. Some people who were offered this proved to be successful in

retaining this, but the ones that did not were usually due to the fact that they were not ready to progress from emergency floor space to something more secure, due to a variety of reasons meaning that they were unable to see out the responsibilities associated with more permanent tenancy arrangements. People can present at the Civic Offices where accommodation options and access any advice they may require from appropriate staff.

The Head of Partnerships and Performance added that there was a pilot exercise ongoing that offered a more diverse, consistent and supportive process for landlords and tenants of the private housing sector, to reduce the number of people who were facing crisis arising from a letting situation, ie by getting into debt through rent arrears, and those who required support for reasons of ill-health etc. He added that there was a problem finding suitable accommodation for single males.

The Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services added that even though the facility in Brynmenyn was in need of replacing, it was still an excellent short term accommodation support service for single people or couples. It did however, lack a number of facilities.

The Wallich representative further added, that even though it was lacking in certain facilities, the Brynmenyn Hostel was regarded as one that could provide emergency accommodation for families, whereas Ty Ogwr was more suitable for single homeless people on an interim basis, prior to them being considered for referral to accommodation of a more permanent nature.

The Group Manager Housing and Community Regeneration informed Committee that the pattern of usage at Brynmenyn Hostel had changed in the last year or so, in that more single people, or one parent families had shown an interest in being temporarily housed there than previously. It was hard to ascertain if this pattern would continue moving forward, though this would be monitored in order to look at providing options of future provision of Emergency Accommodation,

A Member was aware that the service being provided was a fairly efficient one, though like other Members he noted that the facilities at Brynmenyn hostel were no longer deemed fit for purpose, due to a lack of adequate facilities to support peoples differing needs.. He was aware of the ongoing financial restraints facing the Council in finding a suitable replacement facility to this hostel. He felt there were avenues that could be explored, with a view to assist the funding of a new hostel, possibly through the Capital Revenue budget and/or support from partners. He added when the Authority recruit to the new post of Empty Properties Officer, whose main aim and objective would be to ensure that empty properties become occupied, the situation would hopefully improve. He further added that Officers should look at possibly utilising other empty Council owned buildings that may be suitable to use as Emergency Accommodation, as opposed to remaining empty.

The Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services advised that whilst he was entirely in favour of the possible options moving forward as outlined in the report, he confirmed to Members that any option that was pursued needed to be within budget and at present the Council had no scope under the MTFs for any further Capital spend. The next part of the process to be explored was the best way to proceed with the financing of an alternative facility to Brynmenyn.

A Member confirmed that he had visited the emergency accommodation facility at Ty Ogwr, and asked the costs to temporarily house a person there, how this cost was met, and the methods the Authority worked with Registered Social Landlords to deliver such a service.

The Group Manager Housing and Community Regeneration advised that she would obtain this information and pass it on to Members, though there were some details regarding funding to assist with the problem of homelessness in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 of the report. This was provided through a combination of Council funding, Welsh Government homelessness funding and Supporting People Programme Grant funding, for facilities such as B&B Leased Void (accommodation), Brynmenyn Hostel, and the Ty Ogwr and Cornerstone facilities.

A Member asked if the totals of funding detailed in the Table in paragraph 3.5 of the report were calculated over an annual period, to which the Head of Partnerships and Performance confirmed that they were.

A Member asked what work was being undertaken with The Council's Leaving Care team in order to prevent homelessness for people under the age of 25.

The Group Manager Housing and Community Regeneration, advised that Officers involved in the provision of emergency accommodation did work with Social Services to explore certain preventative measures for people who could find themselves in a vulnerable position, such as those leaving care. Discussions were taking place to discuss grant funding opportunities for developing new projects that would assist in any complexities associated with the future housing needs of young people. The plan was to have a joint approach to bring both their Social Care needs as well as housing related support mechanisms together at an early stage after individuals leave care. This included accommodation needs and any more complex avenues of support they may require.

A Member felt that Supporting People Programme Grant could be placed on a future Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda as a separate item and he agreed to complete a criteria form to support this.

He then referred to the Direct Access/Floor Space arrangements that were available at the Kerrigan facility that had been open in Waterton since November 2017 for age 18+ age group. He asked if the information in the report referred to floor space or bed space at the Kerrigan Facility.

The representative from The Wallich advised that there were 2 rooms at this facility used for the floor space provision, and people housed there under temporary arrangements slept in beds, rather than the fold-up type that was previously provided. Female and male visitors were also kept separately from each other.

A Member asked if there was any statistics available that could indicate the number of people who were sleeping as homeless on the streets in Wales.

The representative from The Wallich confirmed that there was data available but the figures fluctuated almost on a daily basis.

The Area Manager Pobl Group confirmed that daily returns on the above were provided to BCBC in terms of numbers who were given temporary accommodation at places such as the Kerrigan, and she confirmed to Members that last night there had been 7 people that were given a bed at the facility.

A Member noted that there were options outlined in the report for future provision of temporary accommodation that could house the homeless on a temporary arrangement, and asked if any of those were the preferred option at this point in time.

The Head of Partnerships and Performance advised that no option illustrated in the report was off the table, and that these, together with any possible added ones would be given further consideration before a final choice was made.

A Member asked if consideration had been given to any vacated property owned/leased by the Council (for example a closed Extra Care facility) to be used as a form of temporary/emergency accommodation for the homeless. .

The Head of Partnerships and Performance advised that this was being considered together with other options with the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate.

A Member further suggested that the Assia Suite could also be considered as a suitable option for this purpose.

A Member felt that the report required further information on cost implications for the future options that were to be considered.

A Member asked if there was any funding to explore for the support of Emergency Accommodation provision, other than Social Housing Grant funding which appeared to be ever decreasing.

The Head of Partnerships and Performance confirmed that the Social Housing Grant funding was available and the use of Registered Social Landlords to provide such temporary accommodation options was less of a financial burden, as opposed to drawing upon any Capital Funding that may be made available by BCBC.

### **Conclusions**

Members wished to thank all officers and external agencies in attendance at the meeting and for their comments and contributions to the report. The Committee recognised the excellent support service provided to people presenting themselves to the emergency accommodation provision and were encouraged by the partnership working in managing these provisions.

In relation to the options of a replacement facility in Brynmenyn, Members requested further information on each of the options before making a recommendation on their preferred option. They asked for officers to scope out further, all options presented to them and asked them to bring back to Scrutiny options on a replacement facility in the short, medium and longer term and to provide more detailed costings and timescales for each.

Members recommended that officers explore the opportunity to utilise surplus Local Authority owned buildings such as care homes that could be brought back into use.

Members recommended that a permanent direct access floor space needs to be established for longer term use and officers should take an integrated approach in development of any new facility. Members recommended the permanent direct access floor space could be used as a hub for service users to access a range of support services and suggested that they explore the successful model of the Assia suite at the Authority's Civic Offices which is central in location, therefore easier to access a range of external support agencies with ease.

### **Further Information requested**

Members asked to receive information on the costs to house an individual at Ty Ogwr per annum.



**SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 - THURSDAY, 19 APRIL 2018**

Members requested a site visit to the Kerrigan Project direct access floor space facility that is managed by Gwalia with a relevant BCBC officer so they are able to see what facilities are available and report back to the full Committee.

Members asked for the approximate figures of street homelessness in Bridgend. Members understood that this fluctuates on a daily basis, but asked for approximate figures so they could understand the scale of the problem.

39. URGENT ITEMS

None.

The meeting closed at 12:00

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**SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 - TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 2018**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB  
ON TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 2018 AT 09:30**

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

SE Baldwin	TH Beedle	N Clarke	P Davies
A Hussain	DRW Lewis	JC Radcliffe	RMI Shaw
RME Stirman	G Thomas	E Venables	MC Voisey
DBF White			

Apologies for Absence

DG Howells and JH Tildesley MBE

Officers:

Sarah Daniel	Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Julie Ellams	Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Invitees:

Kevin Mulcahy	Group Manager - Highways Services
Zak Shell	Head of Neighbourhood Services
Mark Shephard	Corporate Director - Communities
Councillor Richard Young	Cabinet Member Communities

40. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of a meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 of 21 March 2018 be approved as a true and accurate record.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

42. NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO SCRUTINY PANEL

**Recommended**

The Committee nominated Cllr David Lewis to sit on the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

43. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION REPORT

**Recommended**

The Committee nominated Cllr DBF White as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee at meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

44. HIGHWAY SERVICES REVIEW

Members considered a report on the impact of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) on Highway Services. The Corporate Director Communities outlined the level of efficiency savings in the highways services budget and the reduction in staff whilst trying to maintain an appropriate level of service. He explained that the majority of services were a statutory provision however the exact level of service or standard was not specified. He outlined the asset value of the highway network and the expected future pressures. He also referred to the need for innovative solutions and collaboration to improve responsiveness and resilience in the future.

Members were expecting a People2 report to be included within the Highways Services Review and they questioned the value of considering this report without that information. The Corporate Director Communities explained that the People2 report was not part of the Highway Services Review.

Members discussed grass cutting and in particular, current weather conditions, the reporting of hazards, the different lengths of cut, drainage and ecological corridors, checks on the work of the contractors, procurement and criteria for the tender and value for money. The Head of Neighbourhood Services explained that grass cutting was not part of the Highway Services Review and the officers that specialised in grass cutting were not in attendance. However he would pass on the Committee's comments to the relevant officers in advance of the procurement of a new grass cutting contract.

The Group Manager Highway Services referred to the DLO service and the experience and diversity of the team in carrying out duties that would otherwise require individual specialist contracts outside of the authority. Members asked for schedules of grass cutting and highway resurfacing within the Borough.

Members discussed the maintenance of street signs, cleansing and the removal of undergrowth, TCC's sharing the costs of replacing signs and statutory and non- statutory requirements to clean different signs. The Group Manager Highway Services explained that his team was responsible for the work and that there had been a significant reduction in staff. Highway Inspectors would identify any work that needed to be carried out and schedules updated to incorporate replacement, cut back or cleansing if required.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services explained that there were originally 4 hazarding gangs but that had now reduced to 1. The team made every effort to allocate the resources effectively but it was a huge challenge. He reported that an environmental grant had been secured for a study into biodiversity and roadside verges and the results would be available later this year.

Members discussed a number of other issues including maintenance work at the bus station, fixing potholes, clearance of gullies and the use of goats to clear land in a more natural way.

The Cabinet Member Communities reported that he was listening to the Committees questions, concerns and comments on the appearance of the area. Officers were mindful of safety and doing the best they could. He was also grateful to some of the Town Councils for stepping up and taking on some of the responsibilities.

Members asked for more information on general defects and intervention levels. The Head of Neighbourhood Services reported that they had been successful securing capital for resurfacing the highway network. Following a presentation on the level of investment required, they had secured £1.3 million from WG and internally had £5 million over the next few years to maintain a highway asset with a value of in the order of 1billion pounds. This would mean that the worst of the roads could be repaired and they

could attempt to maintain the status quo. The Cabinet Member Communities referred Members to a detailed report that had recently been submitted to Audit Committee on highways inspections and complaints.

A member referred to the current revenue budget of £4m per annum which he believed to be perilously low. He welcomed the opportunity to work more intelligently and collaboratively to deal with more than 10 thousand requests per annum. The Corporate Director Communities agreed and said there was a projected schedule but this contained an element of confidentiality. Members stated that the better informed they were, the easier it was to manage situations.

Members asked how inspections were arranged taking into account how quickly problems could develop. The Group Manager Highway Services explained that he was unable to give an exact programme of inspections but generally the town centre was inspected more often because of the footfall. If an issue was reported then officers would attend. Inspections were carried out in line with policies of similar authorities. There were 4 inspectors constantly out walking the streets within the borough and a lot of work going on in the background all within a 40% reduction in budget.

Members discussed new technology and energy efficiency, additional revenue from parking to help fund highways, Section 106 agreements and savings from LED lighting. Members agreed that considerable time was spent on referrals for issues that had already been reported. They asked if there was an app or process to digitally report issues. If they could see if an issue was already reported then they would not need to waste further time. The Head of Neighbourhood Services reported that significant progress had already been made with the new BCBC website and more improvements were planned.

Members discussed the benefits of using a map system where residents could indicate where problems were and receive reassurance that the site of the issue had been located.

Members noted that officers did an excellent job under difficult circumstances.

Members referred to the highway department decision to re-join the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE). This allowed comparison with similar authorities across the UK. The Corporate Director Communities believed it was valuable to join even though it had been a policy decision to leave. ABSE was of varying value to different service areas and there were a number of statistical reports available.

Members discussed the camera enforcement vehicle and asked if Terms of Reference were available and how it would be used during the six week school shut down. The Group Manager Highway Services explained that the vehicle would primarily be used for school parking and bus stops and as a visual deterrent. Members discussed the potential use of the vehicle and discussed enforcement and tax /insurance. Members welcomed the vehicle which would be a huge deterrent and should improve both adult and child safety.

Members discussed school crossing patrols and difficulties recruiting staff. They were advised that there was a set of criteria for having a school crossing patrol officer and the criteria could be sent to Members for information. The Cabinet Member Communities added that it was a technically complex list based on new stringent standards introduced in 2017. He agreed that a school crossing patrol was a very important role but recognised that it was difficult to recruit staff. A Member reminded the Committee that it was the responsibility of the parent to get the child to school in a safe manner.

Members discussed the different restrictions outside schools and enforcement issues.

The Scrutiny Officer advised Members that if they wanted to make a referral regarding procurement, a criteria form had to be completed and submitted.

### **Highways**

Members discussed the report and had particular concerns relating to the following:

- Grass cutting in the Borough
- Street signs – cleaning and Maintenance
- TCC's potentially sharing costs – though this would result in pre-cepts being increased
- Street Lighting
- Digital Transformation and the use of a digital App to report issues in the community
- Membership of APSE
- School crossing patrol officers
- Civil parking officers

### **Following discussions members requested the following further information:**

1. A schedule of Grass Cutting in the Borough
2. A schedule of resurfacing highways in the Borough
3. What criteria is used to determine the frequency in which certain highways are inspected
4. Copy of the report that went to the Audit Committee on Highways
5. Terms of Reference for the vehicle enforcement camera that patrols the schools
6. Criteria for sites to be considered essential for the need of a school crossing patrol
7. Show the Highways budget savings as a % of that of the whole Directorate
8. Provide APSE data from the report electronically if possible

### **Members wished to make the following recommendations**

1. Members recommended that Officers explore how they can better convey the way in which information such as work schedules for highway repairs, grass cutting, road resurfacing and other areas under the Highways remit is shared as the lack of information often leads to frustration from residents and duplicate referrals being received. Members believe if the information is readily available to residents and Councillors there would be less unnecessary and duplicate referrals received.
2. Members recommended that officers in Communities Directorate work with the Digital Transformation team to improve the use of information sharing through the use of ICT and explore the options of the development of an App for residents and Councillors to use to enable them to report issues in their areas such as potholes and defective street lights. Members stated this would lead to less repetitive referrals coming through as residents could track if an issue had already been reported and how it has been prioritised.

## **SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 - TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 2018**

3. In relation to the above recommendations Members have requested a definitive timeline and action plan on how this will be progressed
4. Members recommended a member development session be arranged on BridgeMAPS

### 45. URGENT ITEMS

None

### 46. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Officer presented the feedback from previous meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 and identified the list of responses including those still outstanding.

The Scrutiny Officer explained that no item had yet been scheduled for the 23 July 2018 meeting and suggested that the Committee could request that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee allocate the Plastic Free County Borough item referred by Council, to that meeting. This could include a comparison with other authorities and details on what was being done within council offices including recycling.

Members asked if that report was ready and also discussed other options such as the Supporting People Grant criteria form which had been submitted, feedback from Kier (including progress a year into the contract and options for terminating the contract), procurement and an obligation to attend Scrutiny if requested, Parks and Playing Fields, the CAT process and progress since the last report, and Empty Properties. The Scrutiny Officer clarified the position regarding Kier and explained that Kier had been invited to one meeting and officers had attended accordingly.

Members agreed to request that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee allocate the Plastic Free County Borough item referred by Council to the 23 July 2018 meeting. Members asked for CAT to be allocated to the September meeting followed by Parks and Playing Fields.

### **Conclusions**

- (1) The Committee approved the feedback from the previous meetings of this Committee and noted the list of responses including any still outstanding.
- (2) The Committee requested that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee allocate the Plastic Free County Borough item referred by Council to the 23 July 2018 meeting and for CAT (progress since the last report) to be allocated to the September meeting followed by Parks and Playing Fields.
- (3) The Committee considered the criteria form at Appendix C.

The meeting closed at 12:10

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

23 JULY 2018

### REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

#### FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- a) To present the items prioritised by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee including the next item delegated to this Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- b) To present the Committee with a list of further potential items for comment and prioritisation;
- c) To ask the Committee to identify any further items for consideration using the pre-determined criteria form;
- d) To consider and approve any feedback received from the previous meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 and note the list of responses including any still outstanding at Appendix A.

#### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2018–2022 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Corporate Improvement Objectives were adopted by Council on 22 February 2018 and formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2018 and 2022. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 Under the terms of Bridgend County Borough Council's Constitution, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee must publish a Forward Work Programme (FWP) as far as it is known.
- 3.2 An effective FWP will identify the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear rationale as to why particular issues have been selected, as well as the approach that will be adopted; i.e. will the Committee be undertaking a policy review/ development role ("Overview") or performance management approach ("Scrutiny").

## Feedback

- 3.3 All conclusions made at Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SOSC) meetings, as well as recommendations and requests for information should be responded to by Officers, to ensure that there are clear outcomes from each topic investigated.
- 3.4 These will then be presented to the relevant Scrutiny Committee at their next meeting to ensure that they have had a response.
- 3.5 When each topic has been considered and the Committee is satisfied with the outcome, the SOSC will then present their findings to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) who will determine whether to remove the item from the FWP or to re-add for further prioritisation at a future date.
- 3.6 The FWPs will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with input from each SOSC and any information gathered from FWP meetings with Corporate Directors and Cabinet.

## 4. Current Situation / Proposal

- 4.1 Attached at **Appendix B** is the overall FWP for the SOSCs which includes the topics prioritised by the COSC for the next set of SOSCs in Table A, as well as topics that were deemed important for future prioritisation at Table B. This has been compiled from suggested items from each of the SOSCs at previous meetings as well as the COSC. It also includes information proposed from Corporate Directors, detail from research undertaken by Scrutiny Officers and information from FWP Development meetings between the Scrutiny Chairs and Cabinet.
- 4.2 The Committee is asked to first consider the next topic they have been allocated by the COSC in Table A and determine what further detail they would like the report to contain, what questions they wish Officers to address and if there are any further invitees they wish to attend for this meeting to assist Members in their investigation.
- 4.3 The Committee is also asked to then prioritise up to six items from the list in Table B to present to the COSC for formal prioritisation and designation to each SOSC for the next set of meetings.

## Corporate Parenting

- 4.4 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent', therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.

- 4.5 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.
- 4.6 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

#### Identification of Further Items

- 4.7 The Committee are reminded of the Criteria form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to ensure a strategic responsibility for Scrutiny and that its work benefits the organisation.

### **5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules**

- 5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend. Any changes to the structure of the Scrutiny Committees and the procedures relating to them would require the Bridgend County Borough Council constitution to be updated.

### **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications attached to this report.

### **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment**

- 7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long-term - The approval of this report will assist in the Planning of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery
- Prevention - The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of Scrutiny business where Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve decisions before they are made by Cabinet
- Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives

- Collaboration - Consultation on the content of the Forward Work Programme has taken place with the Corporate Management Board, Heads of Service, Elected Members and members of the public
- Involvement - Advanced publication of the Forward Work Programme ensures that the public and stakeholders can view topics that will be discussed in Committee meetings and are provided with the opportunity to engage.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications attached to this report.

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the feedback from the previous meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 and note the list of responses including any still outstanding at Appendix A;
- (ii) Identify any additional information the Committee wish to receive on their next item
- (iii) Identify any further detail they require for any other items in the overall FWP shown in table B of Appendix B;
- (iv) Identify any additional items the Committee wish to be considered for inclusion on the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme by completing a criteria form and returning to the Scrutiny team.

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### **Background documents**

None

Date of Meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following recommendations	Response/Comments
12-Jun-2018	Highways	Members recommended that Officers explore how they can better convey the way in which information such as work schedules for highway repairs, grass cutting, road resurfacing and other areas under the Highways remit is shared as the lack of information often leads to frustration from residents and duplicate referrals being received. Members believe if the information is readily available to residents and Councillors there would be less unnecessary and duplicate referrals received.	
		Members recommended that officers in Communities Directorate work with the Digital Transformation team to improve the use of information sharing through the use of ICT and explore the options of the development of an App for residents and Councillors to use to enable them to report issues in their areas such as potholes and defective street lights. Members stated this would lead to less repetitive referrals coming through as residents could track if an issue had already been reported and how it has been prioritised.	
		In relation to the above recommendations Members have requested a definitive timeline and action plan on how this will be progressed	
		Members recommended a member development session be arranged on BridgeMAPS	This has been added to the Member Development Forward Work Programme for October 2018

		<b>Members requested to receive the following further information</b>	
		A schedule of Grass Cutting in the Borough	
		A schedule of resurfacing highways in the Borough	
		What criteria is used to determine the frequency in which certain highways are inspected	
		Copy of the report that went to the Audit Committee on Highways	
		Terms of Reference for the vehicle enforcement camera that patrols the schools	
		Criteria for sites to be considered essential for the need of a school crossing patrol	
		Show the Highways budget savings as a % of that of the whole Directorate	
		Provide APSE data from the report electronically if possible	

## Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

The following items were previously prioritised by the Subject OVS Committees and considered by Corporate at its last meeting where the top three items were scheduled in for the next round of meetings:

Date	Subject Committee	Item	Specific Information to request	Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested invitees	Prioritised by Committees
05-Sep-2018	SOSC1	<b>School Standards</b>	<p>Requested from SOSC 1 meeting in February to receive a further report at a meeting in the near future, (to be agreed by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny), incorporating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Categorisation information;</li> <li>• In relation to Post-16 data at 4.53 of the report, the Committee requested that they receive the baseline for each school to give a better indication of how each school has improved;</li> <li>• Information on Bridgend's ranking for Key Stage 4 based on the latest results;</li> <li>• Information on what targets were set at each stage in order to determine whether the performance was expected and possibly a cohort issue or whether any actuals differed significantly from the targets set;</li> <li>• Information that the Consortium has gathered through drilling down into each schools' performance to determine what challenges schools face;</li> <li>• Further detail of the performance of those with ALN attending the PRU or Heronsbridge School as Members felt this was not incorporated into the report to a great degree;</li> <li>• Information on the work that the Consortium is doing to identify the variation for each secondary school at Key Stage 4, and what is being done about it;</li> <li>• More information in relation to each schools performance – not necessarily more data but detail of the where, what and how in relation to good and poor performance for each school so that the Committee has an overall understanding of the current situation and priority schools in Bridgend;</li> <li>• What extent are schools responding to the changes recently introduced such as the removal of Btec etc, to ensure they are still meeting the needs of the pupils;</li> <li>• What work is being done to mitigate against future dips in performance resulting from any changes to curriculum or changes to performance measures;</li> <li>• Evidence of how the Consortium has made a direct impact on schools and school performance, what outcomes can they be measured on in relation to Bridgend to assure Members of value for money;</li> <li>• What is being done to mitigate against the impact of changes in teachers to ensure that this does not have a resulting impact on the performance of pupils;</li> <li>• Performance in relation to vocational qualifications and non-core subjects – where are there causes for concern and where there is excellent work taking place etc.</li> </ul>		5th September 2018	<p>Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support;            Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration;            Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help;            Mandy Paish, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor;            Mike Glavin, Managing Director CSC            Representative from School Budget Forum</p>	
06-Sep-2018	SOSC2	<b>ALN Reform</b>	<p>When the Act has been further progressed, report to include consideration of the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) How the Authority and Schools are engaging with parents over the changes to the Act?</li> <li>b) What the finalised process is for assessments and who is responsible for leading with them?</li> <li>c) What involvement/responsibilities do Educational Psychologists have under the Act?</li> <li>d) Has the Act led to an increase in tribunals and what impact has this had? This is set against the context of the recent announcement by the Lifelong Learning Minister that instead of saving £4.8m over four years the Act could potentially cost £8.2m due to an expected increase in the number of cases of dispute resolution.</li> <li>e) Given that the Act focuses on the involvement of young people and their parents, what support is available for those involved in court disputes?</li> <li>f) Outcomes from the Supported Internship programme.</li> <li>g) Support for those with ALN into employment.</li> <li>h) Staffing - Protection and support for staff, ALNCO support, workloads and capacity.</li> <li>i) Pupil-teacher ratios and class sizes and impact of Act on capacity of teachers to support pupils with ALN</li> <li>j) How is the implementation of the Act being monitored; what quality assurance frameworks are there and what accountability for local authorities, consortiums and schools?</li> </ol>	Needs revisiting to monitor implementation of the Bill and if needs are being met as well as impact on future budgets -	6th September 2018	<p>Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support;            Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration;            Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help.            Michelle Hatcher, Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement            Third Sector Representatives</p>	
17-Sep-2018	SOSC3	<b>Waste Services</b>	<p>Members would like the report to include an update on the following:</p> <p>The impact of the recently recruited senior managers associated with the Bridgend contract and front line operative staff. Was recruitment successful? Have all Members now been given full inductions and training</p> <p>Information on the updates to the CRC centre including the instalment of the polystyrene baler and webcam so residents are able to monitor the traffic flow at the site.</p> <p>Change of days for the communal collections - Has this happened? Has the service shown improvements since the change?</p> <p>Impact of the new collection vehicles. Have they made collection rounds more efficient?</p> <p>Outcome of the review of BCBC in house Street Scene enforcement activity</p> <p>Longer term trend of flytipping. What are the figures of flytipping in the Borough? Have they improved? Domestic or business?</p> <p>A breakdown in the number of referrals received before the new contract in a typical month and what they were related to and a breakdown of the number of referrals received in April 2018</p> <p>A review of the AHP bags be considered when Scrutiny revisit the subject of 'Waste' in approximately 12 months time to include the monetary against environmental impact.</p>		17th September 2018	<p>Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities;            Cllr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader;            Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities;            Zak Shell, Head of Streetscene;            Maz Akhtar, Regional Manager Kier            Lee Woodall, Finance and Operations Director            Scott Saunders, Business Manager</p>	

16-Oct-2018	SOSC1	<b>Advocacy</b>	Advocacy for Children and Adults: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The outcome from the Advocacy Pilot Scheme</li><li>• The current system</li><li>• Social Services &amp; Wellbeing Act</li><li>• Regional Children Services advocacy</li><li>• Adult Services – Golden Thread Project</li></ul>		Corporate Director proposed September 2018	Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care; Richard Thomas, Strategic Planning and Commissioning Officer.
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Table B

## For prioritisation

Item		Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested invitees	
<b>Review of Fostering Project</b>	Further project as part of the Remodelling Children's Social Services  - Detail regarding the upskilling of three internal foster carers to provide intensive, therapeutic step down placements as part of Residential Remodelling project - Review of the foster carer marketing and recruitment strategy at a draft/early stage to allow members input into the process	COSC have proposed that this item be considered by a future SOSC 1 for continuity purposes	Corporate Director proposed October 2018	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care; Pete Tyson, Group Manager – Commissioning; Lauren North, Commissioning and Contract Management Officer; Natalie Silcox, Group Manager Childrens Regulated Services.	
<b>Parks and Playing Fields</b>	To be updated by MS		Corporate Director proposed Nov 2018	Mark Shephard, Corporate Director - Communities; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member - Communities;	
<b>Direct Payment Scheme</b>	Details on the revised policy including how the legislation has affected it. How Direct Payments are delivered. What support has been provided to service users since the launch of the new scheme. How was the scheme launched to service users.	Corporate Director has proposed this as a potential item	Corporate Director proposed November	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;	
<b>CIW investigation into LAC</b>	The Committee requested that the outcome of the CIW investigation into Looked After Children be provided to Scrutiny <b>for information</b> when it becomes available.		Self assessment and action plan due at end of year.		
<b>Remodelling Children's Residential Services Project</b>	SOSC 1 requested that the item be followed up by Scrutiny in the future for monitoring purposes, incorporating evidence of outcomes.		Corporate Director proposed early 2019	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;	
<b>CAMHS</b>	With reference to the responses received in relation to Child Adolescent Mental Health Services Members on 12 December 2018, Members note that most of the replies feature an element of work in progress and have asked to retain the item on the FWP for future review. To receive an update on current provision and further advise on current situation in relation to comments and conclusions made on 12 December 2018.  Update on work being undertaken throughout Wales looking at causes of mental health: 'Working Together for Mental Health'.  To include an update on how we are getting on moving into Cwm Taf.		Corporate Director proposed early 2019	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;	
<b>Empty Properties</b>	SOSC 3 requested that this item continue on FWP - reasons and purpose to be confirmed			Darren Mepham, Chief Executive	

<b>Home to School Transport</b>	<p>To provide assurances on rationalisation of Learner Transport as far as possible in order to make budget savings: Update on pilot that school transport team proposing to run in Spring and Summer terms 2017-2018 - to support the enforcement of bus passes on home to school transport contracts. As part of this pilot, the Authority is also investigating opportunities to track the use of our school bus services by individual pupils.</p> <p>Update on Recommendation from BREP: The Panel recommend the need for the Authority to adopt a Corporate approach in relation to Home to School Transport maximising the LA's minibuses such as those used for day centres. It is proposed that this be supported by slightly amending the opening and closing times of day centres so that the buses can be available for school transport. Other aspects that could be considered include the exploration of whether school staff could transport children and young people instead of hiring independent drivers.</p> <p>To test and scrutinise the current licensing and school transport regime to gain assurances that it provides adequate protection against the potential of putting children and vulnerable children at risk from those who are in a position of trust. Changes to the DBS status of their employees to be scrutinised to ensure that children are not being put at undue risk. To provide robust scrutiny and recommendations on how the current regime can be improved. To provide assurances to the public and maintain public confidence in the system of school transport</p> <p>Report to include Update on the current arrangements of how licensing and school transport operates within the County Borough since the change in 2015 to the Police National Policy for disclosing non-conviction information to the local authority. Information to include a report from South Wales Police on its approach to disclosing information it holds about licencees following arrests, charges and convictions.</p> <p>What is the current relationship between the local authority's licensing and school transport departments in relation to the disclosure of information from South Wales police? Is there sufficient oversight on behalf of the local authority and a risk of contractors withholding information which may prejudice the continuation of their contract? Further proposed that Communities be invited to add to report and attend meeting to update Committee on safe routes assessment to determine what work has been undertaken since funding was allocated to this over a year ago.</p>	<p>To provide assurances on rationalisation of Learner Transport as far as possible in order to make budget savings. To test and scrutinise the current licensing and school transport regime to gain assurances that it provides adequate protection against the potential of putting children and vulnerable children at risk from those who are in a position of trust. Changes to the DBS status of their employees ought to be scrutinised by an Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity to ensure that children are not being put at undue risk.</p> <p>To provide robust scrutiny and recommendations on how the current regime can be improved. To provide assurances to the public and maintain public confidence in the system of school transport</p>		<p>Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help. Mark Shephard, Corporate Director Communities;</p>	
<b>Communication and Engagement</b>	<p>Is corporate communications meeting the needs of the various departments within the organisation to effectively communicate with residents Current data of engagement Are current KPIs an effective measurement in a fast changing digital world How do we engage with corporate communications with the digitally excluded</p>			<p>Darren Mepham, Chief Executive Corporate Communications Representative Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future generations and Wellbeing</p>	
<b>Revised CAT Process</b>	<p>What is the latest with the CAT process? How has it been streamlined since it last came to Scrutiny back in January 2018 How many CATs have now been processed and completed? How has the position improved What are the plans for CAT going forward How many CAT applications have been received altogether? How many have been progressed? How many have withdrawn and for what reasons? List of CAT 1 priorities and what is the plan for these?</p>			<p>Mark Shephard, Corporate Director - Communities; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member - Communities;</p>	
<b>Supporting People Programme Grant</b>	<p>Full breakdown of the various services currently supported through this grant within BCBC (inc. the various financial detail) along with how this may have changed over recent years. The number of individuals supported through the grant and in what way. How are decisions made about where to spend the grant and how much in specific areas How effective is the grant support that is provided across a variety of sectors within BCBC, and to ensure that the grant is being targeted at the services most in need.</p>	<p>Improved outcomes in line with the agreed objectives of the grant. Improved support for those in need of emergency housing and support</p>		<p>Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Cllr Phil White Cabinet Member Social Services and Wellbeing Wellbeing directorate Housing Darren Mepham, Martin Morgans? Lynne Berry? Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing</p>	

## The following items for briefing sessions or pre-Council briefing

Item	Specific Information to request
Social Services Commissioning Strategy	To include information on what work has taken place following the Social Services and Wellbeing Act population assessment. To also cover the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Annual Plan</li> <li>• Bridgend Social Services Commissioning Strategy</li> </ul>
Cwm Taf Regional Working	Update on situation and way forward with Regional Working with Cwm Taf? How will we undertake Regional working?
Residential Remodelling - Extra Care Housing	Site visit to current Extra Care Housing and then to new site once work has begun
Children's Social Services	Briefing for SOSC 1 on Child Practice Reviews - details of latest CPRs over last 12-18 months - what recommendations have come out of them, how have they been responded to, how have they helped inform future work to help safeguard children.

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SUBJECT 3

23 JULY 2018

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

### PLASTIC FREE BRIDGEND COUNTY

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the topic of plastic waste pollution and the proposal for a “Plastic Free Bridgend County”.

#### 2. CONNECTION TO CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN/OTHER PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The report links to the following Corporate Priority:

Priority Three: Smarter use of resources

This means the Authority will ensure that all its resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council’s priorities.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Council meeting of the 25 April 2018, a Motion on Notice was put forward regarding plastic waste pollution and support for Bridgend County becoming a plastic free Authority. The Motion was withdrawn and it was considered that the matter should instead be sent to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee to identify what action the Council has taken to date and any next steps.

#### 4.0 CURRENT SITUATION / PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The proposed position for the Authority in regard to single use plastics and promoting a “Plastic Free Bridgend” represents a sentiment that is virtuous and seemingly aligned to principles of sustainability and protection of future generations.
- 4.2 The negative impact of all plastic products single use and otherwise contaminating the environment is significant and has been brought heavily into public focus recently by the “Blue Planet” BBC television series.
- 4.3 Clearly any steps the Authority can take to further reduce reasonably the environmental impact of its own activities and the activities of those it can influence should be welcomed.

- 4.4 The Authority currently undertakes significant activities in relation to plastics recycling, providing a weekly recycling service to every household that results in 2109 tonnes of plastics per year being recycled from the kerbside.
- 4.5 For plastic materials that cannot be recycled at the doorstep, such as hard plastic (i.e. garden furniture, children's toys), recycling outlets are provided at the Community Recycling Centres (CRC) sites resulting in a further 1197 tonnes per annum of plastics being recycled. In addition, the introduction of the new Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHPs) collection service has diverted 1128 tonnes of material per annum from the residual waste stream to a recycling facility.
- 4.6 Within the Council office environment changes have taken place in the majority of departments and plastic cups, spoons or milk sachets are no longer purchased and loose coffee, milk and sugar is used in meetings where refreshments cannot be avoided.
- 4.7 In Elections on count night, where individual milk sachets have been used in the past, now large cartons/bottles of milk are used and the spoons are also now wooden spatulas; however, polystyrene cups are used because of the hot drinks facility provided and these are not recyclable.

There are very few alternatives to the polystyrene cups and these are expensive, e.g. compostable cups. However, the Returning Officer has agreed to only provide hot/cold drink facilities for future elections but inviting candidates, agents and staff to bring with them their own re-usable cups if they wish to make use of these facilities and to look at the option of providing for sale such cups at the Count venue with any proceeds going to the Mayor's Charity. This will also apply to water bottles for Count staff whilst at the Count tables.

- 4.8 Whilst positive action has already been taken, the impact and definition of a "Plastic-Free Bridgend" is complex and the benefits potentially not as clear as they may initially appear.
- 4.9 The change would be far reaching and would affect every part of the Authority, with many departments being involved.
- 4.10 A study to comprehend the Authority's total usage of single use plastics and other avoidable plastics across all departments and facilities would need to be carried and alternatives explored and costs both fiscal and environmental understood.
- 4.11 To highlight the complexity of this issue, attached as **Appendix A** is a recent article published in Let's Recycle online that discusses the merits of single use plastic bags for the containment of recyclable food. At a time of austerity, this is of relevance to the Authority, as in this case a move from a degradable sack to a single use plastic sack potentially offers a saving with seemingly minimal environmental impact. Also attached as **Appendix B & C** respectively are articles published on the internet. Appendix B from the Independent examines the negative impact of plastic on the environment, whilst Appendix C produced by the British Plastics Federation presents interesting food for thought in regard to the environmental benefits of plastics.

4.12 Similarly, highlighting the complexity of a move to remove single use plastics, the residual waste presentation for fortnightly collection in Bridgend takes place via the use of single use plastic sacks. To embrace fully a move away from single use plastics would realistically involve a move to a wheeled bin waste collection system, which was a consideration previously discounted in the build-up to the new waste collection system. This change now would potentially involve a capital commitment in the region of £1 million, increased collection costs would result and the Authority would introduce bins to terraced houses, where such containment would have questionable suitability, while at the same time positively effecting a saving on ongoing sack purchase.

4.13 Recycling within the BCBC offices: The new Corporate Landlord team was created earlier in the year and became live in April. This team includes both “hard” and “soft” Facilities Management (FM) services to Council departments. The soft FM currently comprises cleaning, caretaking and recycling services at the Council’s core office buildings under the Building Services Support team.

Recycling is currently collected in respect of :

- General waste
- Plastic
- Cardboard
- Cans
- Paper
- Confidential waste

4.14 Since setting up the new team, the department has started to explore the possibility of expanding the service to include food waste with new contractors. In the process, the Authority anticipates making savings of possibly £6000 p.a.

4.15 The Council’s Cleaner Streets Department is currently looking at new innovative ways to combat littering and the use of single use plastics by identifying initiatives that either encourage prevention or reduce use, by engaging with local groups, schools and business to engender a positive attitude towards our communities, town centres and environment.

4.16 Discussions are currently taking place with Town Councils to explore options in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy to engage with schools on running a competition to design anti-litter signage, posters and stickers.

The project will: -

- Engage with local schools in an educational programme about litter.
- Promote the campaign to the wider community through BCBC PR channels, flyers, window stickers, etc.

- Engage with local businesses to reduce plastic waste and become part of the litter-free scheme and businesses will be asked to display a sticker in the window of premises supporting a litter and plastic-free area.
- Asking business to switch materials – most importantly reducing expanded polystyrene. Ideally, for now, either cardboard (although once contaminated with grease cannot be recycled) or 100% recycled (and *recyclable*) plastic containers. While plastics are considered to adversely impact on the environment, it is important to proceed with caution, as alternatives can often be just as harmful. There is also a view that, if people see something as harmless or biodegradable, it is more likely to become litter.
- Encourage every business to sign-up to the Refill app indicating that they offer water freely.

4.17 In the past year, Cleaner Streets and Keep Wales Tidy have been actively promoting litter picker champions and engagement with various group to establish a calendar of events over the year, where individuals or groups can become involved. This has worked well and the Authority will look to use the volunteer groups as its steer.

4.18 Further general communications throughout the past 12 months have taken place and are attached in summary as **Appendix D**.

4.19 The promotion of Fairtrade policies and shop local scheme is not currently undertaken by the Council and would require the necessary commitment of officer time and promotional budget, at a time of upcoming significant MTFS savings. Whilst some general messaging on the Council website and social media could be achieved at low cost, anything further than this would need to be considered carefully.

4.20 Attached as **Appendix E** and **Appendix F** are letters from the Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council and response from Hannah Blythyn, Assembly Minister for Environment for information.

## **5. EFFECT UPON POLICY FRAMEWORK & PROCEDURE RULES**

5.1 None for the purposes of this report and at this stage of consideration.

## **6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment**

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. As the report is for noting, it is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report. However an assessment based on the 5 ways of working under the Act and any requisite mitigating measures would be required prior to any variation being made policy.



## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None for the purposes of this report and at this stage of consideration. However, it is clear that significant cost implications could result from the Authority becoming plastic free.

## **9. RECOMMENDATION**

9.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the report and the action taken to date.

**MARK SHEPHARD  
CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**

**July 2018**

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**Background Documents: None**

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# Food recyclers defend use of plastic bags

Organics recycler Agrivert has promoted the benefits of using plastic bags as caddy liners as a way of increasing food waste recycling.

The news comes after the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire reported a surge in food waste recycling last month after allowing some residents to use plastic bags as opposed to compostable liners (see [letsrecycle.com story](#)).



Agrivert's Wallingford anaerobic digestion facility

The move could be considered controversial given the current momentum around plastics and growing public awareness on single-use materials. There have also been calls from some in the sector for better quality across the whole supply chain, which may include prohibiting the use of plastic liners (see [letsrecycle.com story](#)).

Agrivert is one of two companies contracted to manage food waste for Buckinghamshire at its Wallingford anaerobic digestion facility. The other company is Olleco at its Westcott Park facility (acquired from Renewi).

## Barriers

Speaking to [letsrecycle.com](#), Harry Waters, commercial director at Agrivert said that allowing material to be presented in plastic bags helps to remove public barriers to

recycling food waste. And, Mr Waters using plastic bags removes “one of the five biggest barriers to recycling which is price”.

According to Mr Waters, bioliners are around five times the price of plastic liners and less available, therefore they are expensive for residents to purchase.

Agrivert is also able to remove plastic bags “much more efficiently,” he explained, as bioliners become “gloopy” during the anaerobic digestion process and difficult to separate.

The company has made investments in secondary screens for digestate to improve quality. “We have upgraded all of our plants and put in secondary screens for the digestate to retrieve the smallest bits of plastic,” Mr Waters said.



A sample of the digestate produced at one of Agrivert’s AD plants

“Some plastic inevitably can still end up in the digestate although it is a very small amount,” says Mr Waters. However, he says his view is that the overall benefits of digestate as a fertiliser and the increase recycling is likely to outweigh the potential “tiny fragments” of plastic which might get through.

The change is also designed to increase “transparency” to the public who may believe their bioliners are being recycled, he said. Both bioliners and plastic bags removed during the process are sent for energy from waste.

And, Mr Waters said the company has been “very focussed” on digestate quality. “Despite already meeting PAS110 we upgraded our screening systems prior to the very

welcome intervention of Blue Planet which raised awareness of plastics in the environment. We are only able to work with partners like Buckinghamshire because we have comprehensive systems in place.”

## Olleco

Meanwhile, Olleco has explained that its Westcott Park facility can accept “limited amounts of plastic or compostable/biodegradable liners”.

The AD plant receives food waste from Aylesbury Vale district council in Buckinghamshire. Residents in the district have been allowed to use plastic bags as caddy liners since the start of June 2018.

A spokesperson for Olleco said the de-packaging technology at Westcott Park “ensures materials such as plastics and compostable liners are removed from the food waste during this part of the process”.

The facility has gained and maintained its PAS 110 certification for digestate, Olleco said.



Olleco’s Westcott Park AD facility receives food waste from Aylesbury Vale district council

Despite some organics recyclers continuing to accept material collected in plastic liners, environmental campaigners remain opposed to the use of the material for the collection of food waste.

## Response

In response to the use of plastic bags as caddy liners, Julian Kirby, plastics campaigner for Friends of the Earth (FoE), pointed to the need to stop using plastic bags in the future.

“An increase in food waste collection is clearly beneficial, and a bonus would be if this scheme collects plastic bags to be recycled, or otherwise disposed of properly, which is to say, not incinerated,” he said.

However, Mr Kirby explained: “In the long term we have to overcome our collective plastic addiction by finding ways to drop plastic bags altogether.”

# **Why is plastic bad for the environment and how much is in the ocean?**

## **Packaging accounts for over 40 per cent of plastic usage**

- Chelsea Ritschel
- Wednesday 18 April 2018 14:25

In recent years, people have started cutting down on plastic consumption, as we have realised the effects plastic can have on the environment and our oceans.

But although most people know that plastic cannot be absorbed back into the environment, there are many that are unaware just how much plastic ends up in our oceans - and how detrimental this can be.

In addition to being bad for the environment, the amount of plastic in the ocean continues to grow - affecting wildlife and humans alike.

## **How much plastic is in the ocean?**

Although it is difficult to identify exactly how much plastic is in the ocean due to micro-particles and the amount that has sunk to the bottom, most scientists estimate that eight million metric tons of plastic end up in our oceans each year - adding to the estimated 150 million metric tons currently circulating our oceans.

To put that number into perspective, the amount is equivalent to a garbage truck full of plastic dumping plastic into the ocean every minute.

And that figure is only expected to increase as plastic production and consumption continue.

According to the Ocean Conservancy, in less than 10 years, scientists predict there will be 250 million metric tons in the ocean and by 2050, there will be more plastic in the oceans than there are fish.

## **Why is this bad?**

The world is currently producing nearly 300 million tons of plastic each year - a significant amount of which will end up in the oceans.

Unfortunately, although plastic is a useful product, many of these products are created for single-use - with an estimated 50 per cent of plastic used once and thrown away.

Not only is this harmful to the environment and the oceans, but it is also harmful to wildlife - where it impacts nearly 700 species in the ocean, and humans.

According to the Ocean Conservancy, plastic has been found in more than 60 per cent of all seabirds and 100 per cent of sea turtle species.

Ingesting plastic has life-threatening effects on wildlife - and this plastic eventually ends up being digested by humans.

Brits who consume fish are at risk of consuming 11,000 fragments of plastic each year, according to a recent Belgian study.

And half of all plastic manufactured becomes trash in less than a year.

## **What plastic can be recycled?**

Currently, only nine per cent of the world's plastic is recycled - a problem because most plastics are not biodegradable and typically take more than 400 years to degrade.

And it never fully degrades, rather it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces that are eventually ingested by marine life.

Single-use plastics are the worst offenders and include plastic bags, food packaging, and straws.

Most of the plastic produced is used in packaging - which accounts for more than 40 per cent of non-fibre plastic, according to a study published in the journal Science Advances.

However, nearly all solid plastic, such as water bottles, are capable of being recycled.

## **How can we fix this?**

While a complete solution to the plastic problem is likely years away, small changes can make a big difference.

Choosing to forgo straws, as many restaurants have begun to do, lessens the plastic waste and protects wildlife.

Switching to reusable bags when shopping can also make a difference - as single-use plastic bags are a large part of the problem.

And knowing the proper way to recycle common plastics is necessary if humans want to keep plastics from the ocean.

## **Ways to reduce your single-use plastic**

### **1/6 Plastic water bottle for a reusable beverage container**

Instead of continually buying drinks in plastic bottles you can switch to a reusable beverage container and reduce your single-use of plastics. Selfridges' Bobble 550ml filtered water



bottle costs £12.95 and includes a replaceable carbon filter that filters water as you drink, removing chlorine and organic contaminants in the process. You can buy it from [selfridges.com](http://selfridges.com)  
Getty/Selfridges

## **2/6 Coffee cup for a Travel coffee mug**

It is estimated that the UK throws away around 2.5bn disposable coffee cups a year and almost all are incinerated, exported or sent to landfill because their plastic lining makes them expensive to recycle. The new Latte Levy in the UK means there will now be a 25p charge on every disposable coffee cup bought by consumers. Pret A Manger announced that it will double its discount to 50p in an effort to reduce waste. By swapping to a reusable cup you will be able to help cut the cost of disposable coffee cups. This Keep Cup Brew, cork edition, travel cup in Fika is just one of the many available to purchase. It fits under most commercial coffee machines, is splash-proof and ideal for transporting your coffee whilst on the go. You can buy this particular cup for £19.99 from [trouva.com](http://trouva.com).  
Getty/Trouva

## **3/6 Plastic bags for reusable cloth bags**

An eco-friendly alternative to an ordinary plastic bag is this lightweight shopping bag. It comes with a practical pillowcase pocket and features a black and white ink splatter design. Convenient and durable it also has a matte black spring clip to attach it where you need it. You can buy this from [paperchase.co.uk](http://paperchase.co.uk) for just £5.00.  
Getty/Paperchase

## **4/6 Coffee pods for a pot of coffee**

Cut your plastic coffee pod usage with a cafetiere. This Barista and Co, 3 Cup Gold Cafetiere, from Habitat offers a simple way to brew and serve in style. Made from borosilicate glass and plated stainless steel with an ergonomically designed handle, the cafetiere is built to last and a pleasure to use; a fine metal filter produces a smooth coffee that retains its natural oils. You can buy it for £30 from [habitat.co.uk](http://habitat.co.uk).  
Getty/Habitat

## **5/6 Balloons for eco-friendly decorations**

Instead of using plastic balloons at your party try swapping them for some eco-friendly bunting. Handmade in Scotland, the bunting comprises thirteen brightly coloured pennants which spell out the words 'Happy Birthday', and uses lettering that has been printed onto 100 per cent recycled card. Included is 11ft of natural jute twine to hang the pennants on, and everything comes packaged in a cello bag. You can buy this bunting from Little Silverleaf on [notonthehighstreet.com](http://notonthehighstreet.com) for £12.50.  
Getty/notonthehighstreet

## **6/6 Plastic straw for a reusable bamboo one**

Swap plastic straws for reusable ones made of bamboo. These straws are handmade in Bali and crafted by local balinese artisans. Made of organic and natural materials they are the best eco-friendly alternative to plastic, steel or glass straws. You can purchase them from Bali Boo on Amazon.co.uk for £13.99.

PA/Bali Boo/Amazon

Another potential solution, found recently by accident, relies on a mutant enzyme that is capable of breaking down plastic bottles.

Published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, scientists accidentally discovered the enzyme - which could recycle plastic for reuse as plastic and fundamentally reduce the amount of plastic in the environment, according to the study's author, University of Portsmouth professor John McGeehan.

If each person dedicated their attention to the plastic issue, the detrimental effects of plastic on the world could be lessened.

# Plastic Packaging and the Environment

British Plastics Federation 2018

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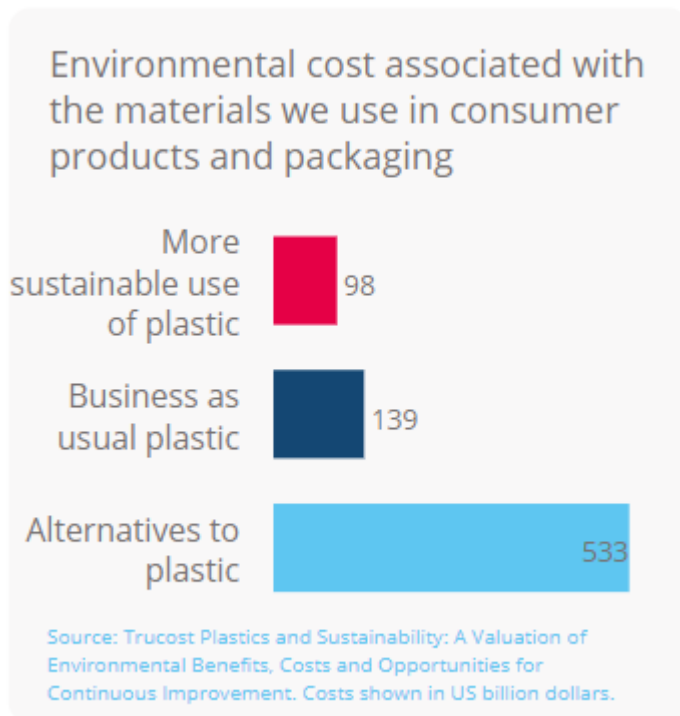
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## Is plastic packaging bad for the environment?

No. Many people don't realise that plastic packaging provides many environmental benefits. Studies have also shown that if there was no plastics packaging available and other materials were used, the overall packaging consumption of packaging mass, energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions would increase.

Source: The impact of plastic packaging on life cycle energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in Europe: Executive Summary July 2011, Bernd Brandt and Harald Pilz

Plastic packaging is also lightweight and strong — this means we use fewer vehicles and less fuel to transport it. Plastic packaging makes a positive contribution to saving resources and reducing emissions. Other "single-use" items, such as plastic packaging of fruit and vegetables, provide hygienic ways to purchase food and reduce waste, which reduces overall resource consumption. Grapes sold in sealed trays rather than loose bunches typically have reduced waste in stores by over 20%. Plastic packaging has also brought important innovations to keep food fresh and reduce wastage in the home.





## Do we need single-use packaging?

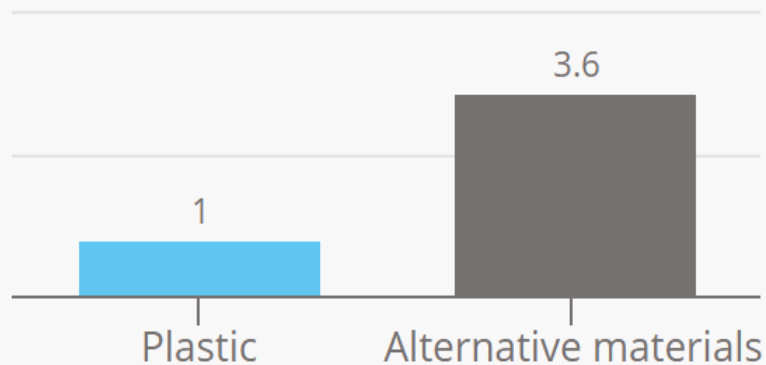
Firstly, there is no such thing as single use packaging all plastic packaging can be recovered for recycling or the generation of energy.

"Single-use" plastic packaging has an important part to play in modern life, especially where safety and hygiene is concerned. For example, a plastic water bottle allows hygienic access to clean drinking water and is less resource intensive to produce than alternative materials. It's easy to forget this as plastic packaging does such a good job protecting

us from harmful germs. For example, the Food Standards Agency [recently explained](#) that raw chicken, must be placed in a plastic bag separately to other food to prevent food poisoning.

### Packaging mass

Alternative materials would be 3.6 times heavier than plastic packaging.

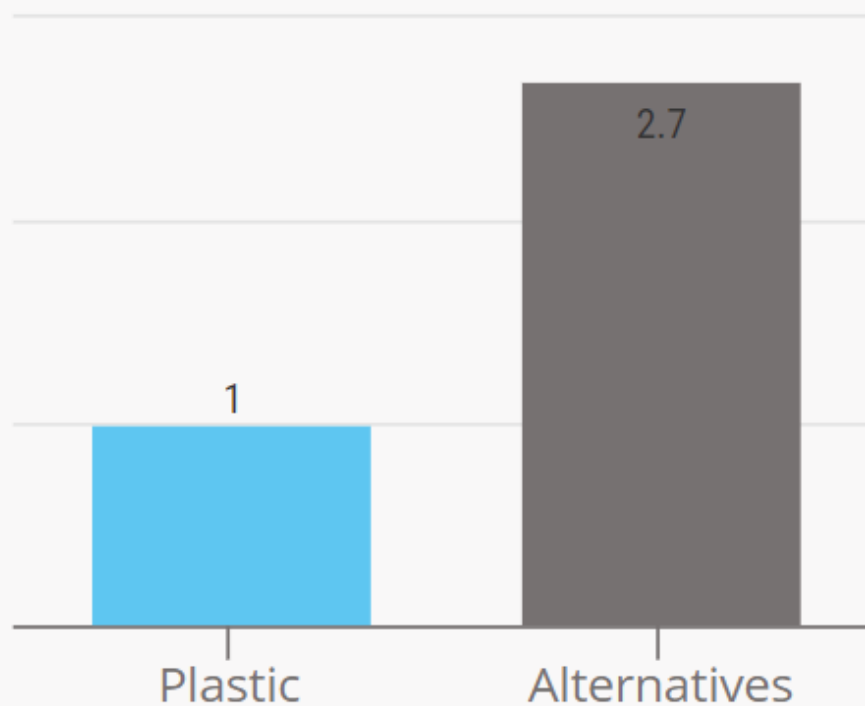


Source: The impact of plastic packaging on life cycle energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in Europe: Executive Summary July 2011, Bernd Brandt and Harald Pilz

"Single-use" plastic packaging has also considerably reduced packaging weight in transit and in many cases, has reduced the number of lorries needed to transport goods on our roads. Without "single use" plastic packaging food waste would increase, more energy would be used and more carbon emissions would result.

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Alternative materials to plastic would result in 2.7 times more greenhouse gases emissions over their life time.



Source: The impact of plastic packaging on life cycle energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in Europe: Executive Summary July 2011, Bernd Brandt and Harald Pilz

## Energy

It would take around **twice** as much energy to use alternative materials to plastic packaging.



Plastic



Alternatives

Source: The impact of plastic packaging on life cycle energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in Europe: Executive Summary July 2011, Bernd Brandt and Harald Pilz

## Does the production of plastic packaging use a lot of energy?

Plastic packaging production uses about half as much energy as alternative materials. Plastics are also a very lightweight packaging medium, which means less energy is used to transport goods protected by plastic packaging.

Source: The impact of plastic packaging on life cycle energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in Europe: Executive Summary July 2011, Bernd Brandt and Harald Pilz

The plastics industry is committed to using even less energy and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Many producers sign up to a voluntary Climate Change Agreement with the Environment Agency. The plastics and thin film industry comfortably achieved the target reduction set for the first monitoring period of January 2013 – December 2014. Some individual organisations have achieved an energy usage reduction of up to 50%.

## Is plastic packaging resource efficient?

The UK government's guidance on waste management sets out the waste hierarchy. The hierarchy indicates the preferred method of waste management, beginning with the most desired option: prevention. The plastics industry is constantly innovating and improving production and waste management to promote the waste hierarchy's objectives.



**Prevention:** plastic packaging is lighter than it used to be — this means less raw materials are used. The industry also engages in an agreement to work towards reducing packaging and waste called the [Courtauld Commitment](#).

Examples of lightweight packaging innovations:

- **The Fez** — Child resistant closure with 40% weight reduction.
- **Super Lightweight Mono Material Trays** — strong environmental credentials with excellent levels of performance and functionality.
- **Infini Bottle** — a lightweight, fit-for-purpose milk bottle with a reduced carbon footprint.
- **Multilayer Polypropylene Jars** — light, easy-to-open, resealable and recyclable food containers.

**Preparing for re-use:** Many types of plastics packaging are long-life artefacts. For example, returnable crates have lifespans of over 25 years and re-usable bags are playing a greater role in responsible retailing.

**Recycling:** Plastic recycling is always improving. Plastic packaging can have a new lease of life in building and construction or as furniture, a bag or footwear. [View examples](#).

To read more about recycling visit the [BPF Recycling Group](#).

**Other recovery:** At the end of its life plastic packaging can be submitted to energy-from-waste schemes. Plastics are an effective energy source because they have a high calorific value.

**Disposal:** No plastics should be put in landfill. Currently 26% of all plastic in the UK still goes to landfill.

## Where does plastic in the ocean come from?

The majority of litter in the seas and oceans comes from outside of Europe, so it's vitally important that other countries also take action. Marine litter — like litter in our cities and towns — is largely due to the thoughtless disposal of waste on land. Tackling this issue requires us to focus on changing the way people discard items in our communities.

**Litter travels**

80% of the plastics found in the ocean is estimated to have come from land-based sources.

**Source:** [European Commission. Our Oceans, Seas and Coasts](#)

**Sources of plastic in the ocean**

It is generally accepted that largest source of leakage of plastic items into the oceans is from a small number of Asian and Pacific rim countries that account for over 80% of ocean waste - these include China, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Egypt, Malaysia, Nigeria and Bangladesh.

Source: Jambeck et al. 'Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean'. Science

98% of the litter in our oceans emanates from countries outside Europe and the United States.

Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation, The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the future of plastics  
Reasons for leakage

The UN estimates that 'at least 2 billion people worldwide still lack access to solid waste collection'. As these people are left to rely on dumpsites, which are often located near oceans or waterways, it is understandable how this leakage occurs.

Source: UNEP, Global Waste Management Outlook, 2015

Learn more about plastic in the ocean.

## How can I prevent plastic entering the ocean?

As litter travels to water ways, it's essential we:

- Use the bin - not the gutter, not the river, not the pavement.
  - If you see some litter and you're near a bin – pick it up.
  - If the bin is full, find another one or take your litter home.
- You can also join a local beach or neighbourhood clean up.

Learn more about plastic in the ocean.

## What is the industry doing about plastic in the environment?

The plastics industry is very active in helping to understand and reduce litter. We work with a variety of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and charities to educate and change behaviour. These initiatives need to be complimented by government enforcement of anti-litter legislation.

For Fish's Sake #FFSLDN

To prevent litter entering our marine environment, the BPF has supported another innovative behaviour change campaign from Hubbub. For Fish's Sake launched in May 2017 and focuses on the Thames River, London. The campaign aims to help people understand the connection between littering on the land and pollution in our waterways in a playful creative way. It also works to build a sense of community around the Thames and reduce the desire to litter. For Fish's Sake's interventions include ballot rubbish bins, grate art and a cabinet of curiosities. The aim is to create a replicable model for other waterways and expand nationally.

#NeatStreets

#NeatStreets is an anti-littering campaign supported by the plastics industry which took place in Villiers Street, London. The project used innovative methods of behaviour change to challenge and change littering behaviour. Run by Hubbub, #NeatStreets drew on developing a sense of community and using targeted, evidence-based infrastructure such as interactive bins and cigarette ballot bins.

The cigarette ballot bin was designed specifically with engaging questions and two receptacles labelled with different answers to allow smokers to 'vote with their butt'. These customisable bins have been replicated internationally and proven to cut cigarette litter by up to 46%.





Hubbub is now running workshops to teach local authorities how to deliver creative and impactful anti-litter campaigns. 100% of attendees have registered interest in running #NeatStreets locally.

**Bincentives**

The BPF and PlasticsEurope worked with the Marine Conservation Society in the 2017 academic year on a project called CSI: Litter Challenge. As part of this schools developed their own litter campaign. The winning school’s idea has now inspired a new litter campaign called Bincentives. Bincentives provides a series of posters which use emojis to deliver anti-littering messages to the students. Students using litter and recycling bins are rewarded for their behaviour.

To find out more and download the posters please click [here](#).



**Litter Strategy for England**

The BPF was an enthusiastic contributor to the first ever **Litter Strategy for England**. The Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Strategy recognises the importance of behaviour change, education and infrastructure and enforcement. It also proposes setting up several working groups to take the issue forward.

**Operation Clean Sweep®**

Primary microplastics are thought to account for less than 10% of plastic in the ocean, this includes tyres, road markings, building paints, and fibres from clothes.

Source: Eunomia. *Plastics in the Marine Environment*. June 2016.

Although pellet loss only represents less than 1% of the primary microplastic in the environment, the BPF runs this industry-led initiative to reduce plastic pellet loss.

Source: Boucher J and Froit D (2017) *Primary microplastics in the Oceans. A Global Evaluation of Sources*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN 43pp

The implementation manual helps companies to audit their sites, set up their worksite, train staff, and create procedures to ensure their factories are free of rogue pellets and that the risk of them escaping into the wider environment is minimised. The UK was an early adopter of this international programme.



[www.operationcleansweep.co.uk](http://www.operationcleansweep.co.uk)

### Marine Litter Action Network

The BPF and the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) created the Marine Litter Action Network (MLAN), which the industry helped to fund. MLAN brings together people from a variety of organisations (NGOs, academics, decision makers) to take coordinated action on marine litter. MLAN also includes an educational initiative that teaches young people about the ocean and the importance of looking after our environment.

Although the plastics industry is working hard to tackle litter in the UK, the majority of litter finding its way into the seas and oceans around the UK comes from elsewhere, so it is vitally important action is taken by the other countries as well.

[Learn more about plastic in the ocean.](#)

## What should we do about plastic in the ocean?

Any solutions taken must be carefully considered to make sure they address the root cause of the issue and are well suited to preventing plastic ending up in the environment. As most of the plastic in the ocean comes from the land, it is essential that we prevent litter on the land. This includes behaviour change initiatives and improving waste management in developing countries.

Moving away from plastic to alternative materials will not solve the problem of rubbish in our natural environment. In fact, one study has found that moving to alternatives to plastic could actually be worse.

Source: Trucost Plastics and Sustainability: A Valuation of Environmental Benefits, Costs and Opportunities for Continuous Improvement

[Learn more about plastic in the ocean.](#)

## Would a plastic-free aisle in the UK help reduce plastic in the ocean?

As most (98%) of the plastic that enters the ocean comes from sources outside the UK and the United States (Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation, *The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the future of plastics*), a plastic-free aisle in the UK will not contribute in any material way to

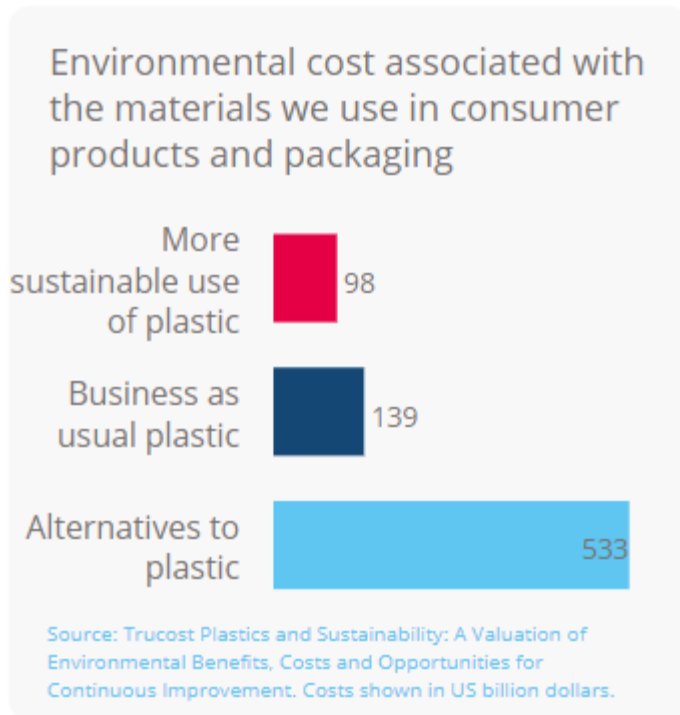
problem of plastics in our oceans.

The most important step is to improve the waste management facilities across the world, as over 2 billion people rely on dumpsites near waterways (Source: UNEP, *Global Waste Management Outlook, 2015*), this could have a large impact on protecting our oceans.

It is important to realise that as long as it is disposed of correctly, plastic packaging is the greener option — it uses less energy to produce, reduces transport costs and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions because it is lightweight, and significantly reduces the amount of fresh food wasted by protecting it in a hygienic environment and extending its shelf life. A 'plastic-free aisle' would potentially increase the overall environmental impact of food packaging by increasing food waste, increasing the resources necessary to package goods and increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

The UN's recent Ocean Conference, 2017 recognised the importance of addressing marine pollution as a socioeconomic issue, requiring the encouragement of reuse and recycling, the development of converting plastic to energy and behaviour change interventions. It also noted the importance of capacity building in developing states around waste management infrastructure.

Source: The Ocean Conference, New York, 5-9 June 2017. Concept Paper on Partnership dialogue 1: Addressing marine pollution.



[Learn more about plastic in the ocean.](#)

## What should we do about litter?

When addressing litter, it is essential to remember that litter is the consequence of thoughtless and careless behaviour and involves a vast array of items. Successful solutions will use a combination of evidence-based strategies to target changing human behaviour and the government enforcement of litter-related offences. See the section above for a variety of effective industry the plastics industry is supporting.

## Would a Deposit Return Scheme help prevent litter?

We can't find any robust evidence that shows a DRS has had a positive impact on litter. In the UK, beverage containers are a small percentage of litter: plastic bottles only account for 2.1% of litter, cans 3.5%.

Source: Litter Composition Survey of England carried out by Keep Britain Tidy (KBT)

One recent German study found that there were 'no significant quantitative effects in litter reduction and no economic effect in street cleaning identifiable as a result' of the DRS.

Source: Effects of deposits on beverage packaging in Germany Effects of deposits on beverage packaging in Germany. Prognos Executive Summary.

Litter surveys from Australia also indicate that Victoria, a state that employed behaviour change methodologies instead of a DRS, has seen the strongest decline in the number of littered items. Despite having a DRS since 1977, South Australia does not have the lowest amount of litter and since the introduction of a DRS in the Northern Territory in 2012, littered items have actually increased.

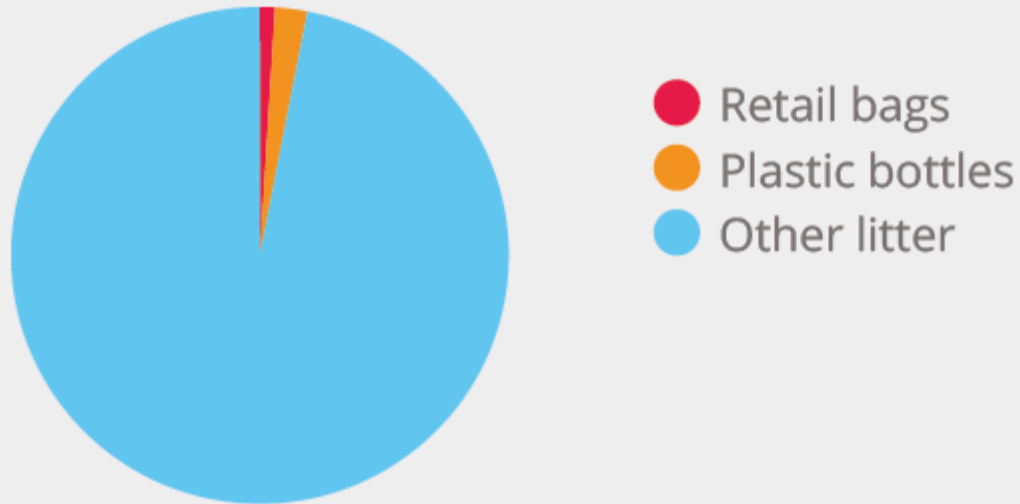
Source: Keep Australia Beautiful, National Litter Index 2014/2015.

## Do certain items get littered more than others?

Litter is a behavioural issue, but sometimes packaging can encourage or discourage littering. For example research by Coca Cola has found that bottles are less likely to be littered than cans – this is thought to be due to the fact they can be resealed and carried to another location to dispose of them responsibly if there are no bins nearby.

Litter surveys have found that cigarettes and chewing gum are the most frequently littered items. Plastic bottles and retail bags were only a small percentage of the items littered (2.1% and 0.7% respectively).

## Items littered



Source: Litter Composition Survey of England carried out by Keep Britain Tidy (KBT)

## Can I get in trouble for littering?

Yes. It is an offence to drop litter in the UK and in many other countries. Dropping litter in the UK can attract a large financial penalty.

## Would more bins help?

Probably. We know that if bins aren't easily available, people do tend to drop rubbish. In a recent observation of Londoners, people were over twice as likely to use a bin if it was within five metres (Source: Hubbub observations as part of For Fish's Sake). Previous observations by Disney found that people would drop litter if they did not find a bin within 30 steps.

However, it's also important that we create a culture of using the bins and making it unacceptable for people to throw rubbish on the ground. In addition, there is a question of how we make sure the bins we have are doing the right job. Are they visible? Are they overflowing? Some councils are experimenting now with solar powered sensors that send notifications when they are getting full (DEFRA Litter Strategy).

**39% of Londoners admit to dropping litter when they are on their own\***

\*Survey was conducted by Censuswide on behalf of Hubbub in April 2017 and interviewed 1,000 Londoners.

## Does biodegradable packaging reduce litter?

It's unlikely. Current biodegradable materials require specific circumstances, such as very high temperatures which are not met on our streets or in the oceans. In relation to marine litter, the UN's chief scientist, Jacqueline McGlade said that these materials are 'well-intentioned but wrong'.

**Source: The Guardian, Biodegradable plastic: false solution for ocean waste.**

The UN also cautioned that using these materials may actually increase littering, as consumers would assume that because these materials would break down overtime it was acceptable to litter them.

**Source: UNEP (2015) Biodegradable Plastics and Marine Litter. Misconceptions, concerns and impacts on marine environments. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi.**

There are applications where biodegradable compostable products can offer positive benefits to waste management. Some of these uses could be for some items in households where home composting facilities are available, food waste (for industrial composting or anaerobic digestion) and products that have a high food contamination level making them difficult to recycle.

## Why don't we use more compostable or biodegradable material?

Good environmental practice requires us to use the least material to do the job required, then to reuse or recycle by recovering material or energy from the products we use at the end of their life. For that reason, most plastic packaging is either recycled or sent to energy-from-waste plants (if recovery for recycling is not the best environmental option).

Where products are not presently collected for recycling it can be because there are high levels of contamination and/or the resources required to recycle simply makes it unsustainable at present. Most presently available compostable and biodegradable materials fail to recover material or energy. Currently, no materials have been proven to adequately biodegrade in the open marine environment.

When packaging can't be easily recovered (because there is a high level of food contamination) and the process of waste management is compatible with compostable material, then compostable materials would be appropriate for returning the nutrients contained in the food.

However, if compostable or biodegradable materials get into the recycling stream, this can have detrimental effects, rendering the recyclate unusable. For this reason, where compostable material is used, it is important that this risk is recognised and managed.

**Did you know?** Biodegradable material is different to bio-based material. Plants can also be used to make non-biodegradable plastic.



[Source: UNEP \(2015\) Biodegradable Plastics and Marine Litter. Misconceptions, concerns and impacts on marine environments. United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\), Nairobi.s](#)

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## **Waste / Environmental communication summary**

In the past 12 months the main communication focus has been on the roll out of the new service from June 2017. The channels used to communicate the changes were, a leaflet and calendar delivered to every household, new vehicle livery, regular press releases published, social media posts and radio adverts, posters and banners in public buildings, a new micro website was developed to host the information on waste services, engagement work in schools was carried out by the Gregory Brother's Roadshow and ADA Recycling Waste Workshops. The messaging these channels conveyed were the restriction of refuse sacks, new recycling containers and how to use them, the garden waste collection service and the new AHP collection service.

From April 2018, we have worked with Kier to reissue a calendar to every household which included an instruction leaflet on how to use Kier's online portal for waste services. All households receiving an AHP collection service received additional information on re-registering for the service. These activities have been promoted on the council's social media platform, by press release and radio advert.

Press release, radio adverts and social media have been used to promote the garden waste service, food waste collections and the Agrivert AD plant, CRCs – including the STEER bike reuse social enterprise scheme, AHP collections and reusable nappies. We have also used these channels to thank residents for the efforts they have made in embracing the new collection service and the improvement in recycling rate. We will continue to promote these messages and others regularly throughout the year.

Recently, we have been working with Kier and V2C to improve the communal collections at Wildmill. This has included installing extra recycling stations, moving some stations to improve access, rebranding the bins by changing the lid colours and providing new stickers, new leaflets and calendars were produced for the area and were hand delivered by Education Officers with a covering letter and map. This gave an opportunity for the Education Officers to speak to as many local residents as possible. Bilingual signage has been produced for the recycling stations and extra signs will be used in other communal areas across the borough. The work has been completed for Glanffornwg and Tairfelin and this has been promoted in the press and on social media. The improvements for Maesyfelin and Tremgarth are due to be completed by the end of the summer and will be promoted at that time.

During, September, October and November we will be working with WRAP Cymru and Kier to make improvements to food waste collections in lower performing areas. This will include a participation monitoring exercise, door- knocking and publicity campaign. The publicity will include leaflets for target areas, leaflets, poster and banners for public buildings, adverts for press, radio and social media and new vehicle livery which will have food waste messages and information. There will be a school engagement project as part of the campaign which will be launched in the January and following the campaign we will promote 'Love Food Hate Waste' messages.

Other school engagement work will include the ADA Recycling Workshops which will be carried out in the Autumn term and the Gregory Brother's Roadshow which will be carried out in the During Term.

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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen y Bont ar Ogwr  
Swyddfeydd Dinesig  
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**Cynghorydd Huw David**  
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**Councillor Huw David**  
**Leader of Council**

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Our Ref / Ein cyf: HD/KLW      Your Ref / Ein cyf:

Date / Dyddiad: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Hannah Blythyn AM  
Minister for Environment  
Welsh Government  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1NA

Correspondence.Hannah.Blythyn@gov.wales

Dear Minister

As you know Bridgend County Borough Council was an early adopter of the Welsh Government's flagship policy "Towards Zero Waste", successfully introducing the separate collection of recyclable materials at the kerbside in 2010. We continue to build on this success with the aim of further improving the opportunity for our residents to recycle, to become one of the top Councils in Wales, recognised for its environmental credentials.

My Council is particularly proud of its recent decision to recycle absorbent hygiene products (AHPs). To date, 9300 homes have signed up to our free AHP kerbside collection service which, since June 2017, has seen 755 tonnes of waste recycled here in Wales in Ammanford, instead of being sent to landfill. We have also teamed up with a small local company "The Bridgend Nappy Guru" to offer heavily discounted, re-usable "real" nappy starter kits to local families.

Further to the last meeting of our full Council, I was asked to write to you to enquire what action Welsh Government is considering taking, to reduce the level of 'single use' plastics in Wales by retailers and producers in their products.

I would be grateful if you can advise this Authority.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Huw David**  
**Leader of Council**

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os yw eich dewis iaith yw'r Gymraeg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*

cc Carwyn Jones, Assembly Member for Bridgend  
Huw Irranca-Davies, Assembly Member for Ogmore  
Cllr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader, Bridgend County Borough Council



Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00458/18

Councillor Huw David  
Leader of the Council

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4 June 2018

Dear Councillor Huw David,

Thank you for your email of 8 May regarding reducing the level of single use plastics by retailers and producers in Wales.

Wales has a lot to be proud of. We were the first UK nation to introduce a 5p charge on plastic bags, which has greatly reduced plastic bag waste. We lead the United Kingdom on household recycling and were recently rated third best in the World.

To keep the momentum going, I recently announced an additional £15 million of capital funding to further improve local authority recycling collection systems and infrastructure, including for plastics. Funds will be allocated on a discretionary basis through the Collaborative Change Programme (CCP).

I am advised that on the basis of provisional figures for 2017-18, Bridgend CBC is one of Wales' top performing Local Authorities in terms of municipal recycling. I would like to congratulate your Council for its achievements.

I have plans to consolidate Wales's place as the leading UK nation for recycling and reducing waste and for Wales to be the World's first 'Refill Nation.' I would encourage you to become involved in 'Refill Nation' to improve access to drinking water in public places and cut down on single plastic usage. The Welsh Government will be working with City to Sea on developing the Refill campaign for Wales, as well as working closely with water companies, businesses, charities and major events. The work will also include a behavioural change campaign to help people see the value of water and make tap water their first choice for hydration.

In January 2017, the Welsh Government commissioned the Eunomia Report on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The researchers were asked to evaluate a range of methods to increase waste prevention and recycling, and reduce litter. The focus was on six types of food and drink packaging including drinks bottles, cans, and single use coffee cups. The summary report was published recently and provides information on a range of options including deposit return schemes, taxes or charges on single-use cups and changes to current EPR regulations.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh. We will not lead to a delay in responding.

We are currently considering Wales' involvement in a UK-wide deposit return scheme. Developing approaches on a UK wide basis can be less complicated for consumers and better for businesses who have told us they prefer this approach, particularly as we prepare for the UK's exit from the EU. We are also considering making changes to regulations so that producers and retailers pay a larger share of waste management costs.

Later this year, I will also be consulting on regulations to implement Part 4 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 that will require businesses and public sector bodies to separate different types of waste. This will significantly contribute to recycling rates in Wales.

We continue to work with HM Treasury on a UK single-use plastics tax. The UK Government's Call for Evidence on a potential single use plastics tax is seeking to understand more how best to define single-use plastic and what items might fall into this category to inform potential decisions on suitable taxation measures. The Welsh Government is working with the UK Government to review evidence and proposals following the Call for Evidence, which closed on 18 May.


I am also developing legislation to introduce a microbeads ban in Wales by 30 June. The ban will be on both the manufacture and sale of products containing microbeads.

In addition, the Welsh Government has signed up to WRAP's UK plastics pact. This is a collaboration of Governments, businesses, local authorities, non-governmental organisations and consumers who are committed to playing their part in reducing the amount of plastic waste generated in the UK.

WRAP Cymru, funded by the Welsh Government, is producing a plastics recycling route-map for Wales. This will recommend action to increase the use of recycle in plastic manufactured in Wales. The £6.5 million circular economy capital investment fund for 2019-20 will contribute to this goal.

I appreciate all your efforts in looking for new opportunities to recycle and I would like to this opportunity to congratulate Bridgend CBC on the introduction of its separate collection of absorbent hygiene products (AHP). I hope this will be replicated throughout Wales in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,



**Hannah Blythyn AC/AM**  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd  
Minister for Environment