

Date of Meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following recommendations	Response/Comments
23-Jul-2018	Plastic Free Bridgend County Borough	Members recommended that the authority should take the lead on reducing single use plastic items and encourage local businesses and the community to follow suit. Members recommended that the Authority start with steps suggested by Friends of the Earth such as encouraging the use of refillable water bottles, paper straws, and purchasing of fruit and vegetables that are not packaged.	Officers in attendance at Scrutiny agree that this would be a positive way forward. The recommendation however is a corporate one impacting on the whole Council and will need to be considered in that context. The matter will therefore be escalated to Cabinet/CMB and discussed there in due course, with a full understanding of the issues and implications before a decision can be made on the way forward. A variation to the existing procurement policy for example, would be required, to restrict where practicable and financially viable purchase of single use plastics and encourage others (businesses and householders) to follow suit.
		Members recommended that Officers explore the options of installing water fountains at key locations throughout the Borough to encourage the use of reusing water bottles rather than purchasing plastic bottled water. Members encouraged officers to explore this as part of the developments of the Bridgend Market.	This suggestion would require further research and engagement with other nationally run campaigns and programmes which are seeking to achieve the reduction in single use plastics. The commercial impact of such a decision would also need to be considered on local businesses along with other health related implications of such a move. Such detail would potentially need to form the basis of a public consultation on any proposal or policy developed in support of the suggestion.
		Members recommended that officers explore the option of trialling recycling bins in the Borough and if successful to have them installed in all Towns in the Borough to encourage members of the public to recycle when they are out as well as at home.	Officers in the Street scene department would be happy to follow this course of actions and indeed have considered it on a number of occasions in the past. The last time being 2014. The department compiled a grant application to meet the costs of bin installation. The clear obstacles that are encountered are the costs attached with the procurement and installation of the bins, the subsequent costs associated with the emptying of the bins and most significantly with the processing of recyclable waste once collected. At the current time the department responsible for this service lacks the resources to undertake such work. MTFS proposals include a further reduction of £200k to the service area and this would result in moving to a reactive cleansing service and a reduction in current litter bins serviced. In short the very sensible suggestion is in conflict with the MTFS direction. The financial details from last time this was looked at are attached should the funds be made available officers would be more than happy to action.
		Members recommended that Council adopt an Environmental Champion to encourage Members and the Community on issues surrounding waste and recycling in the Borough	As part of the waste services contract 2 education officers have been employed up and until the end of the current financial year to support the mobilisation of the new waste services contract. These resources have proved very effective in distributing information in support of recycling and protecting the environment, as the Kier contract is settling the roles can expand to cover this recommendation, however under current budgetary conditions their ongoing employment beyond March of next year is not agreed.

		<p>Members recommended the Authority better utilise their Facebook and Twitter pages to communicate regularly with residents about what can be recycled at the kerbside and also at the Community Recycling Centres. Members stated that they were not aware that black plastics could be taken to the CRCs to be recycled as advised by officers in the meeting. Members asked that as part of the communications, officers could encourage residents to dispose of single use items such as wet wipes and cotton buds to be disposed of correctly.</p>	<p>The Council currently makes extensive use of social media accounts to promote recycling, this work will continue and be reviewed to take into account the comments from Scrutiny.</p>
		<p>Members recommended that officers contact the WLGA to find out what approach other Local Authorities are adopting with regards to reducing their plastic consumption.</p>	<p>Officers have now, contacted WRAP in response to this. For this information WRAP will actually be better place than WLGA to share this information as this is part of what Welsh Government commission them to do / monitor. A transcript of a Conference on "The next steps for reducing plastic waste: innovation incentives and options for policy" being held in December with many expert speakers in the field is being purchased to explore current and future developments in the area.</p>
		<p>Members recommended that the options for a plastic bottle deposit return scheme be explored in the Borough and recommended that the relevant Cabinet Member write to Welsh Government to advise that BCBC supports this scheme</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member will be requested to write to advise of BCBC's support. (Note: it is key that any success of Deposit Return Scheme -DRS must be taken into account in the recycling target setting of the Authority) i.e.. If plastic is not being placed at the kerbside due to a DRS, recycling targets for BCBC will need to be reduced to reflect this, the point will be conveyed also.</p>
		<p>Members requested to receive the following Further Information</p>	
		<p>Members asked for clarification on the single use bags currently used by the Authority to collect residual waste from residents and if they were used from recyclable material and if so this should be printed on the bags to promote to the community.</p>	<p>The bags are made from 75% recycled material. Discussions have taken place with Kier to change the printing once current stocks have been utilised to highlight this.</p>
		<p>Members asked if there is an obligation for retailers to make a charitable donation for the charges for reusable carrier bags.</p>	<p>Essentially this is up to the retailer see links below:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-42638548</p> <p>https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/bills/article-5049981/Charities-lose-supermarkets-cash-bag-life.html</p>

		<p>Members needed to better understand the environmental and budgetary impacts of using single use plastic bags over bio-degradable bags for the disposal of food waste.</p>	<p>This matter will be brought forward for further consideration as part of the Councils MTFS. If cabinet form a view on including this item as part of the Councils overall financial strategy. In overview the potential likely saving is in the order of £35k per annum, as the bags are incinerated the risk of environmental or marine plastic pollution is small. remaining negative environmental impacts are micro fractions of plastic may make its way into the grivet fertiliser (however this has to reach a PAS100 standard to be used on land so is governed and hence risk controlled). The other environmental impact is that the plastic bag alternative is ultimately made using a fossil fuel.</p>
		<p>Members asked for the recycling of sanitary products be explored and balanced between environmental and budgetary impacts</p>	<p>This was considered at length during the development of the waste contract and was considered to cost prohibitive (in the hundreds of thousands), due to the potentially very high number of households who could potentially request the service.</p>
		<p>Members would like to be provided with a definitive timeline for the procurement of an external contractor to undertake enforcement action on littering in the Borough. Members heard that this would shortly be going through the tendering process but members wanted reassurance as to when this was likely to happen and when a contractor would be appointed.</p>	<p>This is still being worked on whenever relevant officers in legal and streetscene have the opportunity a full update on this will be provided at the waste scrutiny meeting on the 17th September</p>
		<p>Members asked for clarification on the class of vehicles allowed at CRCs and what was classed as a commercial vehicle and therefore not allowed at the centres.</p>	<p>Please see attached note on access permits to CRC</p>