

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

16 APRIL 2019

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE OPENING TIMES

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to changes to the public opening times at the Community Recycling Centres at Tythegston, Brynmenyn and Maesteg.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 As part of the Council's approved Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), savings have been identified through changes to the opening times of the Council's Community Recycling Centres, as part of the Communities Directorate's response to balancing its financial allocation with the level of service provision, whilst taking into consideration the priorities detailed in the Corporate Plan under:-

- **Helping people to become more self-reliant.** Individuals and families that will be more independent and less reliant on traditional Council services.
- **Smarter use of resources.** Ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technology) 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 As part of the Council's response to cuts to public service funding, an option to reduce the opening times of the Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) was included in the consultation on Shaping Bridgend's Future which took place between September and November 2018. Respondents were provided with four recycling and waste proposals which could create savings or increase revenue over the next four years. 57% of respondents selected reducing opening hours as either their first or second choice within this question. Of the 5,288 interactions, 1031 people selected to reduce the recycling centre opening hours by one hour per day.
- 3.2 The analysis of that consultation was presented to Cabinet on 18th December 2018 and included in the Council's MTFS on 20th February 2019. This included the reduction of opening hours of CRCs by one hour per day.
- 3.3 CRCs currently operate summer and winter opening hours as follows:-

1 April to 30 September	Monday – Friday Sat/Sun/ Bank Holidays	8.30 – 20.00 8.30 – 18.00
1 October to 31 March	Monday – Sunday	8.30 – 16.30

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 Discussions with the Council's Waste Contractor on how an hour reduction can be implemented are ongoing and dependent on the Waste Contractor's negotiation with their operational staff.
- 4.2 When the revised opening hours are agreed, they will be widely published and notices amended for public awareness.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 There will be no direct effect on the Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and no groups with protected characteristics identified by the Equalities legislation 2010 are considered to be adversely affected by the contents of this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications

- 7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment has been completed and is detailed in **Appendix A**. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

- **Long-term -** The service will continue to provide Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) as part of the council's waste contract and recycling performance at these facilities will be incorporated into the council's recycling targets. The reduction in opening hours was presented to Council to satisfy financial savings in line with the council's Medium Term Financial Savings (MTFS). The service will be monitored to identify trends and emerging needs to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and to support the authority in future planning.
- **Prevention -** The conditions for managing the facilities are included within the contract specification. Staff are trained and the contract operates under a licence, which is audited by National Resources Wales. The council monitors the contract activities for Health and Safety standards and performance.
- **Integration -** The reduction of opening hours should have minimal impact on recycling levels but will contribute towards financial savings required of the authority.
- **Collaboration -** The service is contracted to Kier Environmental Services who manage the CRC facilities on the council's behalf.
- **Involvement -** The service communicates with the public through signage and notices at the sites. Any changes to the facilities are updated on the council's website and advertised through social media.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 Budget savings for reducing the opening hours of Community Recycling Centres by 1 hour are included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-20 to 2022-23 with a target saving of £17,000 for 2019-20 and every year thereafter.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- i.. Approve the proposed revision to the opening times at the Council's three Community Recycling Centres by reducing them by one hour per day subject to agreement with the Waste Contractor; and
- ii. Delegate authority to the Interim Chief Executive, to agree the final configuration for the hours of opening at the Council's three Community Recycling Centres

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8th April 2019

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Background papers:

Council Report on 20th February 2019 for Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019 – 20 to 2022 – 2023

Cabinet Report on 18th December 2018 on the Consultation Shaping Bridgend's Future (283)