

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

10 DECEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STREET CLEANSING

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit an informational update on the current street cleansing activities and resource levels throughout Bridgend County Borough and its Town Centres.
- 1.2 The report follows a previous report on the subject provided in March 2018 to the Town and Community Council Forum and provides more recent information in relation to positive litter awareness campaigning and enforcement.
- 1.3 Lastly the report considers the potential future direction for the Street Cleansing Service given the ongoing pressures of austerity on budgets.

2. Connections to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priorities:
 - **Supporting a successful economy** - taking steps to make the County a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the County.
 - **Helping people to be more self-reliant** - taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
 - **Smarter use of resources** - ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, 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 The ongoing financial savings implemented by the Council ("BCBC") in order to meet reductions in public funding have had a significant impact on the size of the Street Cleansing Teams.
- 3.2 In 2010, the Street Scene Department consisted of circa 85 staff in total. Now in 2019, the Cleaner Streets Department is made up of 35 operators and 2

foreman with 17 operators based in the North and 18 operators based in the South.

- 3.3 Despite the significant savings made, the Council has managed to largely mitigate the impact of the staff losses by better utilisation of resources moving to an area based team model and improving individual productivity.
- 3.4 In May 2019, the All Wales Local Environmental Audit and Management System Report 2018-19 compiled from independent on street inspections carried out by Keep Wales Tidy, gave Bridgend a Cleanliness Indicator Score of 67.7 and graded the streets predominantly free of litter and refuse apart from some small items or better as 96.7%. These scores are shown on Appendix 1 with all other Welsh authorities, as can be seen the Bridgend scores are comparable with those of surrounding South Wales authorities.

4 Current Situation

4.1 Cleaner Streets Cleansing Schedules:

4.2 The street cleansing for Town Centres and surrounding areas is based on a set schedule and rota.

4.3 The schedule however, is not set in stone and is often adapted to change the frequency of cleansing and litter picking to ensure that a service is provided in all areas all be it on a reduced level especially in seasonal cases or where major events are taking place.

4.4 Other factors which affect the service schedule are when cleansing and caged vehicles are put out of service coupled with staff shortages through holiday and sickness cover, which in both cases has a detrimental outcome and therefore cleaning schedules have to be adjusted and frequency reduced.

4.5 Town Centre Cleaning Schedules:

- **Bridgend Town Centre**

Bridgend	Sweeper	Bins and litter picking
Mon – Friday	06.00 – 09.30	06.00 – 14.00 (08.00-16.00)
Saturday	06.00 - 09.30	06.00 - 10.00
Sunday	06.00 - 09.30	06.00 – 10.00

Mon – Fri: 06.00 – 08.00, caged lorry, team leader and one operative litter pick and empty BCBC bins in town centre, they then remove fly tipping, empty BCBC bins and litter pick surrounding areas as per schedule until 1400.

Mon – Fri: 06.00- 14.00 - Pedestrian Sweeper also sweeps town, once completed reverts to sweep as per schedule.

Mon – Fri: one operative 08.00 – 16.00, litter picks and empty BCBC bins.

Saturday and Sunday: 06.00 – 10.00, caged Lorry, team leader and one operative – Pedestrian Sweeper. Town is cleaned and then lorry empties bins in surrounding areas and picks as required, sweeper reverts to schedule.

- **Porthcawl**

<u>Porthcawl</u>	<u>Sweeper</u>	<u>Bins and litter picking</u>
Mon – Friday	06.00 – 09.30	06.00 – 14.00 (09.00-17.00)
Saturday	06.00 - 09.30	06.00 - 11.00
Sunday	06.00 - 09.30	06.00 – 11.00

Mon – Fri: 06.00 – 14.00, team leader and one operative empty bins on Promenade and town centre plus litter pick.

Mon, Wed, and Fri: empty bins and litter pick in surrounding areas.

Mon – Fri: 08.00 – 16.00, lorry, team leader and usually one operative empty bin in Porthcawl until 10.30 and then litter pick as required by schedule.

09.00 – 17.00, one operative litter picks and empties BCBC bins in town centre and surrounding areas.

Sat to Sun: 06.00 – 11.00 Lorry, team leader and one operative empty BCBC bins on Promenade, then in to Town to empty bins and litter pick. Sweeper follows on behind and they brush out as necessary. Sweeper then returns to schedule and lorry empties BCBC bins in surrounding areas.

- **Pencoed**

Does not have a schedule like other town centres, 0800 – 16.00 Mon, Wed, Friday, bins emptied and litter picked. Sweeper visits as required or by schedule.

- **Maesteg**

<u>Maesteg</u>	<u>Sweeper</u>	<u>Bins and litter picking</u>
Mon – Friday	06.00 – 07.40	08.00 – 16.00 (09.00-17.00)
Saturday	06.00 - 07.40	06.00 - 11.00
Sunday	06.00 - 07.40	06.00 – 11.00

Mon – Sunday, 0600 -0740, Town centre with sweeper and a brush man who will also empty bins. On two weekends in a month it is completed by two men, this normally takes around two hours which is without use of the sweeper.

Mon – Fri, 0800 – 1600, lorry, team leader and usually one operative empty bins around Maesteg until 1030 and then litter pick as required by schedule. 0900 – 1700, one operative litter picks and empties BCBC bins in town centre and surrounding areas.

The town centre consists of the main streets, bus station, car park and surrounding lanes around the main streets.

4.6 Building Relations

4.7 The Cleaner Streets Team report that the increasing demands and pressures placed on the Department and Service has led to the section now being at maximum capacity and to be able to maintain a satisfactory service provision, the Department is having to curtail the fitting of any additional litter bins as requested through referrals. The Cleaner Streets Team understands that closer working with Town and Community Councils is important to be able to maintain a satisfactory service should any further financial constraints be placed on the Department. The Cleaner Streets Operations Officer has spent considerable time over the past year working with and attending meetings to identify opportunities and offering support and ideas for ways in which to work together to meet the objectives of cleaner towns / streets.

4.8 We believe that good relations have been forged and in some cases much work has been accomplished through partnering, examples include the provision and revamping of litter bins throughout the borough, servicing community bins and providing additional support through volunteer services.

4.9 This year the Cleaner Streets Operations Officer presented a 'litter awareness and behaviour change' Project to all Town Councils. The Project involves educating the community by firstly linking with schools to develop messages that the children would like to give to their community. The Project work that took place in Porthcawl involved the following:

- Firstly, school pupils learnt about the impact of litter by carrying out a litter-pick in the streets surrounding their school with Keep Wales Tidy, followed by a beach clean with Seaquest and workshops in the classroom. The school children collated the information they had found out through carrying out these activities and produced a report and posters. The reports and posters then provide the basis of a marketing campaign where the posters were displayed in the local area. An information leaflet was also produced and circulated to local households along with various other PR activities. The litter-picks and beach cleaning were repeated after 6 months to see if there were any changes.
- Secondly, following on from the work with schools the project looked at business waste. The Cleaner Streets Operations Officer will visit local shops and cafes to offer advice on reducing their packaging waste and to look at alternatives to using plastic and get involved with becoming a water bottle refill point. Any business that came on board displays a 'supporter's sticker'

based on the posters designed by the school children, further spreading the message within the local community.

- 4.10 Porthcawl Town Council were the first to see the value of running such a scheme and the “Porthcawl Love it Don’t Trash it” Project was launched in January of this year. The work with the 5 primary schools in Porthcawl has now been completed and as well as their posters now being displayed in the locality, some 7,000 households in the Porthcawl area have also received an information leaflet. The media attention, both on social media and in the local press, and the involvement of the community has been extremely supportive which has provided a very successful outcome to date. Local businesses are also coming on board, looking at their packaging waste and meeting the challenges of providing a litter and plastic free Porthcawl.

The results from the school litter picks and beach clean have also noted a success with a 50% reduction in litter collected between their first litter pick and beach clean and their second. When the activities were repeated 6 months later, the schools also reported a reduction in larger pieces of litter being found, such as single use plastic bottles, with the main types of litter collected being the smaller items such as wrappers etc.

- 4.11 Following the success of the Project in Porthcawl, BCBC are keen to expand this project and discussions are now under way with Pencoed Town Council and interest has also been expressed by Brackla Community Council.
- 4.12 To develop relations further within the communities, the Cleaner Streets Operations Officer and the Waste and Policy Officer have been attending various community groups, associations and schools presenting talks on waste issues and recycling and also providing an update on the ‘Porthcawl Love it Don’t Trash it’ Project, which has received positive responses to date. The Project feedback received has revealed, a former general unawareness of the pressures Waste and Cleaner Streets services are under, an appreciation of staff working differently to achieve a cleaner Bridgend and a general increase in knowledge recycling and waste.

4.13 Dog Fouling

- 4.14 Dog fouling has been at the forefront of complaints received coupled with social media escalating people’s opinions further which have increased the demand for more action to be taken: dog fowl bins, enforcement, signage etc.

4.15 TiksPac UK Ltd (“TiksPac”)

Following the successful trial of the TiksPac dog fouling posts in Pencoed and Maesteg, partnership with TiksPac has expanded providing a further twenty posts throughout the borough. TiksPac is an environmental concept which includes a post station that provides biodegradable dog waste bags for dog walkers, and these stations have been placed at selected locations such as footpaths, parks and other public areas and on routes where there are also litter

bins for their collection. This has been completed in collaboration with Town and Community Councils providing the locations.

4.16 Initial reports from areas suggest that these are helping reduce the impact of dog fouling and social media such as Facebook have provided positive feedback, as have several Local Councillors.

4.17 To support the scheme new signage has been developed to encourage dog walkers to pick up after their pets, these posters are in the form of a cartoon caricature and are currently being strategically placed in hot spot areas.

4.18 3rd Sector working/Volunteering

4.19 The Cleaner Streets Team has been working closely with Keep Wales Tidy (KWT) towards the development of community volunteer hubs based on a successful application for £30,000 of funding from Welsh Government.

4.20 The application is based on the Cleaner Streets Team working jointly with KWT in the development of community based projects under the Caru Cymru Project.

Part of the Project is to set up Community Hubs (“Hubs”) throughout the borough (5 in the first year). These Hubs are based on the volunteer groups that were set up previously. The success and popularity of the groups whilst welcomed has led to difficulty in providing the resources to the support the activities and as a result the voluntary work was becoming unsustainable. The Hubs will aim to provide a central point in specific areas/communities where litter champions can go to access resources to carry out their activities and the Hub being provided with the equipment as a central base. The Cleaner Streets Officer has already begun identifying the various hub areas and has been discussing this with various communities and over the coming weeks will be contacting Community Councils to provide a full understanding and outline of the Hub.

4.21 The grant also allows the Department to develop sustainable projects and to work with communities and schools. It is our aim to use these funds to work on initiatives such as the ‘Bridgend Love It Don’t Trash it’ Campaign with the wider community.

4.22 Enforcement / 3GS

4.23 To further improve the street scene environment the contractor 3GS has been engaged to carry out litter enforcement activities throughout the borough. This is for an initial one year period that commenced in May 2019. Towards the end of this period a review of the success of the enforcement activities will be carried out to inform future enforcement provision.

4.24 Future Direction

4.25 With no immediate end to austerity and funding reductions in sight the future provision of the street cleansing service will have to be considered. Whilst it is

not decided what savings if any the cleansing budget may have to produce, any future service model may need to be significantly different to the current arrangement. A move to a re-active cleansing service model would whilst being far from ideal offer further savings if required.

- 4.26 It is clear that reliance on voluntary groups and Town and Community Councils will inevitably increase as we move forwards and maintaining effective and innovative working relationships to address littering will be vital.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There are no effects upon BCBC's Policy Framework or Procedure Rules.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

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

- 7.1 None for this information only report

8 Financial implications

- 8.1 The costs of the Street Cleaning Teams are met through the Council's Revenue Budget and there has also been the additional grant of £30,000 from Welsh Government for the Volunteer Community Hubs Project.

9 Recommendation

- 9.1 That the Town and Community Council Forum note the content of this report.

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December 2019

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Background Documents:

None

Appendix 1: Headline Local Authority Results

2018-19 Local Authority

	Cleanliness Indicator Score	Percentage of Streets Graded B and Above
Anglesey	74.6	100
Blaenau Gwent	64.9	94.1
Bridgend	67.7	96.7
Caerphilly	68.2	97.9
Cardiff	67.3	96
Carmarthenshire	77.9	91.2
Ceredigion	83.6	97.8
Conwy	72.3	97.5
Denbighshire	74	98.7
Flintshire	70.6	95.8
Gwynedd	73.6	98.6
Merthyr Tydfil	66.3	95.5
Monmouthshire	67.4	95.8
Neath Port Talbot	65.9	93.8
Newport	64	89.6
Pembrokeshire	83.2	94.6
Powys	66.4	94.6
Rhondda Cynon Taf	66.7	97.6
Swansea	67.1	96.4
Torfaen	67.4	96.6
Vale of Glamorgan	69.4	96.1
Wrexham	70.0	97.4