

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CABINET

11 APRIL 2023

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

### CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRES

#### 1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is:

- To seek Cabinet approval to formally enter into public consultation on the potential closure of three Community Recycling Centres (CRC) for one day a week.
- For Cabinet to note that the outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in due course.

#### 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

#### 3. Background

3.1 Budget planning for the financial year 2023-24 has been more uncertain and challenging than usual, with even more cost pressures presenting themselves going forward than has been experienced in previous years, and a climate that requires more support for our older and more vulnerable members of society with substantial increased demand for many services. As part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-24 to 2026-27, approved by Council on the 1 March 2023, a Budget

Reduction Proposal of £50,000 was included in relation to the Waste Services budget.

- 3.2 In order to achieve these savings it would be necessary to close each CRC for one weekday per week. This would require both Contract variation negotiations with Kier to confirm the saving levels proposed along with public consultation regarding the reduced levels of service.

#### **4. Current situation/proposal**

- 4.1 Any proposals to amend the operating arrangements for the CRC's needs to take into account the views of the community and users of the sites. Cabinet are therefore asked to approve formal consultation on the option of reducing the operating days of each CRC by one day a week to meet the financial savings identified in the MTFs for Financial year 2023-24 of £50,000. The results of this consultation will be presented to Cabinet along with recommendations on the future operating model for across the County Borough.
- 4.2 Sites are currently operated 7 days a week Monday – Sunday. Following consultation, if it is decided that CRC sites should close one weekday per week, officers will work with the current Contractor Kier to ensure that the days chosen will cause minimal disruption to the public. Weekends would not be selected for closure as these are busier days.
- 4.3 It is noted however, that closure of each CRC for one weekday per week could potentially result in some queuing for residents at other CRCs.
- 4.4 If approved the statutory consultation will commence in early April 2023 and continue for 12 weeks.
- 4.5 It is proposed that groups including the Citizens Panel, Equalities Panel and Town and Community Councils would be consulted as would other groups such as those representing elderly or disabled service users.
- 4.6 An on line survey will be available on the Bridgend County Borough Council website. This will be promoted via social media platforms to individuals who live in, work in, or visit Bridgend County.

#### **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

- 5.1 There are no effects upon the policy framework and procedure rules arising from this report.

#### **6. Equality Act 2010 implications**

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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

7.1 The recommendations in this report demonstrate the sustainable development principle by ensuring that by meeting the needs of the present they do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and this is evidenced through the 5 ways of working:

- Long term – delivering financial budget reduction proposals.
- Prevention – working with partners to ensure that CRCs are available at appropriate times for those living, working or visiting Bridgend County Borough.
- Integration – the project contributes to the well-being goals: a healthier Wales, a Resilient Wales, and a Wales of Cohesive Communities and to the Well-being objective Supporting communities in Bridgend to be Safe and Cohesive.
- Collaboration – the running of the CRCs is a collaboration between Bridgend County Borough Council Communities Directorate, and Kier.
- Involvement – the consultation with partners, stakeholders, local residents, communities and elected members will inform the decision of whether to reduce the opening days of the CRCs.

## **8. Financial implications**

8.1 There are no additional costs directly associated with this report. Any costs attached to the consultation process will be met within current budgets/staffing resources of the department.

8.2 As part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-24 to 2026-27, approved by Council on the 1 March 2023, a Budget Reduction Proposal of £50,000 was included in relation to the Waste Services budget. If approved, the formal consultation will consider the option of reducing the opening of the CRCs by one day per week to meet the financial savings.

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to give approval to commence a public consultation on the proposal to close each CRC one day per week.

9.2 Cabinet is recommended to note that the outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in due course.

**Janine Nightingale**  
**CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**  
**11 April 2023**

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**Background documents: None**