

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	21 NOVEMBER 2023
Report Title:	OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY RECYLCING CENTRES CLOSURE
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES
Responsible Officer:	JEN SPARROW CLEANER STREETS AND WASTE CONTRACT MANAGER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect on policy framework or procedural rules.
Executive Summary:	As part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-24 to 2026-17, a budget reduction was proposed against the budget for the running of the three Community Recycling Centres as part of the Communities Directorate's response to balancing its financial allocation with the level of service provision. Between June and September 2023 a consultation asked for views on the closure of each Community Recycling Centre one day per week. This report outlines the outcomes of the consultation.

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the closure of each Community Recycling Centre (CRC) for one day per week in order to achieve the Budget Reduction Proposal included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023-24 to 2026-27 approved by Council on 1st March 2023 and to seek Cabinet approval to move ahead to the implementation phase of the proposal.

2. Background

- 2.1 As part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023-24 to 2026-27, a budget reduction was proposed against the budget for the running of the three Community Recycling Centres as part of the Communities Directorate's response to balancing its financial allocation with the level of service provision.
- 2.2 A consultation went live on 30th June 2023 and closed on 12 September 2023. The consultation asked for views on the closure of each site one day per week.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 There were 407 responses in total to the consultation and the summary report is included at **Appendix A**.

- 3.2 Of the responses received 98.2% stated that they currently visit the CRC's in Bridgend County Borough with 46.9% stating that they visited on a monthly basis. 21.8% of respondents stated that they visit on a six-monthly basis. 14.1% stated that they visited weekly and 15.4% stated that they visited fortnightly.
- 3.3 Bryncethin was the most visited site with 49.4% selecting this as the site that they usually visit. Tythegston was selected by 41.6% and Maesteg was selected by 9% of respondents.
- 3.4 Responding to the question 'Do you feel the proposal to close the CRC sites one day a week should be agreed?' 56% stated no and 44% stated yes. When asked why they felt the site should not close a day per week the responses mainly referred to concerns of a potential increase in flytipping and longer queues at sites.
- 3.5 When asked if the closure of each CRC one day per week would negatively impact the person 50.4% stated yes and 49.6% stated no. Those selecting yes stated that the impact would relate to longer queues and concerns over the sites being closed on the weekends. The potential for increased flytipping was also mentioned by a number of respondents.
- 3.6 If Cabinet approve the proposal to close each CRC site one day per week, officers will liaise with the current contractor, Kier, to implement the closure days for each site per week. Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) data for the sites would be used to inform the proposed day of the week that each site is closed. It would not be intended that the sites would all be closed on the same day or at weekends. On analysis of ANPR data, if the proposal is approved, the proposed days of closure are:
- Tythegston - Tuesday
Maesteg - Wednesday
Brynmenyn – Thursday
- 3.7 Implementation of the one day per week closure of the CRC sites will have staffing consultation implications for the current contractor, Kier. Also, the incoming waste contractor, Plan B, will need to be made aware of the changes that they will be expected to deliver from 1st April 2024.
- 3.8 Officers highlight for Cabinet members that the shortening of the available hours resulting from this change will likely, at peak times, extend queuing times, however this effect must be considered in the context of the financial position of the authority and the importance of delivering savings.
- 3.9 Further to the above implementation considerations, should Cabinet decide to approve the implementation of the MTFs one day per week saving, officer liaison with Kier will commence to determine a suitable implementation date which will be publicised in advance and widely using a variety media channels, as well as at the CRC sites themselves.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is committed to promoting sustainable development and to discharge its duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The closure of each CRC for one day per week would not adversely impact 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. This is evidenced through the 5 ways of working as follows:

- Long-term: The proposed closure one day per week still allows for sites to be used throughout the borough to ensure that residents are recycling as many materials as possible. The implementation of the one day per week closure aims to balance short-term needs of meeting savings targets, while safeguarding the ability to meet longer-term objectives.
- Prevention: The MTFs saving and remodelling of existing service provision to prevent more costly long term pressures.
- Integration: The MTFs saving will be undertaken to ensure that future services and their implementation integrates with current and future recycling and environmental objectives.
- Collaboration: The process for providing the continuing service and minimal disruption to residents will be undertaken through a partnership approach between BCBC and service providers.
- Involvement: The full budget consultation launched on 19th December 2022 and ran until 22nd January 2023. This consultation sought views on the specific proposal to close each of the CRC sites one day per week and sought views on the impact of this from residents.

- 5.2 In addition to the Future Generations implications this proposal will link with Corporate priority 5 ; **A County Borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency**. The CRCs currently operating in the County Borough contribute to increasing recycling performance. It is not intended that sites will be closed on the same day of the week so a site will be available seven days per week to allow as little disruption as possible and build on progress made to date to enable us to continue to exceed the national recycling targets and increase opportunities for reuse of materials

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 The one day per week per site closure of each CRC is not expected to have a negative impact on climate change as there will be other sites available for use when each individual site is closed.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The anticipated saving from the closure of each CRC one day per week is £50,000 and is in line with the proposal approved by Council in March 2023 as part of the MTFS 2023-24 to 2026-27.

9. Recommendation(s)

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

9.1.1 Note the outcomes of the consultation on proposals to close each CRC one day per week.

9.1.2 Gives approval to continue to progress the closure of each site one day per week.

9.1.2 Authorises the Corporate Director of Communities to liaise with the exiting and incoming waste contractors to implement the closure of the CRC sites on a one day per week.

Background documents

None