

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Communities Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> of June 2023</b>
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	<b>Cllr Barry Mellor (Lead Member for Highways &amp; Environment) / Tony Ward (Corporate Director for Environment &amp; Economy)</b>
<b>Head of Service</b>	<b>Andy Clark</b>
<b>Report author</b>	<b>Simon Lammond, Waste and Recycling Manager / Lowri Roberts, Project Manager</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Update for Waste Service Remodelling Project</b>

## **1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1. This report provides members with the opportunity to scrutinise the updated Waste Collections Policy. Additionally, it provides an update regarding the roll out of the new Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) service and an update on the changes for non-standard households.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

- 2.1. The report is to inform members of the content of the new Waste Collections Policy, the progress and of upcoming activities to enable the roll out of the new AHP service and to seek their views on them.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1. That the Scrutiny Committee discusses the contents of the report and the appended Waste Collections Policy (Appendix 1) plus the AHP Roll Out communication materials (Appendix 2) and provides observations on these elements.

- 3.2. That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood, and taken account of the recently updated Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 3) as part of its consideration.

## **4. Report details**

### **Waste Collections Policy**

- 4.1. Appendix I provides the details of the Current waste collections policy (Part 1) and the New Service waste collection policy (Part 2)
- 4.2. The main changes to current policy are mainly a strengthening responsibilities / clarity of policy and major service changes:
- a) Section 1a & b detail the new residual and recycling collection service frequency of collection and container type used. Section 2 relates to alternative collections unsuitable for standard service provision. Section 3 to communal bulk bins
  - b) Section 4 clarifies that it is a legal requirement in Wales to recycle food waste (with effect October 2023). Section 5 relates to WEE & Battery collection services.
  - c) Section 7 presentation and Section 8 private unadopted roads are reinforced in terms of what is acceptable and the formal notification of collection points for properties with restricted access. Section 15 refers to use of microchipped bins
  - d) Section 18 clarifies Non-Infectious Hygiene Waste service from 2024.
  - e) Section 22 outlines bulky collection service changes.

### **Absorbent Hygiene Products Service Roll Out (AHP)**

- 4.3. From Autumn 2023 the new AHP service will be rolled out to the targeted pilot area covering the LL16 / LL17 postcode areas. This covers St Asaph, Denbigh, Bodfari, Llandyrnog, Llanrhaeadr, Henllan, Nantglyn, The Green, Trefnant, St Asaph, Allt Goch, Rhualt and Tremeirchion.
- 4.4. This area will capture around 1,000 subscribers, providing a mix of rural, town and urban areas for the scope of the pilot and early roll out prior to the whole county roll out when the main service change takes place in 2024. Residents who do not live

within the LL16 / LL17 postcode areas can continue to put their AHP waste in their black residual bin or pink sack. Residents living in a flat with communal waste collections cannot yet apply for the AHP service but will be able to do so from March 2024.

- 4.5. Eligible residents can sign up for the pilot AHP service from 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 via the DCC website. Eligibility for the service includes households with babies or children in nappies, and adults who use incontinence products. Following sign up, a 40litre caddy or a 140litre bin (depending on need) plus a roll of liners will be delivered to the address. AHP waste will be collected weekly. The full Terms and Conditions and Frequently Asked Questions can be found in Appendix 2.
- 4.6. Enforcement officers will be actively servicing this area as part of the pilot to advise residents and monitor the expected reduction of AHP within the residual waste stream. This approach allows better monitoring and control of the early roll out as a targeted area is operationally more efficient and provides accessible transport links to Parc Adfer who will process the waste until the new service is launched.

### **Non-Standard Households**

- 4.7. Denbighshire has several households on a 'non-standard service', i.e., either a communal or sack service. This is due to vehicles access issues and the properties container storage spaces being limited. These non-standard households are currently being reviewed.
- 4.8. Survey work has begun to ascertain what solutions can be provided for the non-standard properties under the new service. 128 sites are communal properties, 105 of these sites are in North Denbighshire and 23 in South Denbighshire. Of the 124 sites that have so far assessed 81 of these can move to the new standard service and receive a trolleybox for their recycling waste.
- 4.9. For the 41 sites that cannot receive a trolleybox, two options will be considered:
  - I. Additional 240litre (x4) wheelie bins in place of the current 1110litre mixed stream container for separate waste streams (glass, paper, plastics etc.); or
  - II. A large communal bin with waste stream type dividers and portioned lids
- 4.10. There are currently 2,483 households on a sack collection service. 2,271 of these are in the South of the County and 212 properties in the North. Due to the volume

of sites receiving a sack service, the detailed assessments are ongoing. Wherever possible, properties will be moved to the standard trolleybox system, but other options will be considered where this is not achievable.

- 4.11. Sack collections on pickups that have private drives/lanes or unadopted roads should be placed on lane end collections and where possible be placed onto a trolley box collection. The vehicular access could still be an issue even after lane end collections are introduced but would make a more efficient collection by cutting down on unnecessary travel and reduce the risk of vehicle or property damage.
- 4.12. Sack collections that have a storage issue should be either placed on re-usable dumpy sacks, one large sack for residual waste and smaller sacks for separate streams of recycling, or possibly recycling boxes minus the trolley and a large sack for residual waste. In such instances, properties would need to be individually assessed and accommodated to suit requirements of the collection.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Themes?**

- 5.1. The key driver for the service change is to increase recycling performance to meet the statutory 70% recycling target for all local authorities from 2024/25. It will also increase the quality of recycling collected from households, enabling generation of income from selling materials, and increase opportunities for closed loop recycling.

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

- 6.1. The costs of implementing the new service changes are covered from the mobilisation and container budget allocations within the overall project budget.
- 6.2. Implementation of the new service will impact on various council services, including Customer Services and the Communications Team, and representatives from these service areas are included in the relevant mobilisation work stream project teams.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

- 7.1. The overall outcome of the Well-being Impact Assessment is positive – see Appendix 3 for further details.

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

- 8.1. The principle of implementing the new waste model, following the Welsh Government Blueprint for waste services, was originally approved at the Strategic Investment Group (SIG) and Cabinet in December 2018. An updated Business Case was also presented to, and approved by, Cabinet in April 2022.
- 8.2. In December 2021, an update was provided to Communities Scrutiny Committee, and this report also included an updated Waste Collections Policy.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

- 9.1. Although there are no direct financial implications of this report, the business case for the large capital investment in waste over recent years has been based on the revenue implications of the model described in this report.

## **10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

- 10.1. There are two key risks concerning the implementation of the new service model by March 2024. These are:
  - **Permit Approval:** Operations at the new depot are subject to the approval of a bespoke permit which was submitted in January 2023 to Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The permit needs to be approved before the service change can take place. This process can take approximately 12 months, but we are engaging with NRW at an operational and strategic level regarding this issue.
  - **Depot Readiness:** The depot is currently scheduled for completion in Autumn 2023. This is currently on track, which should allow the depot to be ready for the assembly and delivery of containers in readiness for the roll out to residents from November 2023. However, this risk did increase in likelihood after our main contractor for phase 2 of the build went into administration in February 2023. This situation is being managed by the Project Team and Board.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

- 11.1. Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000
- 11.2. Section 7 of the Council's Constitution.