

**CARDIFF COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CAERDYDD**

**AGENDA ITEM: 5**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

**14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014**

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**2014/15 BUDGET STRATEGY – EARLY CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS –  
HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES – SERVICE REDESIGN**

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**Purpose of report**

1. To brief Members on the 2014/15 Budget Strategy Proposals which relate to 'Household Waste Recycling Centres – Service Redesign'.

**Background**

2. The 2014/15 Budget Strategy – Update Report which was considered at Cabinet in November identified the impact on the Council's finances of the Welsh Government's 2014/15 Provisional Local Government Settlement. As a result of the Settlement for Cardiff the shortfall increased by £13 million to £46 million and following the addition of a £4 million contingency sum a Budget Reduction Requirement of £50 million was approved.
3. Given the unprecedented financial challenge facing Council, the Cabinet considered whether any additional measures were required to enable the Council to agree its 2014/15 Revenue and Capital Budgets in February 2014.
4. As part of the budget process directors were asked if early consideration of any of their savings proposals was required to allow sufficient time to achieve the level of savings required to balance their budgets next year. For example, in order to achieve a full year saving in 2014/15 it may well be necessary to seek approval to commence early engagement or consultation with relevant parties in relation to the proposals put forward.
5. As a result of this consideration Cabinet agreed that those significant budget savings proposals that required early consideration should be the subject of a further report to Cabinet in December. One of the items identified as contributing towards significant budget savings and requiring early consideration was 'Household Waste

Recycling Centres – Service Redesign’. This report provides a summary of this proposal.

### **Household Waste Recycling Centres – Service Redesign**

6. Household Waste Recycling Centres form a part of the Environment Portfolio and are managed on a day to day basis within the Environment Directorate. The Environment Directorate describes the ‘Household Waste Recycling Centres – Service Redesign’ as trying to achieve the following:

- To reduce the number of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) operated by the authority from the current operation of four HWRC sites to two HWRC sites;
- To redesign the HWRC service to match customer requirements.

7. The proposal for this change is based upon a number of factors, including:

- Current data shows sites are under utilised - operating at an average of 50% capacity;
- Current opening times are not matched to customer demand;
- The sites are currently not recycling as much material as possible and fall well below what is required to meet the recycling agenda;
- Operational costs are high, especially when taking into consideration the cost of post sorting waste from the sites;
- The existing van booking policy is onerous and confusing to the customer and staff alike.

8. The anticipated ‘Household Waste Recycling Centres – Service Redesign’ savings are:

- It is estimated that over £300k of savings will be possible if the site numbers are reduced, opening times changed to meet customer demand, and working practices improved to increase recycling;
- There will be the potential for capital receipts from the sites that are released.

9. With regards to the data collected for measuring performance and use of the existing HWRC it is considered that two sites would satisfy demand in terms of accessibility and enable the city to improve recycling efficiencies by focusing resources.

10. The report provides the following comments on the consultation and engagement to be undertaken:

- That the proposal does involve a local issue;
- That the proposal requires the carrying out of consultation under statute or at law or by reason of some promise or undertaking previously given by or on behalf of the Authority;
- Union consultation has commenced and that further discussions are planned.

11. The report also comments on the legal requirements around the provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres by stating:

- It is the duty of the waste disposal authority to arrange for places to be provided at which persons resident in its area may deposit their household waste which secures that in each case they are reasonably accessible to persons so resident, is available at all reasonable times and for use free of charge (section 51 Environmental Protection Act 1990). Section 55 enables the authority to recycle waste so disposed.
- A further duty arises pursuant to the Waste Framework Directive to make provision for establishing an integrated and adequate network of waste disposal installations. The Directive also sets out the proximity principle, i.e. wastes should be disposed of as close to the source as possible.
- One of the key elements of Cardiff's Waste Strategy as stated on the Council's web pages is enhancement and expansion of HWRC. In the report it refers to changing the focus and level of service provided at each of the four HWRC sites to assist and encourage the public to recycle significantly greater quantities of waste and also to consider the development of a new high capacity flagship HRWC.

12. The report comments that consultation and a pre scrutiny view are required in advance of the 2014/15 budget proposals. The suggested timelines indicated in the report are:

- Environmental Scrutiny Committee 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014;
- To complete the public consultation in January 2014;
- To take a Cabinet decision on the budget proposals in February 2014.

13. A decision was taken at the Cabinet meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> December that:

*“authority be delegated to the Director of Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to consult on the proposal, including consideration by Scrutiny of the detailed proposals, to reduce the number of HWRC, as set out in Appendix Two to the report, from four to two sites and to adapt / implement the proposal following consultation”.*

### **Way Forward**

14. Members may wish to consider whether there are any issues or comments on this item which they would like to pass on to the Cabinet. Members may also wish to consider if there is any additional work that the Committee needs to undertake.

### **Legal Implications**

15. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers of behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the

Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

16. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Take account of the information received at the meeting, and;
2. Report any comments to the Cabinet for their consideration.

**Marie Rosenthal**

**County Clerk and Monitoring Officer**

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2014**