

COMMITTEE	COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	12 January 2016
TITLE	Waste Strategy: Change to Residual Waste Collection
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor John Wynn Jones
PURPOSE	Report on the main findings [to date] from implementing the arrangement in the Meirionnydd Area.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In its meeting of 24th February, 2015 the Scrutiny Committee decided to invite the Cabinet Member to report on implementing the change to residual waste collections in Meirionnydd and to report on whether improvements and savings have been achieved. This Report is for that purpose.

2. INTRODUCING THE CHANGE

2.1 As in the case of introducing the change in the Dwyfor Area, two separate teams were responsible for implementing the change i.e. the Operational Team [responsible for the Implementation Programme] and the Engagement Team [responsible for delivering the Engagement Plan].

2.2 The new residual waste collection arrangement for the Meirionnydd Area started 1st June, 2015.

3. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

3.1 The change was implemented without encountering any significant difficulties since it was evident, from the start, that the residents of Meirionnydd were ready for the change and understood the arrangements. Only a small number of bins were put out for collection on the wrong day and very little "side" waste was observed during the implementation period.

3.2 As a means of making recycling easier for residents, the Cartgylchu Trolley was provided for residents [where suitable]. 12000 were distributed, however, it was not possible to distribute to all the Area before implementing the change. By now the majority of residents in the Area have received Cartgylchu [if required], or can order Cartgylchu by contacting Galw Gwynedd, the Council's call centre.

3.3 In the Meirionnydd Area, several residents receive a waste collection service by means of communal collection points. These required further attention during implementing the change. Currently, of the 140 communal collection points, only 30 of them continue to receive a fortnightly residential waste collection service. This will gradually change upon introducing better recycling provision at these collection points.

3.4 With the exception of some locations as described in 3.3 above, no significant problems were encountered due to the increase in waste collected during the holiday season.

- 3.5 Initial figures for the Meirionnydd Area for the 5 month period since its introduction show that there has been a 23% decrease in residual waste going to landfill since the change and there has been a 30% increase in food waste collected during the same period.
- 3.6 The figures for Meirionnydd are very similar to those experienced in the Dwyfor Area as a result of the change.
- 3.7 At the end of November 2015, Gwynedd's performance in terms of the National and Statutory Measure for recycling was 58.52%. It is imperative that 58% be reached by the end of March 2016 if fines are to be avoided.
- 3.8 Despite there being a need to complete similar changes in the Arfon Area [started 2nd November 2015] these changes are on target to achieve the programmed annual savings of £350k for the Council.

4. OTHER ENQUIRIES BY THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 4.1 ***Christmas and Boxing Day arrangements*** – a verbal report will be provided at the meeting.
- 4.2 ***Messages of Thanks in the Calendar***- a message of thanks to the residents of Meirionnydd has been sent by means of "Newyddion Gwynedd", a video on the Council's Website, social media and televised in Siop Gwynedd. A message was not placed on the [two year] calendar in order to keep it simple, clear and understandable.
- 4.3 ***Recycling Street Bins*** – despite providing new bins in Bala and Barmouth recently, the provision is subject to review following a significant reduction in the Welsh Government grant for the purpose and in light of possible cuts to the provision by the Council.
- 4.4 ***Commercial Waste Recycling*** – this has recently increased to approximately 40% [October 2015]. This is better than the target set by the Council and is due to changes to the service and the introduction of differential fees for commercial clients in order to further recycling.
- 4.5 ***Improving Tidiness Following Collection*** – this is a matter which is regularly monitored. It is a matter being reported upon and discussed in weekly meetings with the workforce. The introduction of Cartgylchu and new multi-purpose recycling collection vehicles appears to have also improved matters.
- 4.6 ***Reducing Packaging*** – the Welsh Government is intending to consult soon on a Sector Scheme aimed at controlling packaging.
- 4.7 ***Promoting Recycling in Flats*** – specific campaigns and the introduction of better recycling provision continue [some involving working in conjunction with Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd].
- 4.8 ***Collection of Ashes*** – the residual bin should be used when the ashes are cold, ashes can also be accepted at recycling centres.
- 4.9 ***Use of Colours and Email Reminders*** – the new style calendars use shapes as well as colours for ease of use. Text messaging is being considered for use by students/student union. Residents of Gwynedd are able to confirm their date of collection, what is being collected, by using their postcode on the Council's website.

5. MAIN FINDINGS

- 5.1 The new arrangement is now operational in the Meirionnydd Area. It has assisted the County in improving its recycling performance, it has ensured significant savings and has helped in avoiding possible financial penalties.
- 5.2 Excellent work was undertaken by the collection crews and relevant staff in implementing the change. They, and the residents of Meirionnydd, deserve praise for ensuring the successful implementation of the change.