

Meeting of:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 18 January 2024</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Environment and Regeneration
Report Title:	Update Report: Recycling and Waste Management Service Changes 2023/24
Purpose of Report:	To seek approval to set the green waste subscription services charges for 2024/25 and to report on the performance of service changes introduced, July 2023.
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services
Responsible Officer:	Miles Punter – Director of Environment and Housing
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	<p>Operational Manager – Accountancy</p> <p>Accountant – Resource Management (NS&amp;T)</p> <p>Operational Manager (Property) – Financial Services</p> <p>Operational Manager – Corporate Strategy and Insight</p> <p>Operational Manager – Transport Services</p> <p>Head of Shared Regulatory Services</p> <p>Director of Corporate Resources</p> <p>Director of Learning and Skills</p> <p>Legal Services (Committee Reports)</p>
Policy Framework:	This Report is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Report advises that there were 11,577 £20 green waste subscriptions (8,894 self-serviced online), 1,058 green waste £30 subscriptions (858 self-serviced online) with a total income of £262,880 so far for 2023.</li> <li>The Report also provides an update on the current performance and confirms that the savings identified for 2023/24 were met by the service area without a detriment effect on recycling targets and contractual obligations.</li> <li>The Report proposes the existing annual subscription charge of £36 for up to 8-bags and £54 for an unlimited quantity is retained, primarily as the subscription fees in 2023/24 were only for part of the year at £20 and £30 respectively.</li> </ul>	

- For 2025/26 and beyond subscription fees will be amended to work towards a break even position for this non-statutory service.
- The green waste service will continue to run on a frequency of once per fortnight between March and November and on a ring and request service on a first come first serve basis, between December and February for subscribers of the service.
- The Report highlights the impact of introducing 3-weekly black bag collections and that largely, residual waste is in decline. It also highlights further areas for improvement.
- The Report also provides an update in respect of ongoing waste service infrastructure.
- Use of the Council's Urgent Decision-Making Process is suggested to agree the same subscription fees as 2023/24 (these fees being charged on a pro rata basis), to allow the maximum period of time for residents to subscribe to the 2024/25 service prior to its commencement in March 2024.

### **Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet notes the current waste service performance since the implementation of the July 2023 service changes.
2. That Cabinet approves the annual subscription charge of £36.00 for up to 8-bags and £54.00 for an unlimited quantity, for 2024/25 on a frequency of once per fortnight between March and November and on a ring and request service on a first come first serve basis, between December and February for subscribers of the service.
3. That Cabinet approves in principle to introduce 3-weekly black bag collections for flats and apartments from March 2024.
4. That Cabinet notes the update on new and pending, waste legislative changes.
5. That Cabinet notes the infrastructure update.
6. That the urgency procedure set out at Section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution be used in respect of recommendation 2.
7. That Cabinet refers this report to Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for its consideration, with any views and recommendations referred to Cabinet for consideration.
8. That recommendation 3 be considered as approved should no views to the contrary be expressed by Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. In order that Cabinet is informed of the performance outcome of the service changes.
2. To ensure that waste services are provided within budget, that service efficiencies and budget challenges are met and that the charges for 2024-25 are set to best encourage, at least, the same take up of the service as was the case in 2023/24.

3. To ensure residual waste services remain in budget and additional recycling is captured, to contribute towards Statutory Recycling Targets.
4. To inform Cabinet of pending legislative changes.
5. To inform Cabinet of infrastructure progress.
6. To allow the green waste subscriptions for 2024/25 to be taken from January 2024, thence allowing the maximum time period for payments to be taken before the service starts in March 2024.
7. To provide the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to consider the details of this Report.
8. To enable the service area to prepare to make the necessary service changes as promptly as possible.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Cabinet on 19th February, 2018 (minute no. C235 refers) considered the outcome of the work undertaken by Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) who independently carried out the various assessments.  
[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/\\_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2018/18-02-19/Reports/Revised-Waste-Management-Strategy-Cabinet-Report.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2018/18-02-19/Reports/Revised-Waste-Management-Strategy-Cabinet-Report.pdf)
- 1.2 Cabinet on 2nd July, 2018 (minute no. C356 refers) approved the full implementation of the `collections blueprint` namely a source separated recycling collection service as the future Strategy for the collection of recyclables. Such a service is most likely to achieve Statutory Recycling Targets (SRT's) and be the most sustainable, with the lowest carbon impact.  
[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/\\_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2018/18-07-02/Revised-Waste-Management-Strategy-Report-and-Appendices.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2018/18-07-02/Revised-Waste-Management-Strategy-Report-and-Appendices.pdf)
- 1.3 Council on 5th July ,2021 (minute no. C296 refers) approved the Council's Project Zero Challenge Plan. The Plan sets out the response to the declaration of a climate emergency made by the Council in 2019 and details the challenges and steps the organisation will take to become net zero by 2030.  
[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/\\_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-07-05/Project-Zero-Draft-Climate-Change-Challenge-Plan.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-07-05/Project-Zero-Draft-Climate-Change-Challenge-Plan.pdf)
- 1.4 Within the Project Zero Challenge Plan there is a specific challenge to "Reduce waste and put in place the necessary facilities, services and awareness raising for a more circular economy with a strong emphasis on reuse, repair and recycling". The adoption of a Waste Strategy was a key step for the Council in meeting this challenge.

- 1.5** Cabinet on 28th March, 2022 (Minute no C894 refers) agreed the draft Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) in principle, subject to the outcome of the public consultation undertaken late summer.
- [https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2022/22-03-28/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Business-Plan.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2022/22-03-28/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Business-Plan.pdf)
- 1.6** Cabinet on 6th October, 2022 (Minute no C92 refers) noted the challenging financial position faced by the Council with a funding gap of £28.190m in 2023/24 and £49.830m across the medium term and put in place a Strategy for delivering the 2023/24 budget.
- [Financial Strategy and MTFP Refresh \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2022/22-10-06/Financial-Strategy-and-MTFP-Refresh.pdf)
- 1.7** Cabinet on 19th January, 2023 (Minute no C197 refers) agreed the introduction of a subscription service for green waste and 3-weekly collections for black bag waste from July 2023.
- [https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2023/23-01-19/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Service-Changes.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2023/23-01-19/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Service-Changes.pdf)
- 1.8** Cabinet on 19th January, 2023 (Minute no C198 refers) approved the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032).
- [https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2023/23-01-19/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Strategy.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2023/23-01-19/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Strategy.pdf)
- 1.9** Cabinet 27th February, 2023 (Minute no. C238 refers) approved the revenue budget for 2023/24 and the update to the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2028/29.
- [https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2023/23-02-27/Final-Budget-2023-24-and-MTFP.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2023/23-02-27/Final-Budget-2023-24-and-MTFP.pdf)
- 1.10** For background purposes, the kerbside collections of dry recycling, food and black bags (residual waste) are essentially core services provided as part of the Council's statutory duty under Section 45 (Collection of Controlled Waste) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- 1.11** Of all the kerbside collections provided to residents, only garden waste is non-statutory. Under the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations (2012) a charge for the collection of green waste can be applied.
- 1.12** Green waste has always been a discretionary service and to protect essential services for the longer term and mitigate against the unprecedented level of financial challenges, a subscription service for 2023/24 was approved and introduced by the Council.
- 1.13** The green waste subscription service was launched 17th July, 2023 and the introduction of 3-weekly black bag collections transitioned over the first 3-weeks of July 2023.

- 1.14** It was initially agreed that the levels of service offered for the new green waste subscription service would be based on a capacity of 4 bags (£36 per annum), 8 bags (£54 per annum) and a further option to pay as you go for excess bags.
- 1.15** However, whilst preparing for the service launch following Cabinet approval, there were too many variables that were just too difficult to manage.
- 1.16** As a result, an Emergency Powers (EP) form was prepared and subsequently approved that provided authority to vary tiered services to £36 (for up to 8 bags) and £54 for an unlimited number. Payments made for 2023/24 financial year were introduced on a pro-rata basis given that the subscription service commenced mid-year.

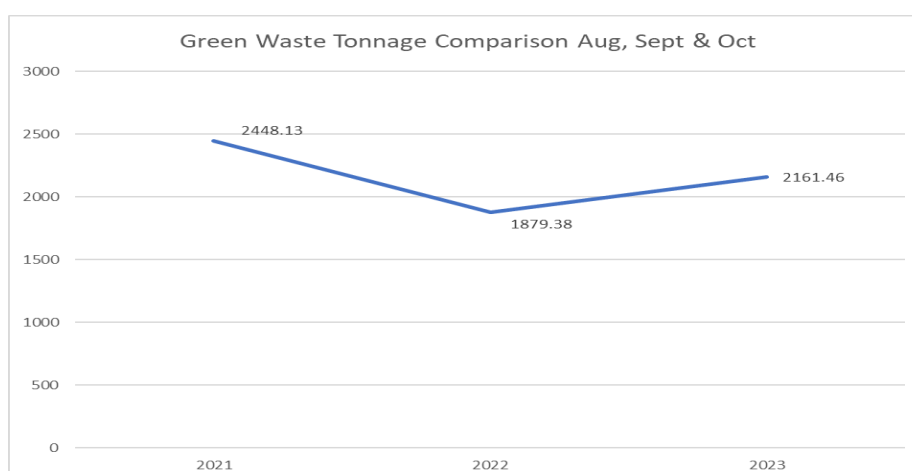
## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1** The revised green waste service offers up to 8 green bags, which is a capacity of up to 480 litres. This was positively received by customers, as comparable green waste services across Wales, only offer half that amount. The Vale is the only authority to offer an additional option of an unlimited green waste service.
- 2.2** The unlimited green waste chargeable service provides residents with a convenient solution for those properties with large gardens as well as being fairer for those that do not produce green waste (by not having to contribute) and those that only produce small amounts who effectively, pay less.
- 2.3** The offer of extra capacity also provides the Council with the tonnage required, to contribute to statutory recycling targets (SRT's) as well as the volume required to meet our contractual minimal tonnage requirements under the agreement for Organics treatment with Cardiff City Council.
- 2.4** For 2023/24, the service charges were reduced on a pro rata basis to £20 for the standard service (up to 8 bags) and £30 for the enhanced service (unlimited). These were based on the agreed values (£36 and £54 respectively) but discounted to reflect the late service start during the year.
- 2.5** The income target was £500,000 based on a combination of charging for the current service and by reducing the current level of resources (both vehicle and staff). This will recover partial costs associated with the green waste service.
- 2.6** To achieve this, the subscription service was reduced by 1 vehicle along with a reduction in the associated agency staff and had a subscription target of 10,000 households was set based on a forecast of 20% of residents (excluding the majority of flats and apartments), that would hopefully generate a minimum income per annum of £360,000 (effectively more if residents took the enhanced service).
- 2.7** By the last week of November 2023, there had been 11,577 £20 subscriptions (8,894 self-serviced online), 1,058 £30 subscriptions (858 self-serviced online) with a total income of £262,880.
- 2.8** Analysing the savings, this represents a comparable full year savings of £473,904, effectively 11,577 £36 subscriptions and 1,058 £54 subscriptions. In addition, the

staff and vehicle savings were about 50% that was forecast this year. The service needed additional green waste vehicles to be deployed on busy days as there were more subscribers than we initially anticipated.

- 2.9** There is potential to increase the savings further with the investment of dedicated subscription related software, and in-cab technology which will save on some manual work. It is anticipated that matching next year's income and resource savings, will provide an additional £50,000 of savings without being at detriment to our recycling performance.
- 2.10** It is proposed that the charges remain the same level for 2024/25. The primary reason for this being that service subscribers received a full year's green waste service from March 2023, only paying pro rata for the subscription service from 1st July, 2023. Therefore, subscribers will already see an increase in the fees to their full annual value of £36 and £54, this representing the full year charge previously agreed by Members.
- 2.11** Inflation, at the prevailing rate, is generally charged on all chargeable services annually. In this case subscription costs will be amended over time to ensure a break-even position for the kerbside green waste collection service, starting in 2025/26. Given 2024/25 will be the first full year of implementation of this fare paying service, it is recommended that an inflationary uplift is not included for 2024/25.
- 2.12** The use of urgency decision procedures is recommended as it provides the opportunity to market this service promptly in late January 2024, allowing residents to sign up for the service, in the months that some customers do not have to pay Council Tax and other household bills.
- 2.13** Risks that were identified in the Cabinet Report of 19th January, 2023, were largely avoided and the amount of green waste collected in the first 3-full months (August, September and October 2023) of the new subscription service exceeded the amount collected in 2022 for the same comparable period. Although in 2021 this was higher. Green waste is very seasonal and varies annually.
- 2.14** Figure 1 below displays green waste tonnage for the past 3-years in a comparable period since the new green waste subscription service (August – October) was launched.

Figure 1.



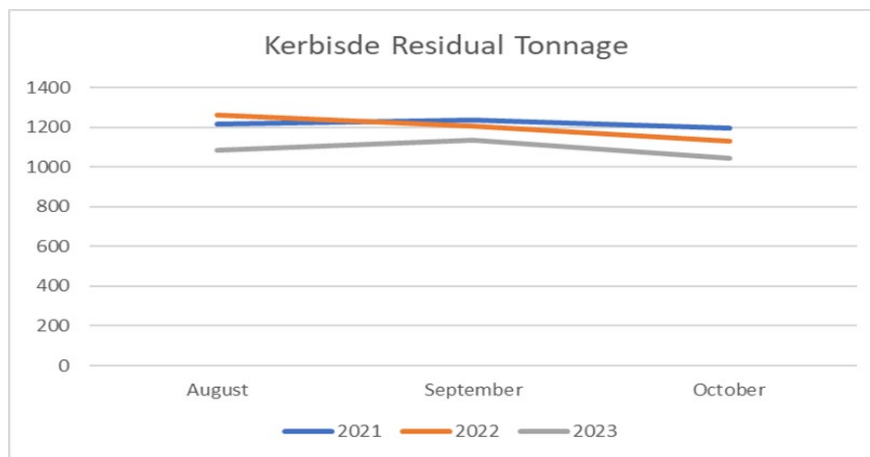
- 2.15** Initially the risks associated with introducing a subscription service identified that the most critical aim, was to deliver minimum tonnage under the contractual agreement, for the Organics arrangement with Cardiff City Council (Inter Authority Agreement, IAA(2)).
- 2.16** The table above demonstrates that the subscription service has been largely successful delivering the savings target as well as the required tonnage to meet our contractual terms, and significantly contributing to our recycling performance.
- 2.17** Table 1 below, displays the green waste tonnage for 3-years (2021, 2022, 2023 to date) for background purposes.

Table 1.

Month / Period	2021		2021	2022		2022	2023		2023
	Kerbside	HWRC	Total	Kerbside	HWRC	Total	Kerbside	HWRC	Total
April	614.16	132.94	747.10	580.43	112.12	692.55	657.28	136.72	794.00
May	618.95	109.84	728.79	507.70	129.48	637.18	889.62	203.38	1093.00
June	952.42	134.16	1086.58	814.93	202.26	1017.19	655.78	153.22	809.00
July	811.73	111.56	923.29	550.76	117.10	667.86	344.70	138.71	483.41
August	630.90	124.72	755.62	511.04	101.38	612.42	422.54	297.92	720.46
September	858.93	127.86	986.79	605.03	91.49	696.52	495.02	226.98	722.00
October	628.54	77.18	705.72	498.88	71.56	570.44	496.94	222.06	719.00
November	441.90	62.32	504.22	430.90	48.04	478.94			
December	56.36	63.18	119.54	47.46	43.80	91.26			
January	94.80	70.48	165.28	48.92	66.34	115.26			
February	44.28	56.90	101.18	52.84	86.94	139.78			
March	588.78	102.66	691.44	422.88	74.88	497.76			
<b>Total tonnage:</b>	<b>6341.75</b>	<b>1173.80</b>	<b>7515.55</b>	<b>5071.77</b>	<b>1145.39</b>	<b>6217.16</b>			

- 2.18** In addition to the introduction of a new green waste subscription, in July 2023, the service area also moved from collecting black bags fortnightly to 3-weekly. To recap, the capacity (i.e., the allowance per week) did not change, just the frequency of collection.
- 2.19** Since the change there has been a positive decline in total residual waste tonnage in comparison to comparable periods of 2021 and 2022.
- 2.20** Figure 2 below, displays residual waste tonnage for the past 3-years in a comparable period following the service change (August to October). This is for kerbside collected residual waste only.

Figure 2.

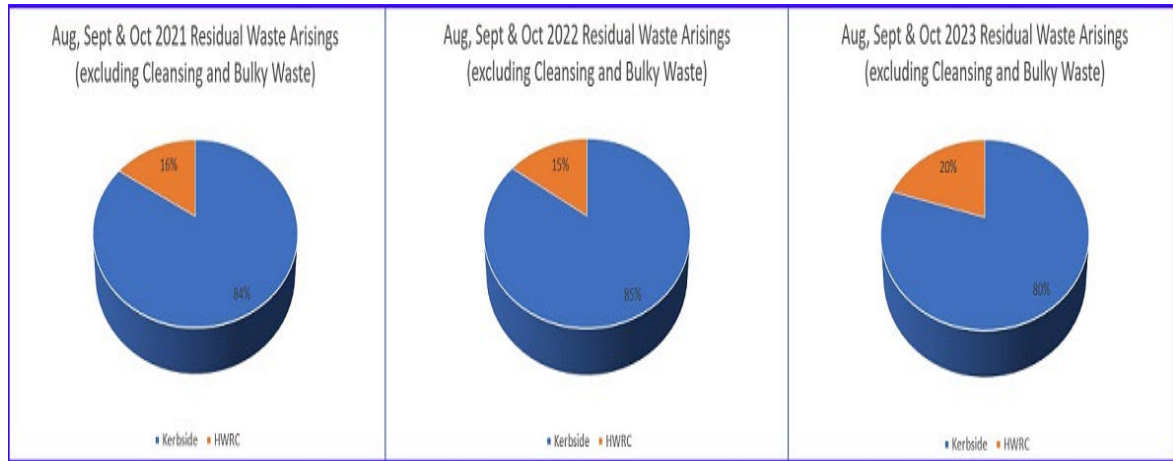


- 2.21** Overall residual waste is falling which will improve our recycling performance if this trend continues. However, if you analyse the tonnage being deposited at our HWRC's there has been an increase in residual waste which was expected to happen following the service changes.
- 2.22** As a result, there will be a need to re-introduce controls to manage this and to capture recycle that no doubt is still included within the black bag waste.
- 2.23** The HWRC sites did previously have controls in place by the way of bag splitting, but this was removed in Covid.
- 2.24** The service area intends to instigate discussions with the Council's contractor, FCC Environmental, and re-introduce such controls at the earliest opportunity. Any changes will be added to the bookings system and staff notified at C1V, so residents are informed in advance of visiting the site.
- 2.25** It will not prevent the disposal of residual waste it will purely capture valuable resources that are being disposed of unnecessarily.
- 2.26** Figure 3 below shows how black bag waste has increased since the service changes when comparing 3-years comparable data. In 2021, HWRC waste made up 16% of waste, 2022 15% and 2023 it is now 20%. However, it is worth noting



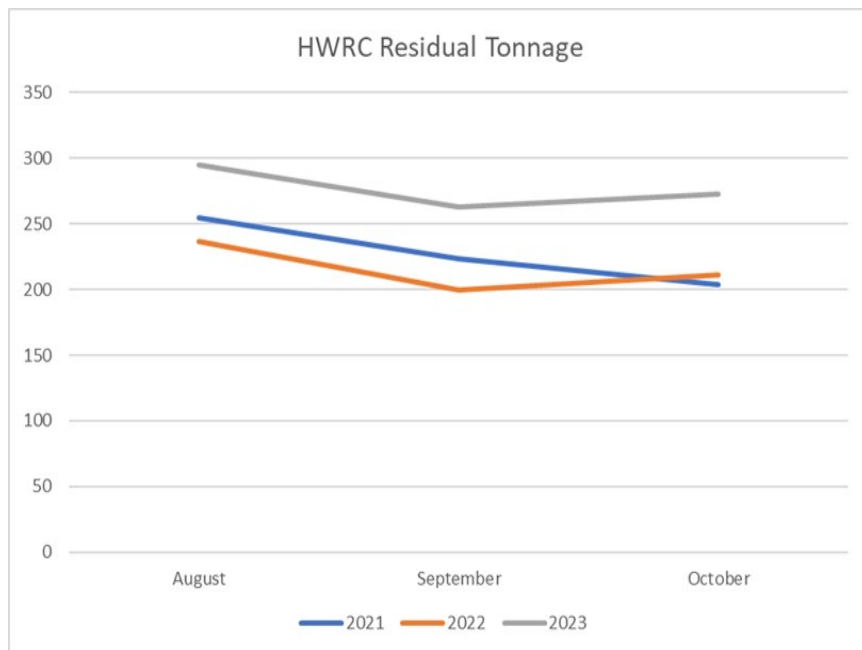
when reading any residual data that there has also been increases in population and the number of households within the Vale due to additional dwellings being built.

Figure 3.



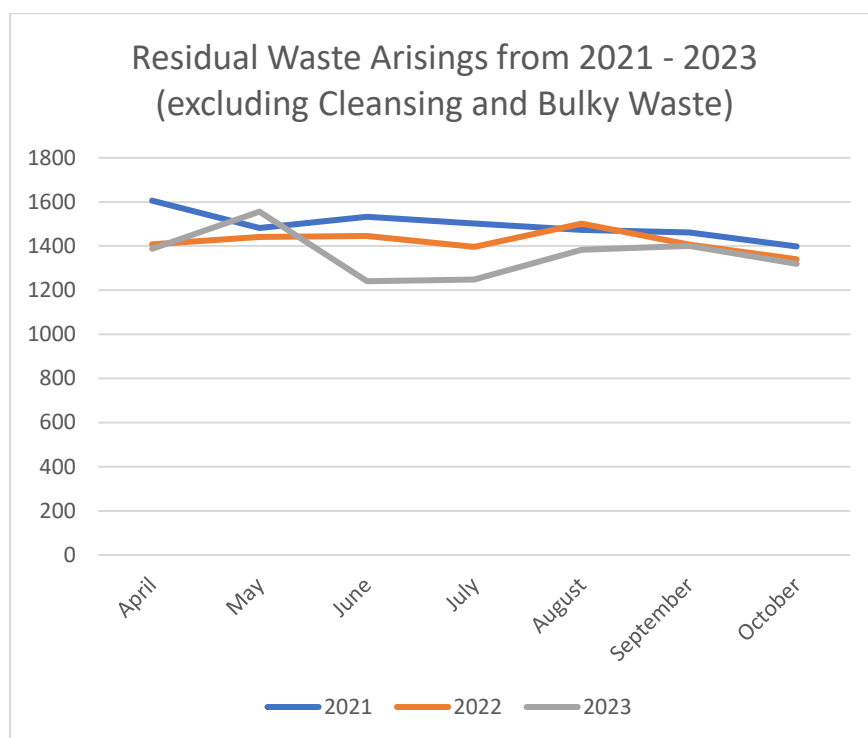
2.27 Figure 4 below, shows residual waste for the past 3-years in a comparable period following the service change (August – October), for HWRC sites.

Figure 4.



2.28 Figure 5 below displays residual waste arisings for the past 3-years in comparable data, following the service change.

Figure 5.



2.29 Table 2 below, displays residual waste arisings for the past 3-years in full, for 2021, 2022 and to date, for 2023.

Table 2.

Residual Waste Arisings from 2021 - 2023 (excluding Cleansing and Bulky Waste)

Month / Period	2021		2021 Total	2022		2022 Total	2023		2023 Total
	Kerbside	HWRC		Kerbside	HWRC		Kerbside	HWRC	
April	1299.30	306.42	1605.72	1189.16	218.58	1407.74	1137.98	248.86	1386.84
May	1249.32	232.46	1481.78	1223.88	217.41	1441.29	1299.64	256.12	1555.76
June	1312.23	220.25	1532.48	1235.63	210.16	1445.79	1018.59	221.98	1240.57
July	1271.02	231.40	1502.42	1170.50	225.92	1396.42	986.32	262.60	1248.92
August	1218.98	254.64	1473.62	1264.78	236.72	1501.50	1087.42	295.12	1382.54
September	1238.34	223.78	1462.12	1206.57	199.70	1406.27	1137.67	262.60	1400.27
October	1194.62	203.52	1398.14	1129.00	211.10	1340.10	1046.36	273.06	1319.42
November	1294.22	197.24	1491.46	1266.11	201.22	1467.33			
December	1389.92	220.92	1610.84	1366.54	169.80	1536.34			
January	1481.00	183.58	1664.58	1553.38	179.34	1732.72			
February	1119.44	165.30	1284.74	1112.54	179.70	1292.24			
March	1362.56	214.88	1577.44	1274.30	215.80	1490.10			
<b>Totals:</b>			<b>18085.34</b>			<b>17457.84</b>			

- 2.30** A failure to achieve or maintain a recycling rate of 70% during the financial year 2024/25 will result in substantial financial penalties and such measures will need to be undertaken to maximise recycling participation to ensure the Council achieves the target set, under the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010.
- 2.31** In 2022/23, our recycling performance dropped from 70.2% to 67.8% due to an increase in residual waste and a reduction in the amount of green waste collected due to the LGV driver crisis as a result of Covid and Brexit which increased salaries to such an extent that the service area could not recruit any seasonal staff without offering a market forces supplement. As a result collections were suspended for a period of time.
- 2.32** The implementation of 3-weekly collections and additional controls at HWRC sites as well as maximising recycling opportunities should be sufficient to increase the recycling rates back up to the required 70% target. For 2023-24, early indications suggest that we are on target to bring the current rate back up to 70.5%.
- 2.33** There are other ways to increase our performance and minimise risk, and that is to apply 3-weekly residual waste collections to flats and apartments. At present they remain on fortnightly collections but effectively the service area is accruing additional costs when controls and specific provision for flats and apartments clearly rest with the property owner.
- 2.34** Despite providing recycling services at these premises, many residents do not recycle, and the service area is subsidising waste disposal costs.
- 2.35** It is proposed that the landlords be given notice of the volume of residual waste that will be accepted within their premises and advised that they are responsible for ensuring recycling receptacles are fully utilised for the majority of waste produced by their tenants. Where residents are property owners or leaseholders, with no landlord involvement in their waste and recycling arrangements, they will be contacted directly by our staff.
- 2.36** The Council's Recycling Officers will provide the necessary advice, but landlords will need to take responsibility for their tenants and contribute to any additional costs.
- 2.37** There were a minority of residents effected by the 3-weekly roll out mainly those that produce high levels of Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP). However, the Council's Recycling Officers managed these on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.38** As reported, in the Cabinet Report of 19th January, 2023, the recent compositional analysis completed in the Vale (and across Wales), reported that the most offensive waste is food waste.
- 2.39** Although low in comparison to across Wales, this is heavy recycling in terms of weight, and one that significantly affects local Environmental Quality if not recycled.

**2.40** Below is a snapshot of the contents of a typical Vale of Glamorgan black waste bag, which has been produced since the last report, by the consultants undertaking the analysis across Wales.

Figure 6.



**2.41** As well as undertaking the July 2023 changes, the service enhanced the kerbside collection of recyclables to include battery collections, WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) across the whole Vale at the same time as introducing phase 3 of the source separated recycling roll out to Penarth and surrounding areas.

**2.42** This has proved a very popular service with residents and up to the end of October 2023, there has been 30 tonnes of WEEE and batteries collected at the kerbside, for recycling.

**2.43** Table 3 below, displays the breakdown of tonnage collected since the scheme started.

Table 3.

Month (2023)	WEEE	Batteries
April	1.56	0.00
May	5.04	0.00
June	4.30	2.75
July	1.46	1.64
August	3.36	0.00
September	1.34	2.46
October	4.28	2.15
<b>Total Tonnage</b>	<b>21.34</b>	<b>9.00</b>

- 2.44 There will also be an option of adding Vape waste to this stream. The service area has consulted their current processors who are willing to accept Vapes for recycling. It is proposed this is launched early in the new year.
- 2.45 To facilitate this, the service area would use the reusable battery bags to collect Vapes kerbside, and they would be mixed with WEEE waste once unloaded at the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Barry and the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) in Cowbridge. There would be no associated costs to include these within the current recycling stream.
- 2.46 There is also other associated legislation that will be introduced in the next few years that will reduce waste and or increase recycling opportunities.

**Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging scheme (EPR)**

- 2.47 The principle of the Extended Producer Responsibility for packing scheme (EPR), is that the ‘polluter pays’ and this will hopefully incentivise a reduction in packaging materials over time.
- 2.48 Currently, The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 1997 (as amended) require packaging producers (businesses that perform an activity on packaging) to take responsibility for their environmental impact.
- 2.49 ‘Obligated producers’ currently only pay a proportion of the cost of the recovery and recycling of packaging via the purchase of certificates or recycling evidence, otherwise known as Packaging Waste Recovery Notes (PRNs).
- 2.50 Changes to the Packaging Waste Regulations will require obligated businesses to pay 100% of the costs associated with waste management of items they place on the UK market, both collection and recycling of packaging waste.
- 2.51 Although originally anticipated in 2024, this scheme has been delayed but Councils should be able to sign up for an account sometime later next year in readiness to claim back costs. Effectively the Council will be able to claim back costs associated with packaging recycling.
- 2.52 Although it is still not clear how this will work, the service area is working nationally with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Welsh

Government (WG) and will provide an update report once further information on this scheme, is known.

### **Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)**

- 2.53** The UK Government intends to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme to improve the recycling of drink bottles and cans in Wales, England, and Ireland in 2025.
- 2.54** The DRS aims to reduce the amount of drinks containers discarded by 85% within 3-years and the incentive to do this, is a cash return. This would be facilitated by reverse vending machines installed at designated sites such as retail premises.
- 2.55** The UK Government is consulting and setting up infrastructure and amending labelling and it is hoped the scheme will also improve local environmental quality by reducing litter. Every year UK consumers go through an estimated 14 billion plastic drinks bottles and nine billion drinks cans, many of which are littered or condemned to landfill or through energy from waste.

### **Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastics Products) (Wales) Act 2023**

- 2.56** This Act makes it a criminal offence to supply or offer to supply (including for free) certain single-use plastic products to consumers in Wales unless an exemption applies.
- 2.57** The Act will be introduced in 2-phases and extends to the following products.

Phase 1

A ban on single-use plastic (30th October, 2023) that includes:

- Single-use plastic plates – this includes paper plates with a laminated plastic surface.
- Single-use plastic cutlery – for example forks, spoons, knives.
- Single-use plastic drinks stirrers.
- Cups made of expanded or foamed extruded polystyrene.
- Takeaway food containers made of expanded or foamed extruded polystyrene.
- Single-use plastic balloon sticks.
- Single-use plastic-stemmed Cotton buds.
- Single-use plastic drinking straws – with exemptions so people who need them to eat and drink safely and independently can continue to have them.

Phase 2 (by Spring 2026) and this will include:

- Carrier bags – with exemptions including carrier bags for raw fish, meat or poultry and unpackaged food.
- Polystyrene lids for cups and takeaway food containers.
- Oxo-degradable plastic products.

- 2.58** Under the Act, WG also have powers to add or remove products from the list of banned single-use plastic products. The WG will keep the list of banned products

under review and may make changes if further action is needed to tackle plastic pollution.

- 2.59** The Act aims to reduce the reliance on single use plastic and provides environmental benefits. Within the Council, SRS are the regulators for business compliance.

#### **Recycling at Work Regulations (Wales)**

- 2.60** This new Legislation (Workplace Recycling Regulations) will be introduced 6th April, 2024 and places a duty on non-domestic premises and workplaces to separate recycling prior to collection. This includes dry recycling and food waste (for premises that produce over 5kg of food waste per week)
- 2.61** The Regulations will apply to all hotels, charities, restaurants, cafés, takeaways, catering businesses (including those at events such as food stalls), shopping centre food courts, canteens, pubs, offices with canteens, cafes or staff kitchen facilities, schools, colleges, prisons, nursing homes and hospitals, any other workplaces that serve food.
- 2.62** The scheme is similar to the blueprint collection service introduced to residents and the Regulations include paper and card, glass, metal (steel and aluminium), plastic, cartons and some packaging (these 3 can be mixed together), food, unsold small WEEE, unsold textiles.
- 2.63** Waste in a single bin will be against the Law if it includes any of these materials.
- 2.64** Under the Regulations, it is the occupiers of a workplace who must ensure recycling is separated for collection and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) will be responsible for compliance and making sure that materials are being separated for collection.
- 2.65** In terms of the Council's Corporate Buildings, the service area is working with the Facilities Department to ensure the Council is prepared for the new regulations. Additionally, the service area has met with Headteachers and contacted all existing Commercial customers to offer services and solutions.

#### **UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK- ETS)**

- 2.66** The UK ETS is a 'cap and trade' scheme for UK Carbon allowances that was introduced in January 2021. The cap is reduced in line with the UK's 2050 net zero commitment (noting Welsh Government's target of net zero by 2030).
- 2.67** Currently Energy from Waste (EfW) is excluded from UK-ETS, however in June 2022, the UK Government consulted on its proposal to include EfW within the scheme.
- 2.68** Inclusion of EfW within UK-ETS will mean that EfW plant operators, such as Viridor (who process all our black bag waste as part of the Prosiect Gwyrdd partnership), will have to pay a price for the emission of fossil derived CO2 from the combustion of waste.
- 2.69** Potentially, any cost of UK-ETS will pass down to Cardiff through the Prosiect Gwyrdd contract which in turn will pass onto each partner. This would be subject

to the detail of any inclusion of EfWs and the contract provisions and would require specialist legal advice.

- 2.70** For now, this is just for noting, and it is unlikely that it will be introduced before 2028 but this has potential to add significant costs to our EfW contract. Based on existing waste (in tonnes) this could potentially equate to an additional cost of approximately £500k per year based on current comparable data on cost per tonne.
- 2.71** High recycling rates in Wales and removing plastics from the waste stream will lower the emission of fossil derived CO<sub>2</sub> from the burning of the waste and thus potentially lower the additional cost per tonne. Additionally, any recycling initiative over future years will contribute.
- 2.72** The Prosiect Gwyrdd (PG) Contract Management Team representing the PG partnership will continue to liaise with Defra and will inform further on any potential financial implication and mitigations that may be possible. A further report will be presented to Cabinet once further information is known.

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE**

##### **Resource Recovery Facility (RRF)**

- 2.73** The new RRF has been fully operational since the end of March 2023, and the service area is now preparing all kerbside source separated recycling for resale and reuse.
- 2.74** The sale of recycling material is undertaken in partnership with Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP), who support Welsh Councils that have moved to the `blueprint` and are funded by WG.

##### **Barry Reuse Shop**

- 2.75** The new reuse shop opened in December 2023 and is managed by The Enfys Foundation, a registered charity that works with the Council's contractor FCC Environment.
- 2.76** FCC Environment currently manage 10 reuse shops across 8 contracts and recirculated 2.5kt of products in 2022.
- 2.77** The shop operates 6 days per week from Tuesday to Sunday (Monday closure) and the opening hours will be aligned with the HWRC seasonal hours.
- 2.78** Up to 3 FTE staff will be employed by The Enfys Foundation to operate the shop on a day-to-day basis, they will be also supported by volunteers as appropriate.
- 2.79** Products will be inspected for safety and all electrical items will be PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) and function tested prior to being sold.

##### **Atlantic Trading Estate (ATE) - Fleet Parking**

- 2.80** The service area has secured the land opposite the new RRF on ATE for the proposed fleet parking site. **Appendix A**, attached provides the land that has been acquired and **Appendix B**, is a concept design of the proposed layout of the fleet parking area and sustainable drainage plans (SuDS) have been prepared



ready for submission and approval to the Council's drainage team, as the approving body (SuDS Approval Body SAB).

- 2.81 In the new year, subject to funding, the service area will progress the plans for Planning Consent.
- 2.82 When completed this will provide efficiency savings captured from reduced down time saving on the discharging of loads and travelling time, back to the Council's depot in Wenvoe.
- 2.83 Additionally, the site will reduce the carbon footprint of a heavy diesel fleet and provide a modest carbon benefit of 59 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per annum.
- 2.84 Overall, the fleet parking proposal demonstrates positive credentials delivering operational efficiencies, revenue savings and carbon benefits ensuring the long-term resilience and sustainability of the frontline service.

#### **Llandow HWRC**

- 2.85 The Council continues to explore options for a replacement HWRC at Llandow but despite ongoing investigations there are no immediate options available.
- 2.86 As an interim measure the service area has contacted the landlord's representative where the existing site is located to upgrade the road and secure a lease for the near future and to explore other opportunities. This work is progressing.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about sustainable development. The Act sets out a 'sustainable development principle' which specifies that the public bodies listed in the Act must act in a manner which seeks to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In meeting their sustainability duty, each body must set objectives that highlight the work the body will undertake to contribute to meeting the seven Well-being Goals for Wales.
- 3.2 The activities in this Report will contribute to the national well-being goals and help ensure we have a resilient Wales. The five ways of working are embedded throughout the Recycling and Waste Strategy (2022-2032) and a summary of the key principles are detailed below:
- 3.3 **Long term** - The Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) takes a long-term approach that exceeds the main statutory recycling targets (2024/25) and provides long term aspirations aligned with the Waste Hierarchy, the Council's Corporate Plan and environmental objectives. This is notably the case in terms of the Council's Project Zero Challenge Plan which seeks to ensure the Council's activities are at net zero by 2030 and supports the Welsh Government's target for Wales to be at net zero by 2050.

- 3.4 Integration** – The Strategy has been developed making specific references to the objectives of other organisations, notably the Public Services Board so as to understand the impact the Council’s actions will have on others.
- 3.5 Involvement** - The Service is designed so everyone can participate (residents, local businesses and visitors) by being accessible without barriers. The new Strategy aims to be an inclusive and a community-based Recycling and Waste Management Strategy. The Service will encourage engagement and regular communication that provides everyone the opportunity to participate in recycling and waste minimisation schemes by encouraging people to do the right thing. Our messages will focus on a sense of identity and making sure communities have the information and equipment necessary to participate.
- 3.6 Collaboration** - We continue to work in collaboration with other local authorities and specialist service providers to ensure recycling and waste is reused and recycled in the most sustainable way. Our Strategy recognises the importance of the Council working as a community leader and in delivering the strategy alongside providers, the public and partner organisations.
- 3.7 Prevention** – Our Strategy aims to reduce the impacts waste has on our environment and aims to reduce waste, increase reuse and minimise our carbon footprint so we can respect, enhance and enjoy our environment.

## **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 4.1** A 3-weekly black bag service has carbon benefits by lowering the number of passes required to collect waste which would reduce fuel usage. Additionally, it is likely to keep increasing recycling participation and reduce the amount of waste sent to energy recovery. Additional recycling would be collected source separated and recycled in line with WG policy.
- 4.2** These changes have contributed to the 10-year ‘Recycling and Waste Management Strategy’ that formalises this service delivery along with other measures to ensure the Council meets its environmental ambitions and Statutory Recycling targets. This is a key contributing action to the Council’s decarbonisation programme, Project Zero.
- 4.3** The service area is due to trial ULEV Romaquips (recycling vehicles) before the end of the year and 2 of these will be added to the fleet from February 2024.

## **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

- 5.1** The potential income and ongoing resource savings for 2024/25 is estimated to be £550,000 from the green waste subscriptions. This represents an ongoing resource savings of £70,000 and income of £480,000 (based on last year’s income of £473,904).

## **Employment**

- 5.2 There will be no permanent employees affected by the ongoing subscription service or the proposal to reduce residual waste collections to flats and apartments, as the seasonal service and temporary additional residual waste collections, are staffed by agency workers.
- 5.3 Additionally, drivers and loaders within the service have generic job descriptions and work across recycling and waste services. Therefore, any staff reduction to any further residual waste collections will be redesignated to collecting recycling where there are agency staff temporarily occupying driver and loader vacancies.

## **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 5.4 Under the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations (2012) a charge can be applied for the collection of non-statutory services such as green waste.
- 5.5 The Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) ensures compliance with current legislative framework.
- 5.6 A failure to achieve or maintain a recycling rate of 70% during 2024/25 will result in substantial financial penalties under the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010. For every tonne under a failed target, there are penalties of £200 as set within The Recycling, Preparation for Re-use and Composting Targets (Monitoring and Penalties) (Wales) Regulations 2011.
- 5.7 Under Schedule 2 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 as amended by the Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021, Council's must "make arrangement to secure continuous improvements in the exercise of its functions". In doing so they need to have regard for strategic effectiveness, service quality and availability and fairness. Any decisions to change recycling collection services must be justified when considered against these requirements and to do so without all the evidence could breach the requirements of the legislation.
- 5.8 An equality impact assessment (EIA) was completed to reflect the service changes introduced July 2023. Any future changes would be subject to further such assessments.

## **6. Background Papers**

Cabinet of 28th March, 2022 (minute no. C894) – Recycling and Waste Management Business Plan and Strategy (2022 – 2032).

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2022-03-28/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Business-Plan.pdf>

Cabinet of 19th February, 2018 (minute no. C235) - Revised Waste Management Strategy: The Future Collection Arrangements for Waste and Recycling.

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2018/18-02-19/Reports/Revised-Waste-Management-Strategy-Cabinet-Report.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2018/18-02-19/Reports/Revised-Waste-Management-Strategy-Cabinet-Report.pdf)

Cabinet of 2nd July, 2018 (minute no. C356) - Revised Waste Management Strategy: The Future Collection Arrangements for Waste and Recycling.

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2018/18-07-02/Revised-Waste-Management-Strategy-Report-and-Appendices.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2018/18-07-02/Revised-Waste-Management-Strategy-Report-and-Appendices.pdf)

Cabinet, of 5th July, 2021, Project Zero Climate Change Challenge Plan

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-07-05/Project-Zero-Draft-Climate-Change-Challenge-Plan.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-07-05/Project-Zero-Draft-Climate-Change-Challenge-Plan.pdf)

Cabinet of 19th January, 2023 (Minute no C197 refers) agreed the introduction of a subscription service for green waste and 3-weekly collections for black bag waste from July 2023.

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2023/23-01-19/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Service-Changes.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2023/23-01-19/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Service-Changes.pdf)

Cabinet of 19th January, 2023 (Minute no C198 refers) approved the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032).

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2023/23-01-19/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Strategy.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2023/23-01-19/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Strategy.pdf)

Guidance on Applying the Waste Hierarchy -

[www.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waste\\_recycling/publication/hierarchyguide/?lang=en](http://www.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waste_recycling/publication/hierarchyguide/?lang=en)

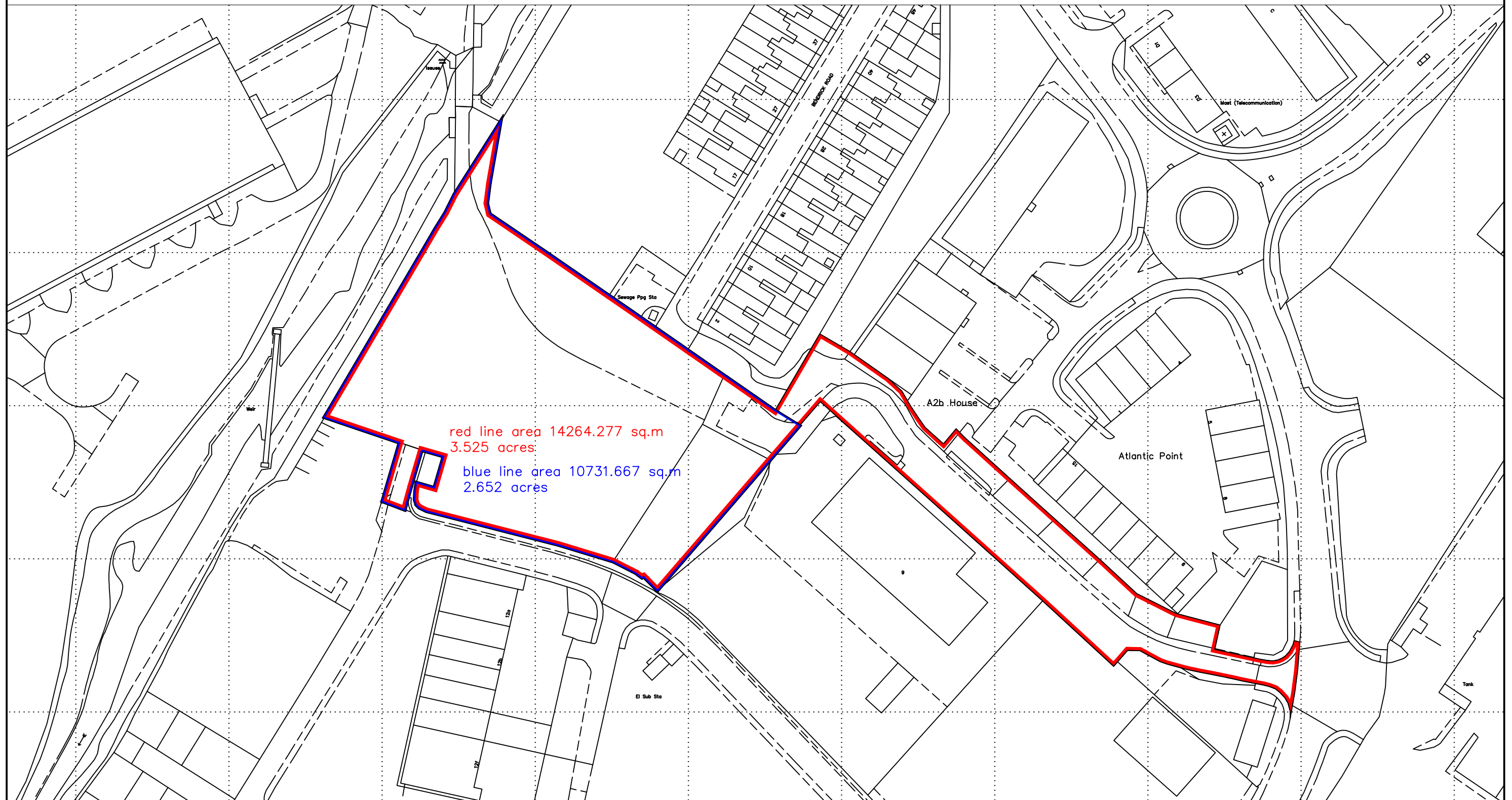
WRAP - The Climate Change Impacts of Recycling Services in Wales

[www.wrap.org.uk/CarbonImpactsReport](http://www.wrap.org.uk/CarbonImpactsReport)

PLAN REFERRED TO :

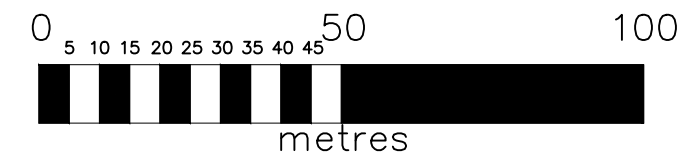
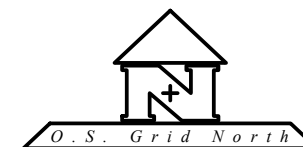
ATLANTIC TRADING ESTATE, SULLY, BARRY  
VALE OF GLAMORGAN. CF63 3RF

Job No. 21589  
Date: April 2022



red line area 14264.277 sq.m  
3.525 acres

blue line area 10731.667 sq.m  
2.652 acres



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OS Map Reference ST1267SW

Scale: A3@1:1250



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- KEY**
- PROPOSED ALIGNMENT
  - ▭ PROPOSED CARRIAGEWAY CONSTRUCTION REFER TO SERIES 700 DRAWINGS FOR DETAILS
  - ▭ PROPOSED FOOTWAY CONSTRUCTION REFER TO SERIES 700 DRAWINGS FOR DETAILS
  - ▭ PROPOSED SUDS FEATURE REFER TO DRAINAGE DRAWINGS AND STANDARD DETAILS FOR DETAILS
  - ▭ PROPOSED AREA TO BE TOPSOILED WITH 100mm TOPSOIL AND GRASS SEEDED
  - 🌳 PROPOSED TREE
  - PROPOSED ZENITH SR2 DOUBLE SKIN FENCING
  - ⚡ PROPOSED ZENITH SR2 VEHICLE ACCESS GATE
  - ⚡ PROPOSED ZENITH SR2 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS GATE
  - PROPOSED SURFACE WATER MANHOLE REFER TO MANHOLE SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS
  - PROPOSED FOUL WATER MANHOLE REFER TO MANHOLE SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS
  - PROPOSED 600x600mm NAL STAKKA BOX
  - PROPOSED 4WAY TWIN WALL FLEXI DUCT
  - PROPOSED 100mm BT DUCTING
  - PROPOSED BT JOINT BOX
  - ⊠ PROPOSED GULLY REFER TO DRAINAGE DRAWING FOR DETAILS
  - PROPOSED SURFACE WATER ACO DRAINAGE CHANNEL REFER TO DRAINAGE DRAWING AND DRAINAGE STANDARD DETAILS
  - PROPOSED FOUL WATER ACO DRAINAGE CHANNEL REFER TO DRAINAGE DRAWING AND DRAINAGE STANDARD DETAILS

**NOTES**

REFER TO DRAWING 50532-BUR-HDG-XX-DR-D-0503 FOR DRAINAGE PIPE WORK ARRANGEMENT

REFER TO MANHOLE AND PIPEWORK SCHEDULE FOR DEPTHS, INVERTS, MANHOLE TYPES AND PIPE SURROUNDS

Drawing Status

Rev	By	Description of Amendment	Revisions	Chk by	Date
E	OM	Drainage requirements added	OM		01.12.23
D	OM	Overall design amendments	OM		13.11.23
C	OM	Amendments to layout following future proof EIR charging requirements	OM		4.10.23
B	OM	Overall amendments to layout	OM		20.7.23
A	OM	Overall amendments to layout following meeting with highways	OM		13.3.23



<b>ENGINEERING</b>			
Client The Vale of Glamorgan Council			
Project Fleet Parking Scheme			
Drawing Title General Arrangement			
Drawn O.Marsh Date 14.2.23	Scale 1:250	Project No. 2339	Drawing No. 01
Checked J.Bale Date 14.2.23	File Window		Rev E

