

Update Report: Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032)

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Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2022 - 2032

Introduction



- The report provides updates on the current R&WMS 2022-2032
- The report seeks the committees' views prior to Cabinet's consideration as detailed within the recommendations
- It identifies future strategies to maintain momentum to minimise waste and retain performance levels
- Proposals for new kerbside services
- A performance & infrastructure update
- Identifies future risks and challenges



Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2022 - 2023

Strategy Update – Service Changes



- Transition to Collections Blueprint V1 largely complete
- Strategy progress detailed in report and action plan
- RRF built and operational as well as the re-use shop
- RRF & Cowbridge TS generated £1.35m in recycling sales
- Introduction of 3-weekly black bag collections (July 2023) to minimise waste and capture efficiency savings
- The introduction of a garden waste subscription service with 14,009 subscribers and an annual income of £598,719
- WEEE and batteries added to kerbside collections
- Ongoing trial (Barry) of kerbside collections of textiles
- First Council in Wales to permanently roll out kerbside collections for soft plastics

Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2022 - 2023

Performance Year	Recycling Rate (%)
2022-23	67.8
2023-24	70.4
2024-25	71.1
2025-26	* 73.42

* Provisional data and subject to NRW audit and verification

Strategy Update – Performance overview

- All statutory recycling targets met including the challenging 2024/25 70% RR
- The service has consistently been one of the highest performing Council's in Wales
- This year subject to verification the service has increased its performance to 73.42% - Although wood recycling may affect this RR?
- Street Scene waste achieved an impressive RR of 70-74%
- A £150k increase in commercial recycling and waste services (mainly schools)
- *The service is the 2nd lowest cost provider for cost of all household waste/recycling services in Wales
- * Also, the 2nd highest in Wales for net gain per tonne with a 24% increase in our commercial customer base

* Source: WLGA benchmarking data released summer 2026



Service Statistics



- Waste has reduced year on year except in 2025/26
- All waste arisings up in 2025/26 inc. food/recycling, exceeding total waste increases
- Waste increases greater at HWRC's compared to kerbside collections
- HWRC waste arisings an ongoing concern were monitoring
- Food waste and dry recycling has consistently increased year on year
- WEEE, Batteries, Soft Plastics & Textile recycling trial, really starting to add recycling value
- Report details tonnages since the start of the strategy
- Soft plastics positively received by residents, should produce 250 tonnes of additional recycling this finance year
- Street Scene waste diverted and post sorted (70-74% RR)



FUTURE SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS



- Textiles – Report proposes to roll out collections permanently, Vale wide
- Trial collected around 4-5 tonne a month across Barry
- Potential for 120t pa
- AHP – Report proposes to introduce a weekly kerbside collection of Absorbent Hygiene Products
- Commencing with a trial across Barry that includes nappies & incontinence pads
- To continue with developing infrastructure
- Strategic focus will be on new Collections Blueprint (2025) and integrate actions over forthcoming years
- To include community involvement, additional reuse, behaviour, education, digitisation and decarbonisation



New collections service for your unwanted textiles

Residents in the Vale of Glamorgan already recycle 70% of their waste, but we want to help you reuse and recycle even more.

From Monday 17 November 2025

We're launching a **free new weekly collections service** for your unwanted, good quality **textiles**.
We're introducing this new service in phases across the county, starting in Barry. Other areas will benefit from this service from next year.

What should I do?

From **Monday 17 November 2025**, when you need to get rid of reusable textiles:

- 1. put them in a clear or partially see-through plastic bag,
- 2. tie the handles securely to keep the contents dry, then
- 3. place the bag on top of one of your recycling containers before 7am on your usual collection day.



Yes please

- ✓ Clothing
- ✓ Shoes
- ✓ Belts
- ✓ Handbags
- ✓ Towels
- ✓ Bed sheets, duvet covers and pillowcases
- ✓ Tablecloths, runners and napkins
- ✓ Curtains

Please ensure your textiles are clean, dry and wearable, and shoes are in pairs.

No thanks

- ✗ Branded uniforms *
- ✗ High-visibility (or 'Hi-vis') workwear or safety clothing *
- ✗ Duvets or quilts *
- ✗ Pillows or cushions *
- ✗ Carpets or rugs *
- ✗ Any items that are damaged, dirty, ripped, soiled or wet *

* We won't collect your bag if it contains any of these items. Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre.

FUTURE SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

- Textiles – Proposed to be collected weekly (same as the Barry trial)
- Collected in clear or partially see-through plastic bags
- Place out with recycling containers on your normal collection day
- Collection proposed from November 2026
- Information on the existing trial available on our website



FUTURE SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS



- AHP proposed to be collected weekly on normal collection day (Barry on a trial basis initially)
- Collected in purple bags or containers (bin or black box)
- Estimated to around a 1000t of AHP in our waste stream
- Residents will need to register (details to be announced) and collected in zones
- Recycling collected on smaller caged vehicles and bulked at our RRF, for processing at recycling facility in Swansea
- Will need to be strictly AHP only i.e. no mixing of waste
- AHP waste is sanitised, specialist technology breaks down the plastics and soft cellulose fibres -
www.nappicycle.co.uk



Any questions so far?



Our ongoing focus

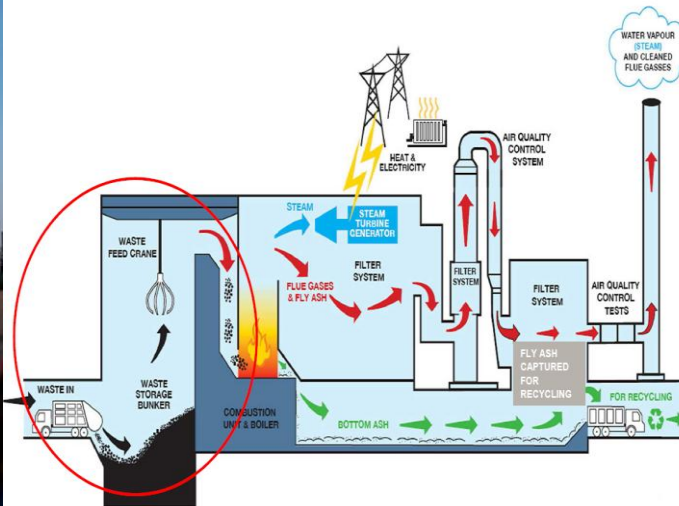
42% of what goes into our black bags in the Vale of Glamorgan actually could be recycled!



Re-cap: Where does our Recycling and Waste go?



ERF Process - Delivery



- All waste treated at Viridor's Energy Recovery Facility (ERF)
- 25-year contract 2016 – 2041
- Treats 95% of South Wales waste - 425,000t of waste pa
- Approximately 175,000t from PG partnership
- Produces enough renewable energy to power 98,000 homes
- Food waste – anaerobic digestion (AD)
- Min 15-year organics contract with DCWW - 2017-2032
- Produces enough energy to power 2,000 homes
- Green waste – OWC (Lamby Way - Cardiff)
- Community projects supported by providing compost



Re-cap: Where does our Recycling and Waste go?



- Recycling (dry) processed in-house except for small quantities of comingled recycling
- Facilities at Atlantic Trading Estate & Cowbridge
- Source separated material prepared for resale and reuse
- £1.35m of material sold last year
- Street Scene waste managed and bulked & post sorting (70-74% RR)



Infrastructure update – HWRC's

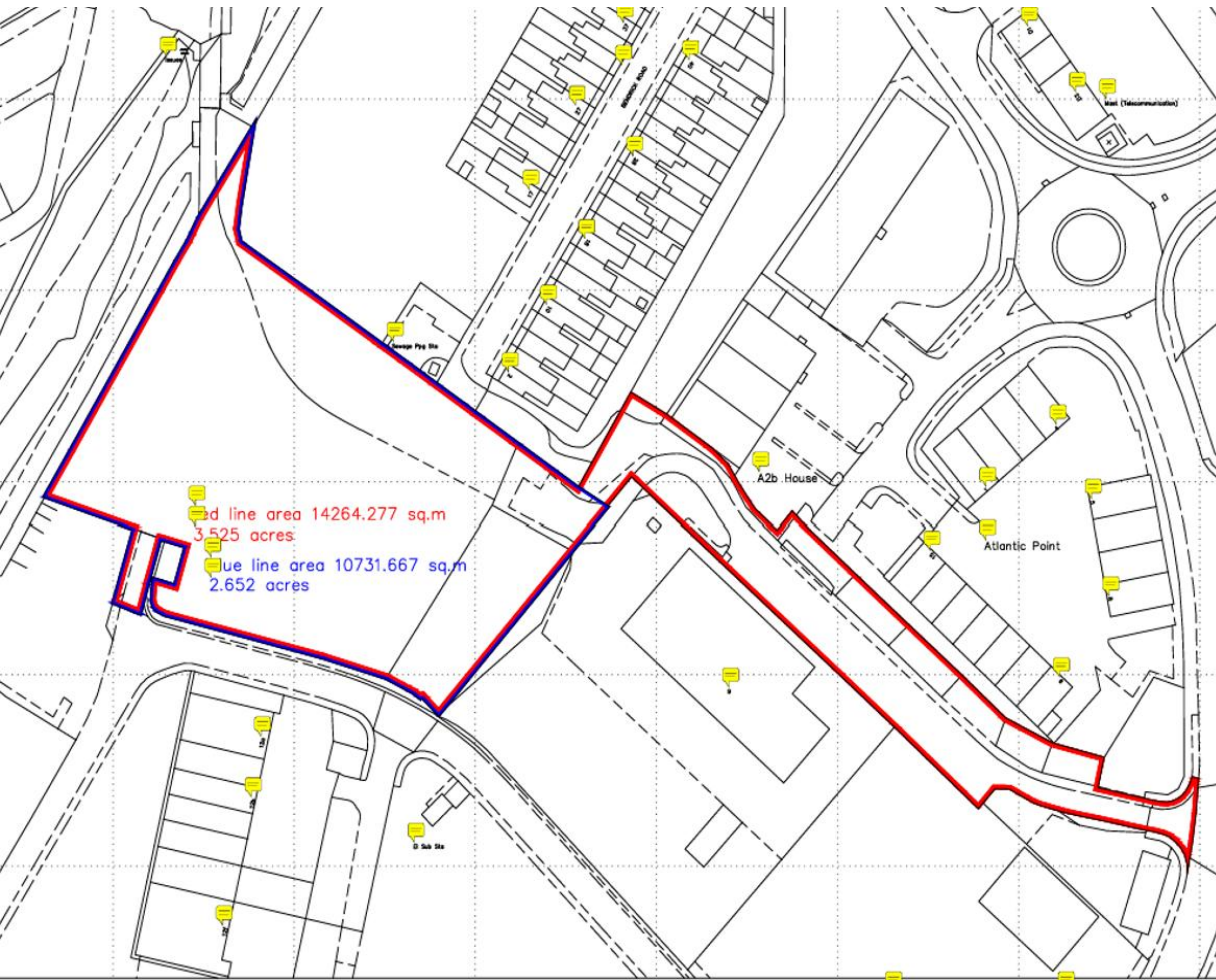


HWRC's

- Remaining part of the strategy is to renew the HWRC at Llandow (Entire ind. site up for sale)
- Service area liaising with WG and local partnerships regarding the site
- Held informal discussions with potential buyers of the entire site
- Existing site still operating but recycling performance remains generally poor
- Project still subject to obtaining land and raising the necessary capital



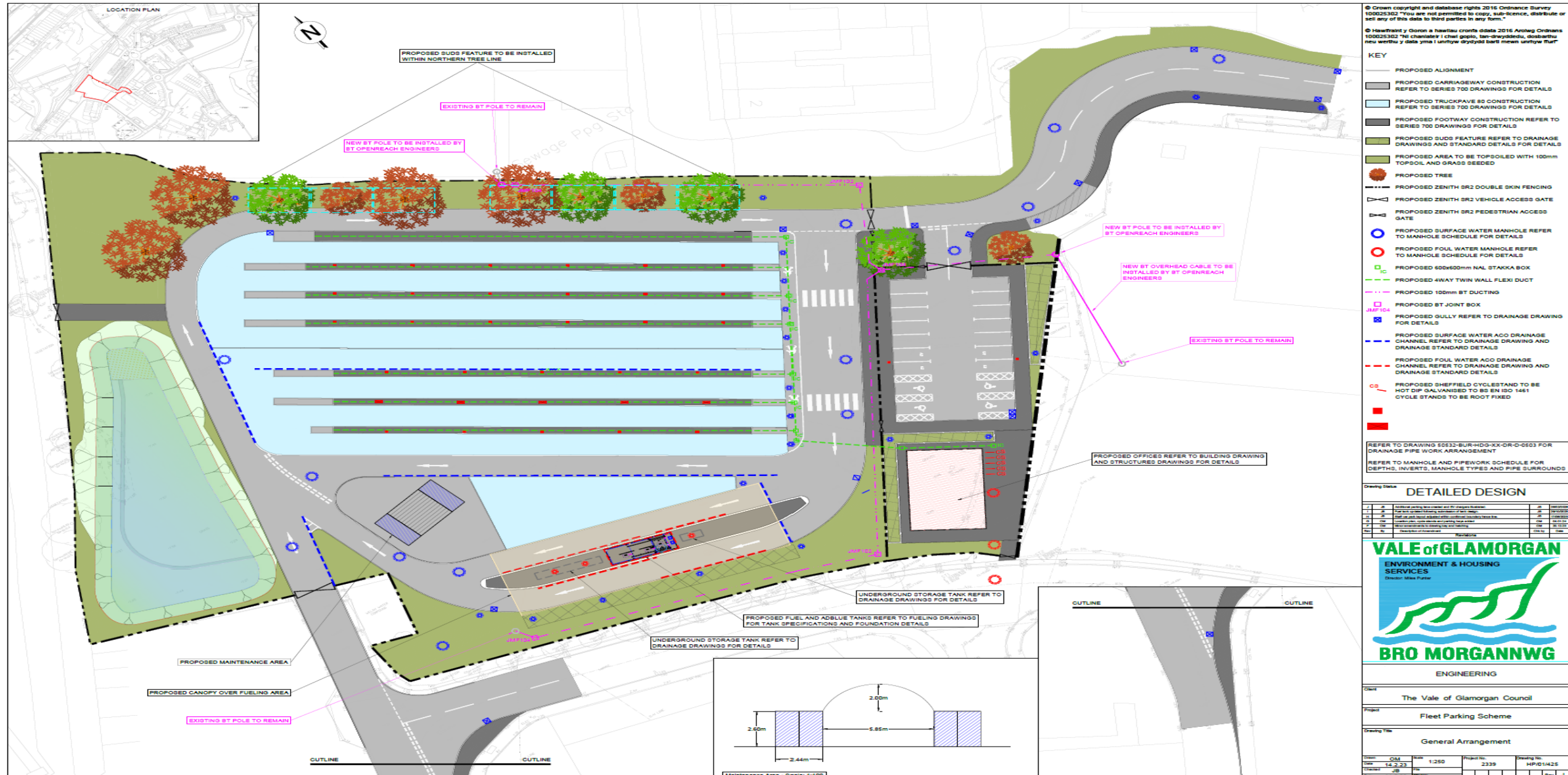
Infrastructure update – Fleet Parking



Fleet Parking

- Detailed design, SuDS approval, and pre-planning consultation complete
- Planning committee hopefully in next 2-months seeking consent to construct site
- Details to date relate to an objection received from DCWW
- Designs amended to reflect protection of CDWW asset
- £2.4m in capital programme to commence with phase 1
- A further £1.2m required to complete the site (phase 2)
- Will provide efficiencies and reduce carbon

Infrastructure update – Fleet Parking



Challenges



- **Wood Reporting** – NRW has recommended an apportionment method for recycling performance. Potential to impact on current performance. Service area yet to use methodology. Wood recycling proving difficult & expensive. Discussions ongoing.
- **Fridge & Freezer Recycling** – Processing delays causing backlog in industry. Likely that this will impact on our service but contingency storage being considered
- **Flats & Apartments** – Remains challenging but Recycling Officers making progress implementing recycling services. Pilot scheme agreed with WRAP to introduce soft plastics
- **HWRC contract** - Report seeks approval to increase existing contract costs for wood processing and garden waste recycling in extension years.
- Residual waste increasing year on year. Only reduces when VoG instigate measures. This area will be subject to a further report.



Legislation update (and Risks)



- **Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)** – Applies 1st October 2027 for steel, aluminium, plastic and glass containers. Likely to impact financially and on our performance. High return rates experienced within European schemes with environmental (littering) benefits
- **Future Recycling targets** – Being considered by WG with new milestones for 2030/2035 in preparation of Zero Waste 2050. Essential to monitor DRS implications
- **Flexible Plastic Recycling** – Mandatory from April 2027
- **Digital Waste Tracking (Wales) Regulations 2026** – Phase 1 October 2026 (waste sites), Phase 2 October 2027 (waste carriers). HWRC's will remain exempt.

Legislation update (and Risks)



- **Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme (EPR)** – The Council received £3.8m in 2025/26 and has received £3.3m this financial year. Litter EPR being considered for 2027.
- **HWRC contract** - Residual waste increasing year on year. This area will be subject to a further report.
- **Emissions Trading Scheme (UK-ETS)** – A cap and trade scheme. Was due 1st January 2028 but has been postponed by UK Gov.
- Aims to reduce ERF emissions by placing financial incentives to decarbonise
- As the cap reduces facilities that don't instigate reductions in fossil derived fuel, will have to buy allowances
- Service area has challenged methodology to ensure it benefits high performing LA's
- It is our incentive to introduce further recycling schemes to reduce plastic content i.e. AHP and Textiles



Summary of strategic update

- The R&WMS (2022-2032) continues to deliver strong outcomes, with recycling performance increasing year on year. Wood recycling may have a significant impact?
- The Vale remains one of the highest performing and lowest cost waste and recycling authorities in Wales
- Significant progress through service innovation, such as soft plastic collections, food waste & commercial growth, construction of the RRF and garden waste subscription service
- The next phase of the Strategy focuses on waste prevention, reuse, decarbonisation and delivery of the Welsh Government Collections Blueprint (2025)
- New textile and Absorbent Hygiene Product recycling services will help divert further material from the residual waste stream and prepare for UK-ETS
- Investment in infrastructure, such as Fleet Parking, a replacement HWRC in the Western Vale/challenge to the management of HWRC's but also development of Climate change Risk Assessments will improve efficiency, resilience and reduce carbon emissions.
- Whilst legislative and financial challenges remain, the Council is well positioned to maintain performance and meet future recycling targets should we be adversely affected





Any Questions?

