

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Report to:	The Executive
Date:	16/12/2025
Subject:	Waste Collection & Recycling Consultation
Portfolio holder(s):	Councillor Ieuan Williams
Head of service / director:	Huw Percy, Head of Service, Highways, Waste & Property
Report author:	Meirion Edwards, Chief Waste Management Officer
Local members:	All Elected Members

A – Recommendation(s) and reasons

It is recommended that the Executive:

1. Approve a consultation process on how the recycling/waste collection service could change in future to help reach 70% statutory recycling targets.
2. Approve the questions to be asked as part of the consultation process (see Appendix 1).
3. Approve the timetable for the public consultation, starting on 7 January 2026 and lasting for 6 weeks.

Approving the above recommendations ensures alignment with the Council Plan 2023-28 Climate change objective to establish a household waste recycling rate of 70% and the Resources & Recycling Strategic Plan.

The Council has a statutory obligation to achieve a 70% recycling rate by 2024/25. Failure to meet recycling targets can result in a fine from Welsh Government. Based on the current recycling rate of around 65%, it is estimated that the Council will face annual fine of £361k.

In June 2025, the Welsh Government published their Collections Blueprint 2025. The document outlines what they recommend for waste collection and the Council already meets most of these.

Support on how to increase recycling rates has been received from WRAP Cymru. Their main recommendation was to reduce the weekly residual waste capacity to 60l, in line with that recommended in the Welsh Government's Collections Blueprint 2025.

This could be achieved by collecting residual waste less frequently and/or reducing the size of the bin and WRAP Cymru estimate that this would increase the Council's recycling rate by at least 5%. The modelling so far favours moving to 4 weeks over purchasing new smaller bins because:

- Cost of new bins
- Sticking to 3 weeks likely to mean higher staffing requirements
- Overfilling smaller bins could make them harder to empty and easier to damage.

The Council needs to decide as soon as possible if it wants to introduce service changes in order to increase its recycling rate and therefore needs to hear the opinions of Anglesey householders regarding potential service changes.

If, following consultation, the Council decides to introduce a service change, significant financial investment will be required for improvements. Welsh Government has stated that they would only fund applications where there is a credible plan to achieve 70% or more exists. Consulting with householders will therefore demonstrate that the Council is serious about meeting the 70% statutory recycling target.

The proposed questions consider a range of potential changes to the service provided which are aimed at increasing recycle rates and by their nature includes the required status quo option.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this opinion?

There is a requirement to consult with those likely to be affected when any proposal to introduce a significant change to a service is considered, especially where the proposal is to reduce the service. Since any change to the collection service will impact every householder on Anglesey, a full consultation process will therefore be required. This potential service change is required to meet the statutory recycling target of 70% and avoid increased costs.

Delaying the consultation could lead to the process being impacted by pre-election restrictions. Any delay could reduce the prospect of receiving significant capital funding from Welsh Government to fund the costs of any service change e.g. upgrades to recycling infrastructure. This means that the Council would have to fund this or face the side effects on the delivery of the service.

Not having a meaningful plan to achieve the 70% recycling target also increases the risk of being fined by Welsh Government for not reaching the statutory targets in any given year and impacts the costs of operating business as usual.

Additional and alternative questions have been considered, however those included in Appendix 1 are considered the most pertinent to the proposed service changes.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

The proposed service changes may be highly emotive and the financial implications of introducing the proposed changes, and indeed not introducing them, are considerable and beyond the financial delegation of officers.

It should be noted that due to the need to secure budget, consult, and complete works to develop the infrastructure, it is highly unlikely that any change to the collection regime can be introduced before 2029.

Ch – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

The proposed public consultation is directly aligned to the Council's Resources & Recycling Strategic Plan, Public Participation Strategic Plan 2023 to 2028, Strategic Communications Plan 2023 to 2028, and Strategic Equality Plan 2024 to 2028.

D – Is this decision within budget approved by the Council?

There are no significant costs of conducting the proposed public consultation. Officer time will be the main resource which is already funded.

Dd – Assessment of potential impacts (if relevant)

1. How does this decision affect our long-term needs as an island?

The proposed service changes will impact all households on the island and therefore it is essential that they are consulted.

2. Is this a decision that is anticipated to prevent future costs/dependencies on the Council? If so, how?

Implementing the proposed service changes without consulting will leave the Council open to challenge. That may delay the Council's ability to agree a meaningful plan to achieve the 70% recycling target, which increases the risk of being fined by Welsh Government and reduces the likelihood of been awarded capital funding by Welsh Government.

3. Have we collaborated with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, with whom?

Welsh Government, WRAP Cymru and Local Partnerships.

4. Have the citizens of Anglesey played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Explain how.

n/a

5. Note any potential impact this decision would have on the protected groups under the Equality Act 2010.

The consultation will ensure that the views of those protected under the Equality Act 2010 are sought.

6. If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impacts the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

Provision will be made in the consultation to allow anyone experiencing a socio-economic disadvantage to respond in a method that is cost free and convenient to them (e.g. electronic survey, local drop-in sessions etc).

7. Please note any potential effects that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use Welsh and not treat the language less favourably than English.

All consultation material will be available in both Welsh and English.

E – Who did you consult with and what were their comments?

1. Chief Executive / Leadership Team (mandatory)	Supports the recommendations
2. Finance / 151 Officer	Supports the recommendations
3. Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	Supports the recommendations
4. HR	n/a
5. Property	n/a
6. IT	n/a
7. Procurement	n/a
8. Scrutiny	n/a
9. Local members	n/a

F – Appendices

Appendix 1 - Draft Consultation Document – to follow

Appendix 2 – Consultation Plan

Ff – Background papers (contact the report author for more information)

Brief Report on 70% Recycling

Appendix 1 – Draft Consultation Document

Consultation on potential changes to recycling/waste collection services on Anglesey

Introduction

Anglesey County Council has set out a clear commitment to protect the environment and reducing our carbon footprint in its Council Plan 2023-2028 and recycling plays a vital role in this work. By reducing the amount of waste that goes to disposal, we can reduce emissions, conserve valuable resources, and help create a cleaner, greener Island for future generations.

All Council's in Wales must meet the Welsh Government recycling target of 70% or face monetary penalties. The Council's Resources and Waste Strategic Plan 2024-2029 includes a commitment to increase recycling rates and meet the 70% target.

If you are interested in learning what happens to your recycling, please click [here](#).

Anglesey currently recycles 65%. Based on this recycling rate, the County Council could face a fine of around £350k per year. This is money that could be spent on essential services.

We know that we can do better as recent data and research show that around 52% of the waste currently placed in black bins on Anglesey could be recycled. We also know that food waste recycling is relatively low compared to other local authorities, and that some households find storing excess cardboard problematic.

Evidence from other Councils in Wales has proven that giving households more opportunities to recycle, while reducing the amount of space available for general ('black bag') waste leads to higher recycling rates. The [Welsh Government's Collection Blueprint](#) recommends that to maximise recycling households should have no more than the equivalent of one standard full black bag (60litres) or less per week – most Anglesey households currently have a 240 litre black bin that is collected once every 3 weeks.

To help meet national targets and avoid financial penalties, we want to make recycling easier and more convenient for residents. We are exploring potential changes, which include:

- Adjusting the configuration of the trolley box to make it easier to recycle by collecting paper & cardboard together
- Providing households with additional containers to store extra recycling
- Reducing the weekly volume collected by emptying black bins every 4 weeks rather than every 3 weeks

Please note that no change is currently being considered to green garden waste or nappy collections.

Any changes would require investment in new vehicles and improvements at our waste and recycling sites. Because of this, the earliest any change to the collection service could start would be 2029.

We understand that different households have different needs and that some may have particular concerns about any changes. This consultation is your opportunity to share your views and an opportunity to ensure these are fully understood before any decisions are made. Your feedback will help us shape a service that meets residents' needs, support our environmental goals, and helps Anglesey reach the 70% recycling target.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire below:

Section 1: Your views on recycling and waste services

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
"Achieving the Welsh Government's recycling target of 70% on Anglesey is important".
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neither agree nor disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree

(If disagree or strongly disagree – please state why)
2. What barriers, if there are any, make recycling difficult for you?
 - Not enough space / recycling containers are too small
 - Unsure what can and can't be recycled
 - Don't produce much recycling
 - Recycling is messy and unhygienic
 - Limited indoor storage before putting materials outside
 - Physical difficulties (lifting, carrying, mobility)
 - Not interested in recycling
 - No barriers – already recycle everything we can
 - Other (please note)

Section 2: Your current waste and recycling levels

3. On a typical collection day, how full are your

	Quarter full of less	Half Full	Three quarters full	Full	Full before collection day	Don't use
Black bin						
Food bin						
Top box of trolley box						
Middle box of trolley box						
Bottom box of trolley box						

Section 3: Potential Service Changes

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The Council providing additional storage options would help you recycle more".

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

(If disagree or strongly disagree – please state why)

5. To what extent do you support or oppose changing the black bin collection from every 3 weeks to every 4 weeks

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose

(If oppose or strongly oppose – please state why)

6. Please use this opportunity to tell us about any concerns, suggestions or household circumstances that might affect how you manage waste and recycling, particularly if you have answered "disagree", "strongly disagree", "oppose" or "strongly oppose" to any of the previous questions.

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Section 4: About you

7. What is your Post Code:
8. How many live at your address?
9. What is your age range:
10. Do you receive an assisted collection service?
11. Do you use the nappy/clinical waste collection service?

Draft Timeline for Potential Service Change:

Action (*)	Completed by
Executive decision to commence public consultation	December 2025
Public consultation	January - February 2026 (6weeks)
Post consultation analysis	March – May 2026
Decision making process (Scrutiny, Executive approval) in respect of service change	May – July 2026
Concept design	Autumn 2026
Detailed design	Spring 2027
Construction phase and permit approvals	To be completed by Summer 2029
Service change commencement	Autumn 2029

*Each action in the table above is subject to the normal decision making process within the Council.

In order to maximise the likelihood of receiving grant funding from Welsh Government, an Initial (ISPA) bid needs to be presented as soon as possible. More detailed funding applications will need to be submitted if the ISPA is successful.

[illegible]

Options:

Option	Description	Estimated increase in recycling by implementing the change	Estimated % Recycling by implementing the change	Estimated revenue cost	Estimated capital cost
1	Do not make any changes to the black bin / recycling collection service at the doorstep	0%	64.7%	£361k per year 9fine)	£8.1M (but a high risk of not receiving a contribution towards upgrading buildings / machinery / equipment / drainage).
1A	Do not make any changes to the black bin / recycling collection service at the doorstep, but offer an additional container for cardboard and paper and only change the use of parts of the box trolley.	<0.5%	65.2%	£327k per year (fine) + additional collection costs.	£8.25M (but a high risk of not receiving a contribution towards upgrading buildings / machinery / equipment / drainage).
2	Reduce the weekly residual waste volume by collecting the current 240-litre black bins every 4 weeks and offering an additional container for cardboard and paper	+5.6%	70.3%	£460k (additional collection costs less fine)	£14.3M
3	Reduce weekly residual waste volume by collecting new 180-litre black bins every 3 weeks and providing an additional container for cardboard and paper	+5.2%	69.9%	£460k (additional collection costs less fine)	£15.2M+ (£900k for new bins)
4	Reduce weekly residual waste volume by collecting new 140-litre black bins every 3 weeks and providing an additional container for cardboard and paper	+6.7%	71.4%	£460k (additional collection costs less fine)	£15.2M + (£900k for new bins)