Welsh Local Government Association
Waste Improvement Programme

Report on behalf of the Commercial Recycling and Residual Waste Benchmarking Group

2017-18

Contents

1.   Summary Report

1.   The Commercial Recycling and Residual Waste Benchmarking Group *(previously known as the All Wales Trade Refuse Benchmarking Group, and referred to in this report as 'the benchmarking group')* collects information on the cost and performance of commercial recycling and residual waste services operated by councils in Wales. The benchmarking group provides a focus for council commercial recycling and residual waste officers to compare the performance of their services, to explore examples of good practice and keep costs low by driving efficiency savings. Each year the benchmarking group produces a detailed analysis for its members of the data that it collects, and reports its findings to the County Surveyor's Society waste subgroup.

2.   Councils operate the benchmarking group and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) helps to facilitate the group meetings, undertakes data collection, analyses this data and produces benchmarking reports. The data used and the conclusions made are from the benchmarking group and not from the WLGA.

3.   The benchmarking group included all councils in 2017/18, apart from the Isle of Anglesey Council[1]. Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council and Carmarthenshire County Council did not submit benchmarking data for analysis in 2017/18, but submitted data to Wastedataflow[2], whilst Bridgend County Borough Council submitted data to Wastedataflow but provided limited benchmarking data for analysis. In the case of Carmarthenshire County Council and Bridgend County Borough Council changes in the delivery of their commercial waste services might be a factor in their benchmarking data being unavailable. Welsh Government is also a member of the benchmarking group, but doesn't submit data, whilst Newport City Council has asked to be removed from the benchmarking group.

4.   The benchmarking group received data from 20 of its member councils for 2017/18, with the headline costs that the benchmarking group uses sourced directly from Wastedataflow. Data used by the benchmarking group on the headline service costs is externally audited and is the same data used in the annual Financial Return made to the Minister for Housing and Local Government at Welsh Government.

5.   The benchmarking of commercial recycling and residual waste services doesn't take account of all the costs associated with the collection, transfer and treatment and disposal of waste materials, including

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[1] Isle of Anglesey County Council does not provide a commercial recycling and residual waste service
[2] Wastedataflow is the web-based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government

departmental recharges and reinvestment. Such costs are likely therefore to be reflected within any surplus made by councils.

6.   The benchmarking group collects information on customer charges in another survey. The benchmarking group considers that sharing and comparing information about customer charges is important in helping councils to drive down costs and to achieve a better value for money by setting a sustainable balance between income gained in a competitive market and the expenditure needed to deliver an effective service. Balancing income with costs also helps to avoid the need for large subsidies from council budgets. The WLGA has published a good practice guide to the considerations and methodology councils need to explore when implementing or changing a charge for a chargeable waste service. For further details, please visit the WLGA website here

7.   Councils can make commercial recycling and residual waste agreements with traders in their county to collect their wastes. Agreements may be to collect and to dispose of commercial wastes, to collect and to recycle commercial wastes, or to do both. Councils set a scheme of customer charges[3] that are reasonable and cover the cost of managing these wastes, without subsidy and without making excessive profit. Councils operate in competition with commercial companies in commercial waste contracts, although the impact of competition varied between counties due to location and commercial attractiveness. Commercial wastes that councils collect under their agreements become a part of the council's municipal waste, and a part of the calculation of that council's municipal recycling rate.

8.   The main findings from the benchmarking commercial recycling and residual waste data from 2017-18 are:

- 5 councils, which is one less than in 2016/17 subsidised their commercial recycling and residual waste services by more than £50,000. Gwynedd Council made a surplus in 2017/18, having provided a subsidy in 2016/17.
- The size of the subsidy made by councils decreased between the benchmarking periods, from almost six times this amount *(£50,000)* to just under four and a half times. However, commercial waste recycling is still not profitable for most councils.
- Whilst some councils are recycling less commercial waste, the average recycling rate of those benchmarking has continued to rise.
- Costs continue to show large and sometimes unexplained variability.

9.   For 13 councils*,* which is one less than in 2016/17 combined net income exceeded the cost of providing commercial recycling and residual waste

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[3] Customer charge review for 2019/20 available from the Benchmarking Wales Hub, click here

services by more than £50,000. Cardiff Council had the highest level of net income at £449.282. Newport City Council at £435,251 and the City and County of Swansea Council at £393,347 also standout as making a large surplus. Wrexham County Borough Council had another increase in its net income, rising from £368,691 in 2016/17 to £381,941 in 2017/18.

10. 5 councils subsidised their commercial recycling and residual waste services by more than £50,000 in 2017/18. In particular, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council at £401,450, Bridgend County Borough Council at £213,577 and Carmarthenshire County Council at £166,632. Gwynedd Council switched from a subsidy of £77,336 in 2016/17 to a surplus of £7,297 in 2017/18. The overall total subsidy decreased from £986,650 in 2016/17 to £904,639 in 2017/18, whilst the overall total surplus remained largely unchanged at £3.1 million.

11. The net expenditure for each council on residual commercial waste is a measure of the ability of waste managers to operate a viable service. Commercial waste recycling is unlikely to make a significant surplus, and is more likely to require currently a subsidy to establish a client base and to compete with the private sector. For 6 councils, which is one less than in 2016/17, income did not cover the cost of their residual commercial waste service. In particular, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council at £356,920, up from £127,746 in 2016/17, Bridgend County Borough Council at £213,577, up from £212,538 in 2016/17 and Carmarthenshire County Council at £176,842, up from £150,326 in 2016/17 did not cover the cost of their residual commercial waste service.

12. Ceredigion County Council at £189 per tonne and Powys County Council at £182 per tonne had the highest cost to dispose of each tonne of commercial waste. Both councils also had the largest rise in the disposal cost of each tonne of commercial waste between both benchmarking periods. The overall median cost in 2017/18 was £109 per tonne.

13. There has been a further rise in the rate of commercial waste recycling, averaging 49% in 2017/18. The average in 2016/17 was 43%. Standout performing councils in 2017/18 were Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council at 77%, Wrexham County Borough Council at 75% and Conwy County Borough Council at 72%. The City and County of Swansea Council at £725,544 and Cardiff Council at £695,345 had the largest expenditure on recycling, with a percentage recycling rate for commercial waste collected at 40% and 30% respectively.

14. The net expenditure on commercial waste recycling for the City and County of Swansea Council at £595,444, up from £271,555 in 2016/17, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council at £154,735, down from £209,779 in 2016/17 and for 5 other councils, which is two less than in 2016/17 shows that income from recycling did not cover expenditure on

this part of the service. Cardiff Council made a net surplus of £409,617, down from £934,377 in 2016/17, whilst Conwy County Borough Council made a net surplus of £110,483, up from £104,799 in 2016/17.

15.   The median cost per tonne of commercial waste recycled in 2017/18 was £44. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is the only council to cover the cost of each tonne of commercial waste that was recycled.

16.   On average, each council benchmarking had issued just over 18.5% of available non-domestic rated properties with waste agreements. The range varies from 38% to 11%. In 2016/17 the average was just over 20.4%, whilst the range varied from 30% to just 5%. Marketing remains at a very low level amongst the benchmarking group, with only 7 councils benchmarking actively marketed their commercial recycling and residual waste services. In 2016/17 the figure was 5 councils. Planned service changes in 2017/18 at Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is likely to see improved service information for businesses.

17.   Only Cardiff Council, servicing the Cardiff & Vale Health Board for general, recycling and food waste and covering the Vale of Glamorgan, collected trade waste from a neighbouring council. 16 other councils stated that they did not collect trade waste from a neighbouring council.

18.   Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 17 councils decreased by 8.5% the total number of commercial waste agreements held. In 2016/17 20,934 commercial waste agreements were held, however by 2017/18 this had reduced to 19,152 commercial waste agreements held.

19.   Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 13 councils decreased by 6.5% the total weight of commercial residual waste disposed. In 2016/17 40,529 tonnes were disposed, however by 2017/18 this had reduced to 37,900 tonnes.

20.   Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 8 councils increased by 6.4% the total quantity of commercial waste recycled. In 2016/17 22,583 tonnes were recycled, however by 2017/18 this had risen to 24,029 tonnes.

21.   In 2019 the Welsh Government held three consultations. On proposals to introduce a deposit return scheme (DRS) in Wales for drink containers, and as part of a UK wide scheme, on increasing recycling by businesses, which will include a requirement for all businesses and public sector bodies to keep their key recyclable materials separate at source and to include food and on reforming the current packaging producer responsibility system by introducing extended producer responsibility (EPR). These proposals will have an impact on the waste and recycling sector in Wales, creating new opportunities (as well as challenges) for commercial recycling and residual waste services operated by councils.

2. Headline Indicators
Exhibits 1 – 4

Exhibit 1   The total weight of commercial waste collected annually by each council in 2017-18
Exhibit 2   The average weight of commercial waste collected per agreement by each council during 2017-18
Exhibit 3   The number of commercial waste agreements held as a percentage of non-domestic rated properties during 2017-18
Exhibit 4   The net cost of providing commercial recycling and residual waste services in 2017-18

The amount of commercial waste collected by councils or their contractors.

Council commercial recycling and residual waste services vary considerably in size and in particular in the number of commercial recycling and residual waste agreements held and the amount of waste collected from each agreement-holding customer.

A range of factors influences the variation in size of both the service and the amount of waste collected:

- **Potential market in terms of the number and size of individual contracts;**
- **Geographical location; and**
- **Private sector competition**

How actively the council markets commercial recycling and residual waste services is also a factor.

1. The total weight of commercial waste collected annually by each council in 2017-18
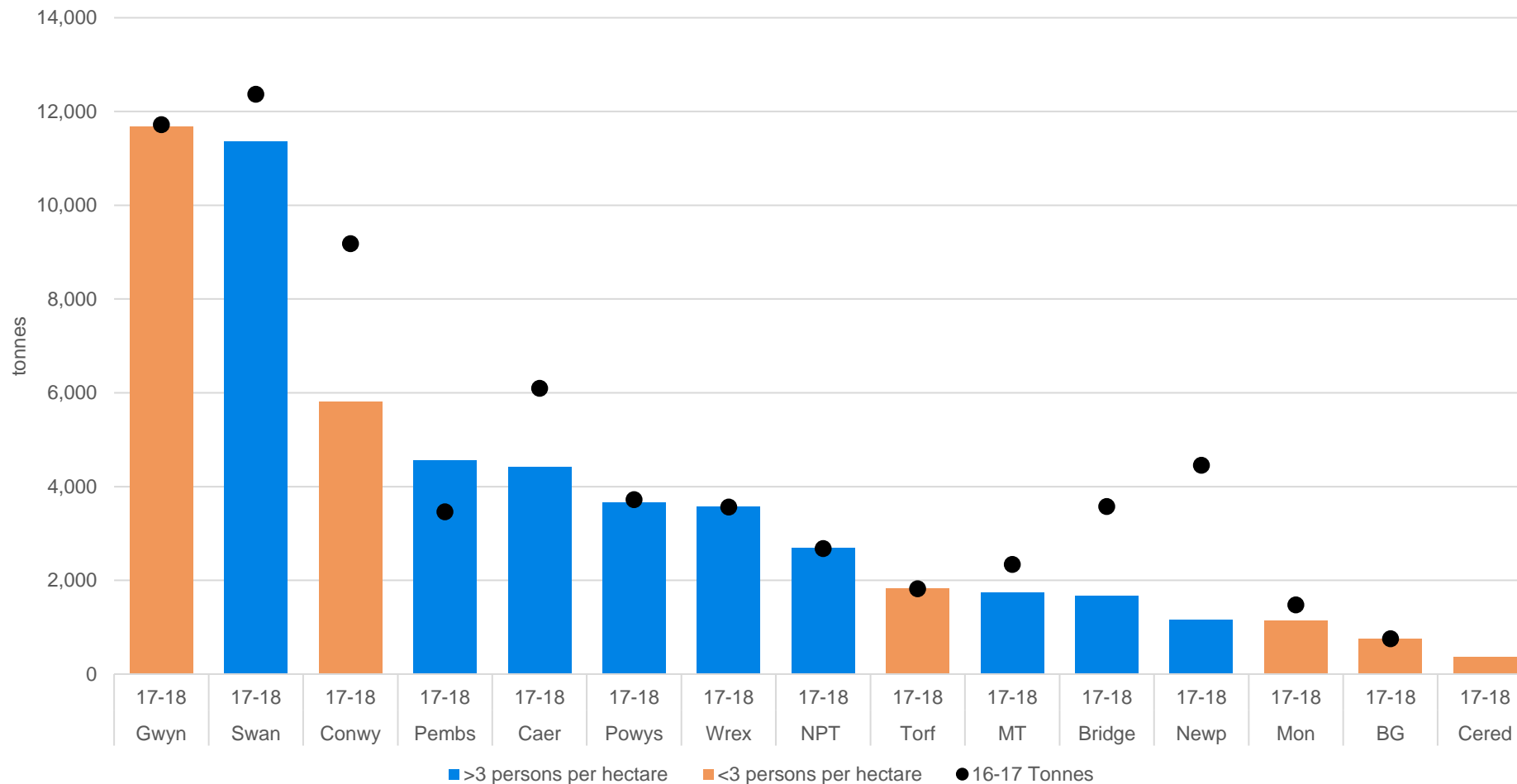
As we can see from Exhibit 1 Gwynedd Council collected the most amount of commercial waste in 2017/18 with 11,677 tonnes from 2,001 commercial waste agreements. This compares with 11,721 tonnes and 2,007 agreements in 2016/17. It also continues to remain by far the rural council which collects the most amount of commercial waste. The City and County of Swansea Council collected the next largest amount of commercial waste with 11,364 tonnes from 1,816 commercial waste agreements. This compares with 12,366 tonnes and 2,067 agreements in 2016/17. Ceredigion County Council collected the least amount of commercial waste with 366

tonnes from 496 commercial waste agreements, followed by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council with 741 tonnes from 340 commercial waste agreements. For Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council this is a slight decrease on 2016/17, whilst the low amount may reflect changes to the council's strategy following work with the Welsh Government's Collaborative Change Programme.

Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 the total weight of commercial waste collected by those councils shown decreased from 67,203 tonnes to 55,977 tonnes[4]. This is a reduction of 17% or 11,226 tonnes. Councils who had some of the largest decreases were Bridgend, Caerphilly, Conwy and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils and Newport City Council. The number of commercial waste agreements held by many of these councils also decreased over the periods benchmarked, except for Conwy County Borough Council and Newport City Council who both increased their number of commercial waste agreements held.

As highlighted in the 2016/17 report on behalf of the Commercial Recycling and Residual Waste Benchmarking Group the downward trend of councils collecting less commercial waste has continued in 2017/18, and since 2015/16. This is reflected in the median total weight of commercial waste collected annually, which for those councils shown decreased from 3,569 tonnes in 2016/17 to 3,122 tonnes in 2017/18 and by Pembrokeshire County Council being the only council to increase the amount of commercial waste collected in 2017/18. There is also a wide margin in the total weight of commercial waste collected between Gwynedd Council and the City and County of Swansea Council and the other councils, approximately 50% more.

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[4] Ceredigion County Council not included due to no comparable 2016/17 figure

2. The average weight of commercial waste collected per agreement by each council during 2017-18

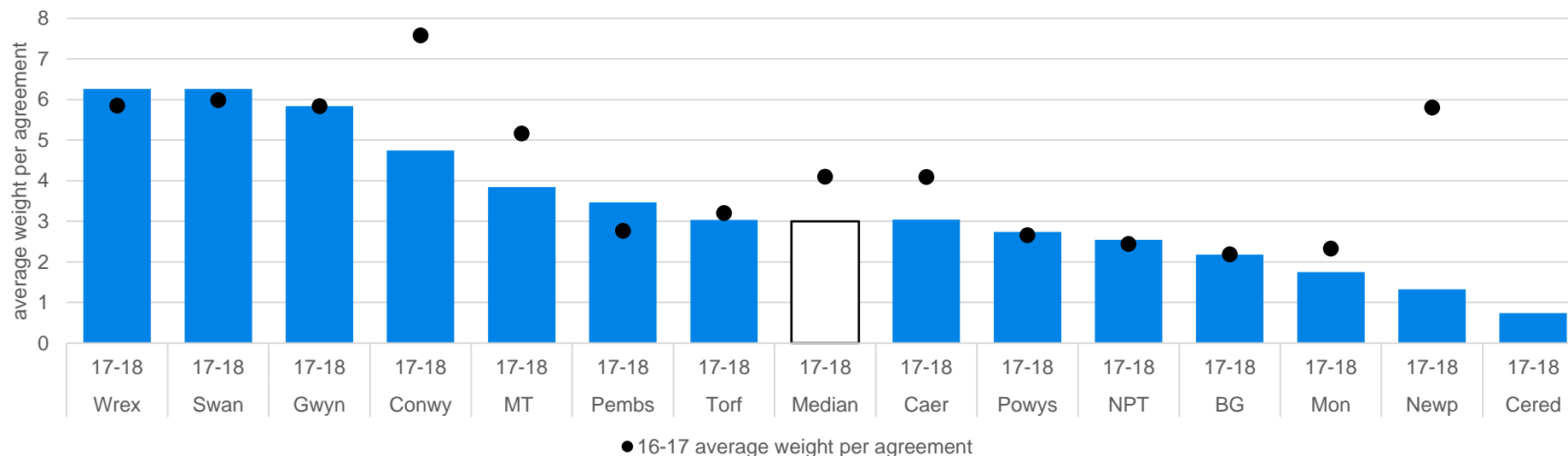● 16-17 average weight per agreement

Exhibit 2 shows that Wrexham County Borough Council and the City and County of Swansea Council have the highest average weight per agreement, each with 6.3 tonnes per agreement. This is an increase for both councils on their 2016/17 average weight per agreement, which were 5.9 tonnes and 6.0 tonnes respectively. Gwynedd Council was also close to collecting this amount of commercial waste from each agreement holder at 5.8 tonnes for 2017/18 and 2016/17. Ceredigion County Council had the lowest collection of the 14 councils benchmarking for 2017/18 with 0.7 tonnes collected on average from each agreement holder, followed by Newport City Council with 1.3 tonnes collected on average from each agreement holder. For Newport City Council this compares with 5.8 tonnes collected on average from each agreement holder for 2016/17 and is the sharpest decrease amongst those councils shown in the graph, followed by Conwy County Borough Council with a decrease of 2.8 tonnes.

The median weight of commercial waste collected per agreement for those councils shown[5] was 3.0 tonnes per agreement. This is a decrease from a median weight of 4.1 tonnes in 2016/17. Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 4 councils increased their average weight of commercial waste collected per agreement, whilst a further 7 councils decreased their average weight of commercial waste collected per agreement. 3 councils were unchanged, namely Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Powys County Council and Gwynedd Council.

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[5] Ceredigion County Council not included due to no comparable 2016/17 figure

3.   The number of commercial waste agreements held as a percentage of non-domestic rated properties during 2017-18
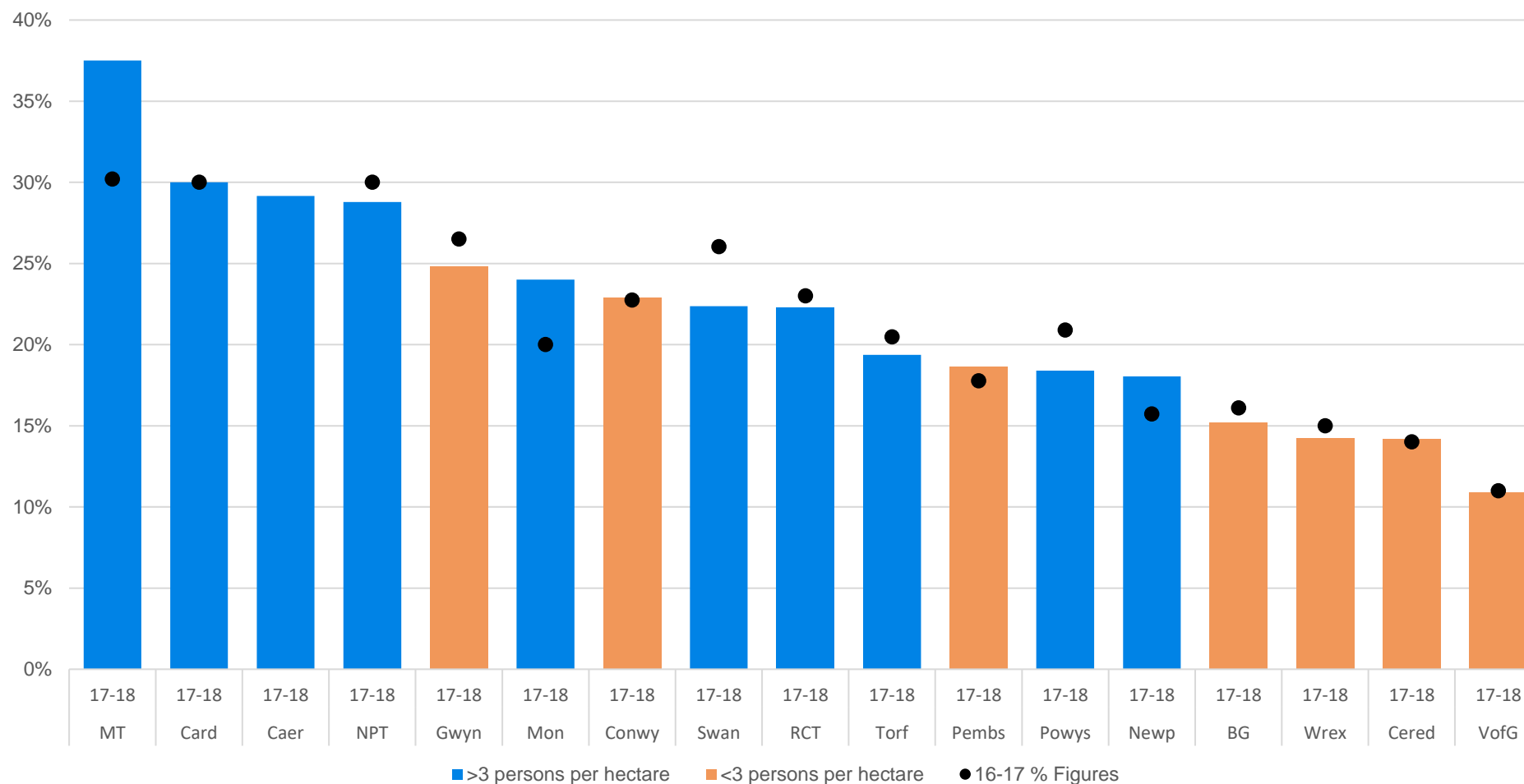
We can see from Exhibit 3 that Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council at 37.5% was the only council to have secured over 30% of available non-domestic rated properties with waste agreements. This is a 7.3% increase on 2016/17, when the percentage was 30.20%, and achieved with slightly fewer waste agreements, 450 in 2017/18 as opposed to 453 in 2016/17. Cardiff Council had the same percentage of available non-domestic rated properties with waste agreements in 2017/18 as in 2016/17 at approximately 30%. The council also undertook a data

consolidation exercise of its waste agreements, removing inactive customer sites and reducing the total from 3,500 in 2016/17 to 3,070 in 2017/18. Caerphilly County Borough Council secured 29.2% of available non-domestic rated properties with waste agreements in 2017/18.

Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 6 councils had a percentage rise in available non-domestic rated properties with waste agreements, including:

| **Monmouthshire County Council** | ↑ | 4% | **Newport City Council** | ↑ | 2.3% | **Pembrokeshire County Council** | ↑ | 0.9% |

These same councils also increased their number of waste agreements. During the same benchmarking periods 9 councils had a percentage fall in available non-domestic rated properties with waste agreements, including:

| **City and County of Swansea Council** | ↓ | 3.7% | **Powys County Council** | ↓ | 2.5% | **Torfaen County Borough Council** | ↓ | 1.1% |

These same councils decreased their number of waste agreements. The median percentage of available non-domestic rated properties issued with waste agreements has remained largely unchanged between 2016/17 and 2017/18 at 21%[6]. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council issued the least number of waste agreements in 2017/18 at 340, whilst the Vale of Glamorgan Council in 2017/18 secured the lowest percentage of available non-domestic rated properties with waste agreements at 10.9%. The percentage margin in agreements between the highest and lowest councils increased from 19.2% in 2016/17 to 26.6% in 2017/18.

The cost of providing commercial recycling and residual waste services

With headline cost data sourced directly from Wastedataflow, calculating the overall cost of providing commercial recycling and residual waste services for 2017/18 is straightforward and does not rely on the additional submission of financial data to the benchmarking group, or checking of this data. In 2017/18, benchmarking analysed the data from 21 councils on the cost of providing their commercial recycling and residual waste services.

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[6] Caerphilly County Borough Council not included due to no comparable 2016/17 figure

4. The net cost of providing commercial recycling and residual waste services in 2017-18

Legend: >3 persons per hectare (orange), <3 persons per hectare (blue)

Chart axis: £ (Thousands), ranging from -500 to 500

Councils listed top to bottom: NPT, Bridge, Carm, RCT, Denbigh, Gwyn, Cered, MT, Torf, Conwy, VofG, Powys, Pembs, BG, Mon, Caer, Wrex, Swan, Newp, Card
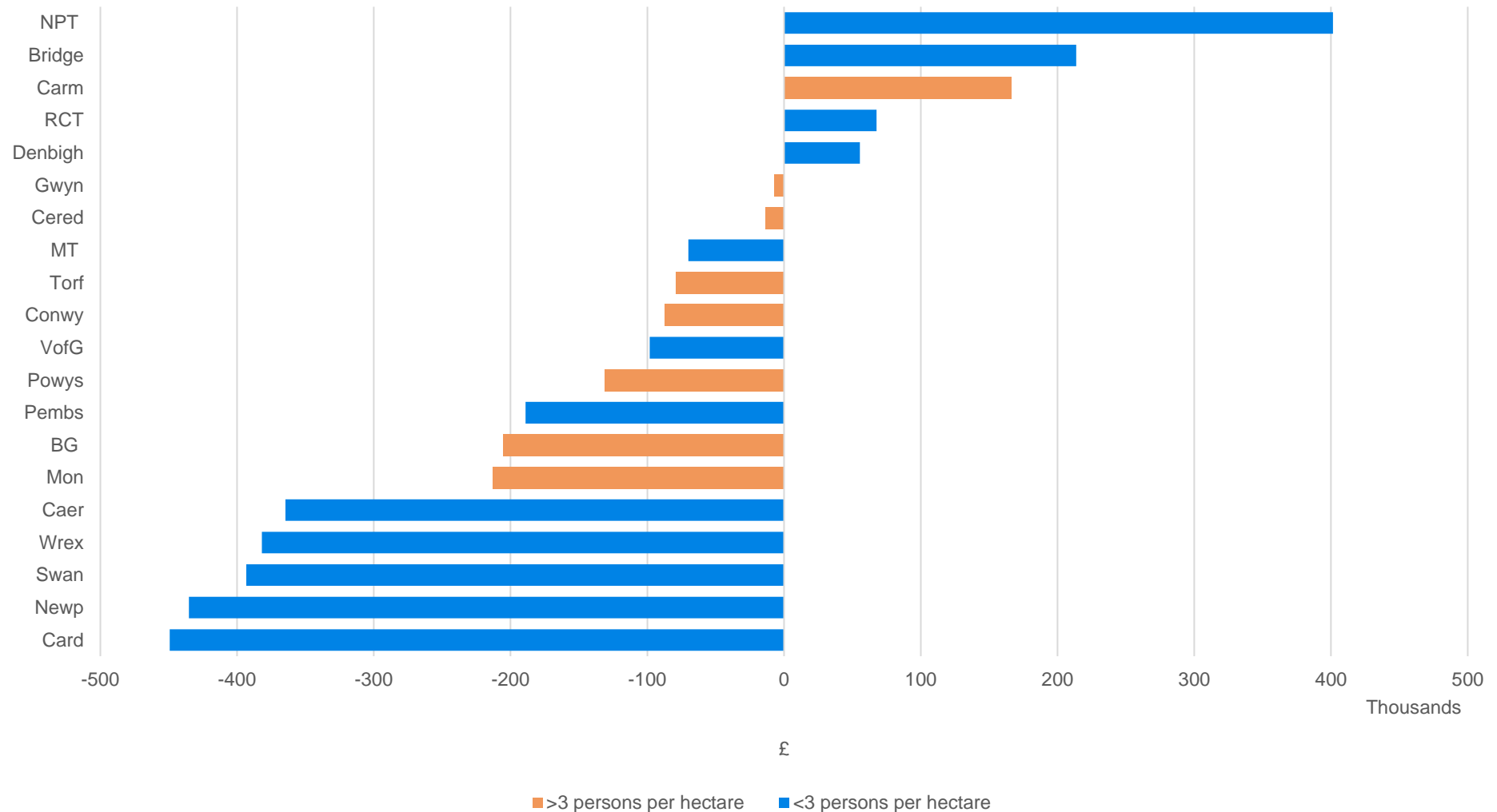
Exhibit 4 shows the benchmarking data on the cost of providing the commercial recycling and residual waste services. A negative value for a council means that it covered its costs and made a surplus.

For 13 councils income exceeded the cost of providing commercial recycling and residual waste services by more than £50,000, which is one less than in 2016/17. Cardiff Council had the highest level of net income in 2017/18 at £449,282. The City and County of Swansea Council at £393,347 and Wrexham County Borough Council at £381,941 also standout as making a large surplus. Most councils whose income exceeded the cost of providing commercial recycling and residual waste services by more than £50,000 had a reduced surplus in 2017/18 when compared with 2016/17. Torfaen County Borough Council decreased its surplus from £128,202 in 2016/17 to £79,469 in 2017/18, Powys County Council decreased its surplus from £202,150 in 2016/17 to £131,163 in 2017/18, whilst the City and County of Swansea Council decreased its surplus from £634,967 in 2016/17 to £393,347 in 2017/18. Gwynedd Council had the lowest level of surplus in 2017/18 at £7,297, followed by Ceredigion County Council at £13,438. Wrexham's turnaround has continued with a further rise in its surplus from £368,691 in 2016/17 to £381,941 in 2017/18.

5 councils subsidised their commercial recycling and residual waste services by more than £50,000 in 2017/18, which is one less than in 2016/17. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council subsidised its commercial recycling and residual waste services the most at £401,450, the 2016/17 net cost was £202,470, followed by Bridgend County Borough Council at £213,577, the 2016/17 net cost was £212,538 and Carmarthenshire County Council at £166,632, the 2016/17 net cost was £135,542. Denbighshire County Council subsidised its services the least at £55,412, the 2016/17 net cost was £67,204.

Councils benchmarked in 2017/18 had on average a surplus of £110,741 on their commercial recycling and residual waste services. In 2016/17 the average surplus was £108,179, whilst in 2015/16 the average surplus was £65,619. In 2016/17 and 2017/18 no councils could operate their commercial recycling and residual waste services within £50,000 of break-even cost. In 2017/18 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council at £69,994 and Torfaen County Borough Council at £79,469 each made a small surplus and were closest to achieving break-even cost. Denbighshire County Council subsidized its commercial recycling and residual waste services by £55,412.

3. Residual Commercial Waste
Exhibits 5 – 9

Exhibit 5 The weight of commercial residual waste disposed of by each council in 2017-18
Exhibit 6 The total expenditure of each council on residual commercial waste in 2017-18
Exhibit 7 The total income for each council on residual commercial waste in 2017-18
Exhibit 8 The net expenditure for each council on residual commercial waste in 2017-18
Exhibit 9 The cost to dispose of each tonne of commercial waste in 2017-18

5. The weight of commercial residual waste disposed of by each council in 2017-18

Exhibit 5 shows that the City and County of Swansea Council disposed of the most amount of residual commercial waste in 2017/18 at 6,787 tonnes. This is a decrease of 326 tonnes on the 2016/17 figure which was 7,113 tonnes. Next was Gwynedd Council with 6,600 tonnes, a decrease of 550 tonnes on the 2016/17 figure which was 7,150 tonnes, followed by Conwy County Borough Council with 5807 tonnes, an increase of 388 tonnes on the 2016/17 figure which was 5,419 tonnes and then Caerphilly County Borough Council with 4416 tonnes, unchanged on the 2016/17 figure which was also 4416 tonnes. Ceredigion County Council disposed of the least amount of residual commercial waste in 2017/18 at just 252 tonnes[7]. Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council had the largest increase in the amount of commercial residual disposed from 1,660 tonnes to 2,680 tonnes, an increase of 1,020 tonnes, whilst Bridgend County Borough Council had the largest decrease in the amount of commercial residual disposed from 3,573 tonnes to 1,668 tonnes, a decrease of 1,905 tonnes.

The median amount of commercial residual disposed remained unchanged between 2016/17 and 2017/18 at 1,820 tonnes[8]. Councils who decreased their amount of commercial residual disposed had a combined total of 4,070 tonnes, whilst councils who increased their amount of commercial residual disposed had a combined total of 1,442 tonnes. Caerphilly, Wrexham and Torfaen County Borough Council's amounts of commercial residual disposed remained unchanged. The data suggests a shift by councils away from collecting and disposing of residual commercial waste and more towards commercial recycling. This might be due to councils striving to meet Welsh Government set statutory targets of recycling, which for 2019/20 will be 64% and where recycled commercial waste can be included towards this target.

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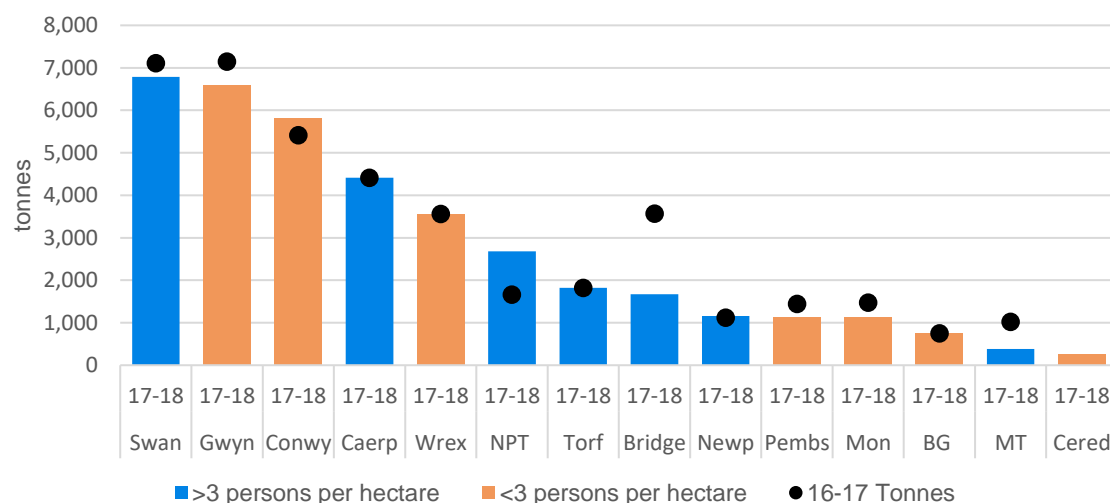
[7] No comparable 2016/17 figure for Ceredigion County Council
[8] Ceredigion County Council not included due to 2016/17 figure being unavailable

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6. The total expenditure of each council on residual commercial waste in 2017-18
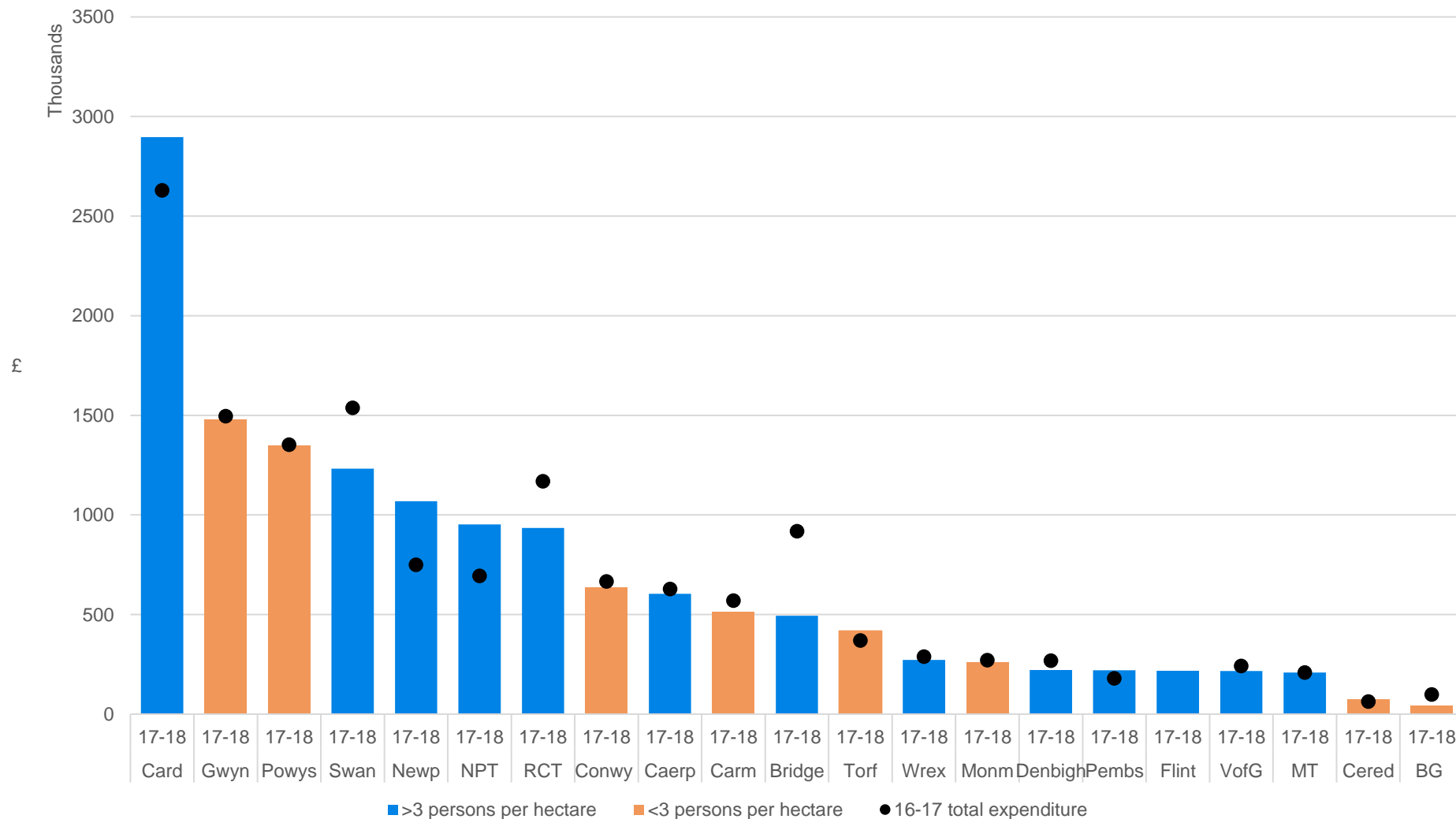
We can see from Exhibit 6 that Cardiff Council had by far the largest expenditure on residual commercial waste in 2017/18 at £2,897,276. This is an increase of £268,366 on 2016/17 when the expenditure was £2,628,940. This was then followed by Gwynedd Council at £1,478,130. This is a decrease of £18,057 on 2016/17 when the

expenditure was £1,496,187. Powys County Council had the third highest expenditure at £1,346,466 in 2017/18. This is a decrease of £5,928 on 2016/17 when the expenditure was £1,352,394.

7 councils increased their total expenditure on residual commercial waste between 2016/17 and 2017/18. These were Cardiff Council, Newport City Council, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Torfaen County Borough Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Ceredigion County Council. Newport City Council had the largest increase in total expenditure on residual commercial waste at £319,666, followed by Cardiff Council at £268,336, whilst Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council had the smallest increase in total expenditure on residual commercial waste at £32.00, followed by Ceredigion Council at £11,435.

The remaining 13[9] councils decreased their total expenditure on residual commercial waste, ranging from a decrease of £5,928 at Powys County Council to a decrease of £425,242 at Bridgend County Borough Council. Other councils to record large decreases were the City and County of Swansea Council at £305,304 and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council at £234,150. The council with the smallest expenditure on residual commercial waste for 2017/18 was Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council at just £40,201. The median total expenditure for councils on residual commercial waste in 2017/18 was £493,308.

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[9] No comparable 2016/17 figure for Flintshire County Council

7. The total income for each council on residual commercial waste in 2017-18
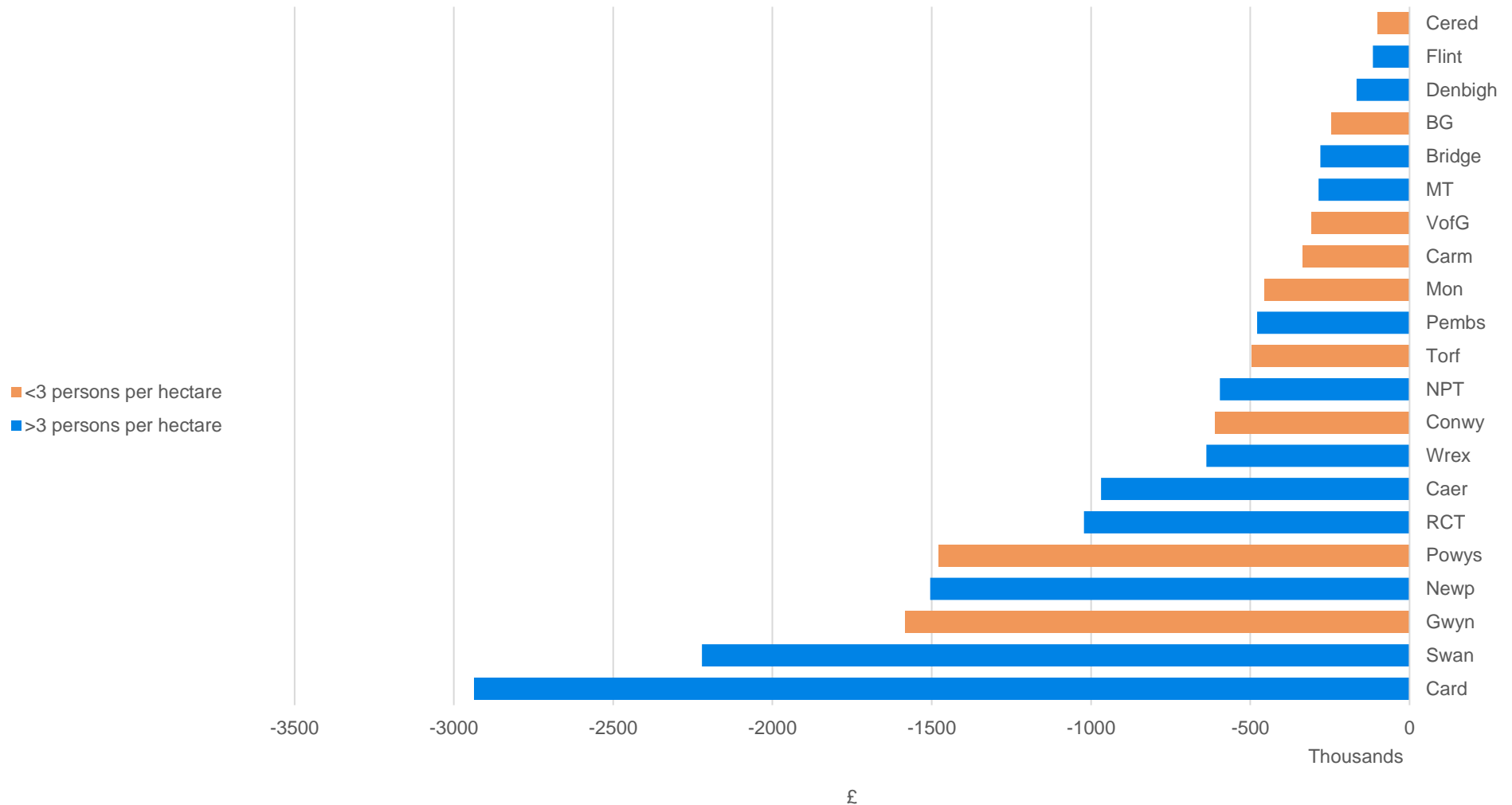

Exhibit 7 shows that Cardiff Council made £2,936,941 of income from the service in 2017/18. This is an increase of £860,751 on 2016/17 when the income was £2,076,190. This is still down on 2015/16 when the income was £5.1 million. The City and County of Swansea Council made £2,221,383 of income from the service in 2017/18.

This is a decrease of £223,030 on 2016/17 when the income was £2,444,413, whilst Gwynedd Council made £1,583,223 of income from the service in 2017/18 which is unchanged on 2016/17 income.

15 councils decreased their total income on residual commercial waste between 2016/17 and 2017/18. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council had the smallest decrease in income at £1,118, whilst Bridgend County Borough Council had the largest decrease in income at £426,281. 5 councils increased their total income on residual commercial waste between 2016/17 and 2017/18. These were Pembrokeshire County Council at £1,116, Newport City Council at £227,982, Gwynedd Council at £22,369, Cardiff Council at £860,751 and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council at £28,961. The median income (before costs are considered) decreased from £589,625 in 2016/17 to £496,343 in 2017/18.

When we compare the same councils benchmarked in 2016/17 and 2017/18 the total income made on residual commercial waste increased by only £50,092 from £16,825,224 to £16,660,145[10]. The margin between the highest and lowest total income for residual commercial waste also increased between 2016/17 and 2017/18 from £2,316,134 million to £2,835,465 million respectively.

Bridgend County Borough Council decreased its income for residual commercial waste from £706,012 in 2016/17 to £279,731 in 2017/18, whilst Carmarthenshire County decreased its income for residual commercial waste from £419,362 in 2016/17 to £334,961 in 2017/18. From 01 April 2019 Carmarthenshire County Council entered into a Teckal agreement with CWM Environmental Services Limited for all management of its trade and commercial waste collections, whilst Bridgend County Borough Council transferred its commercial waste book to Kier Services during 2017/18.

[10] No comparable 2016/17 figure for Flintshire County Council

## 8. The net expenditure for each council on residual commercial waste in 2017-18
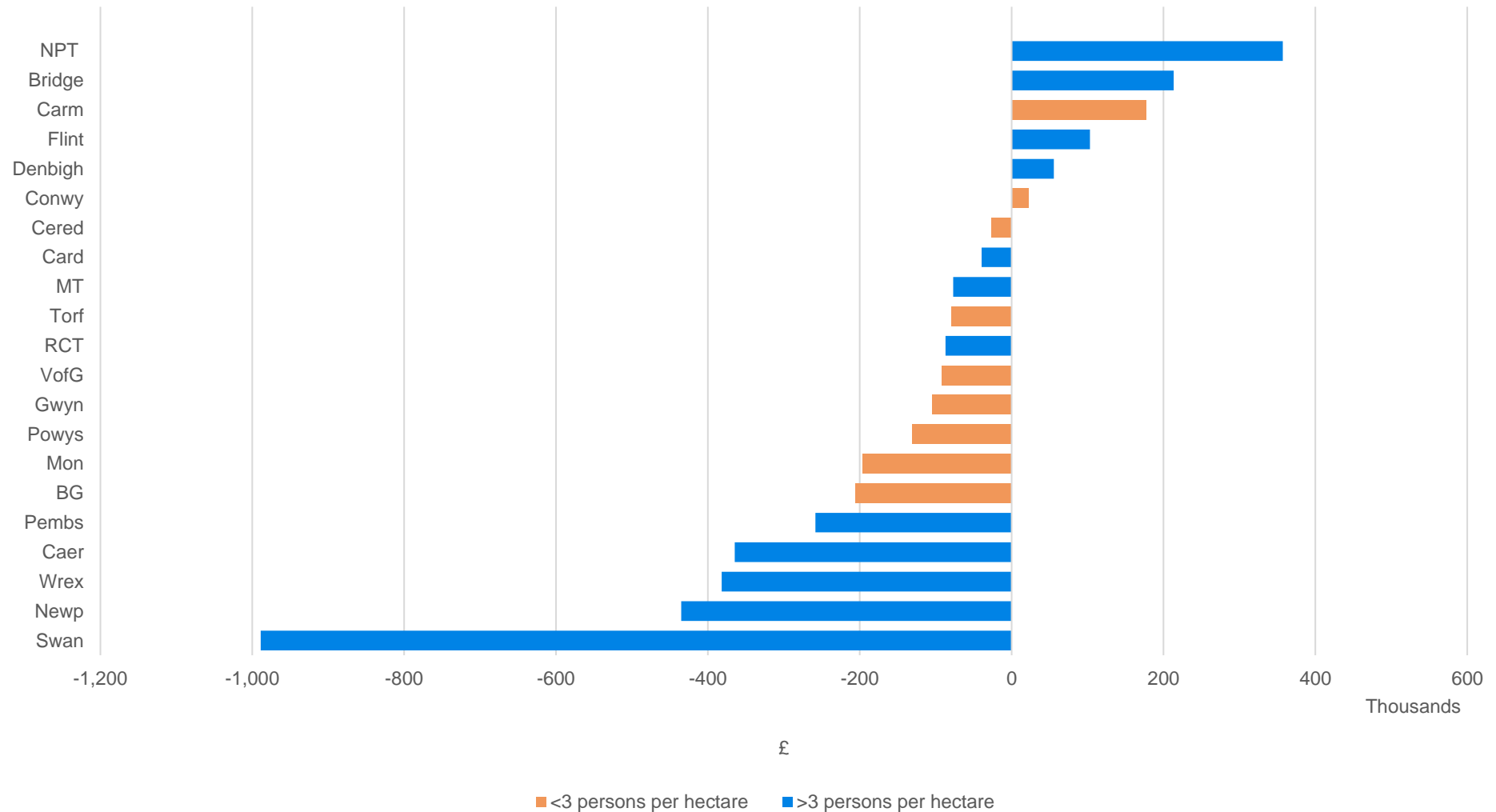
Commercial waste recycling is unlikely to make a significant surplus, and is more likely to require currently a subsidy to establish a client base and to compete with the private sector. Therefore, councils often need to make a surplus on residual commercial waste for their overall commercial recycling and residual waste expenditure to break even.

15 councils in 2017/18 covered the cost of their residual commercial waste services with income from charges made to their customers, which is two more than in 2016/17. Councils which made a surplus on their residual commercial waste service included the City and County of Swansea Council at £988,791, in 2016/17 the figure was £906,517, Newport City Council at £435,251, in 2016/17 the figure was £526,935 and Wrexham County Borough Council at £381,941, in 2016/17 the figure was £368,691. Whilst 15 councils covered the cost of their residual commercial waste, for 6 councils, which is one less than in 2016/17 income did not cover the cost of their residual commercial waste service. In particular, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council at £356,920, in 2016/17 the figure was £127,746, Bridgend County Borough Council at £213,577, in 2016/17 the figure was £212,538 and Carmarthenshire County Council at £176,842, in 2016/17 the figure was £150,326.

Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 Cardiff Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council moved from not covering to covering the cost of their residual commercial waste services and each made a surplus of £39,665 and £87,168 respectively from charges made to their customers. 4 councils increased the surplus they made in 2016/17 in 2017/18, whilst 9 councils decreased the surplus they made in 2016/17 in 2017/18. The City and County of Swansea Council had the largest surplus increase, whilst Newport City Council had the largest surplus decrease. The benchmarking group average was a surplus of £112,979 in 2016/17 and £121,035 in 2017/18, which is a difference of £8,055.

Councils might wish to explore the particular reasons that lead to a net loss for residual trade waste and consider whether they should subsidise this established part of trade-waste service. They might wish to raise customer charges to balance more closely income and expenditure. Commercial customer charges set by councils for the period 2019/20 are available to view on the Benchmarking Wales Hub. For further details, please visit the WLGA website here

9. The cost to dispose of each tonne of commercial waste in 2017-18
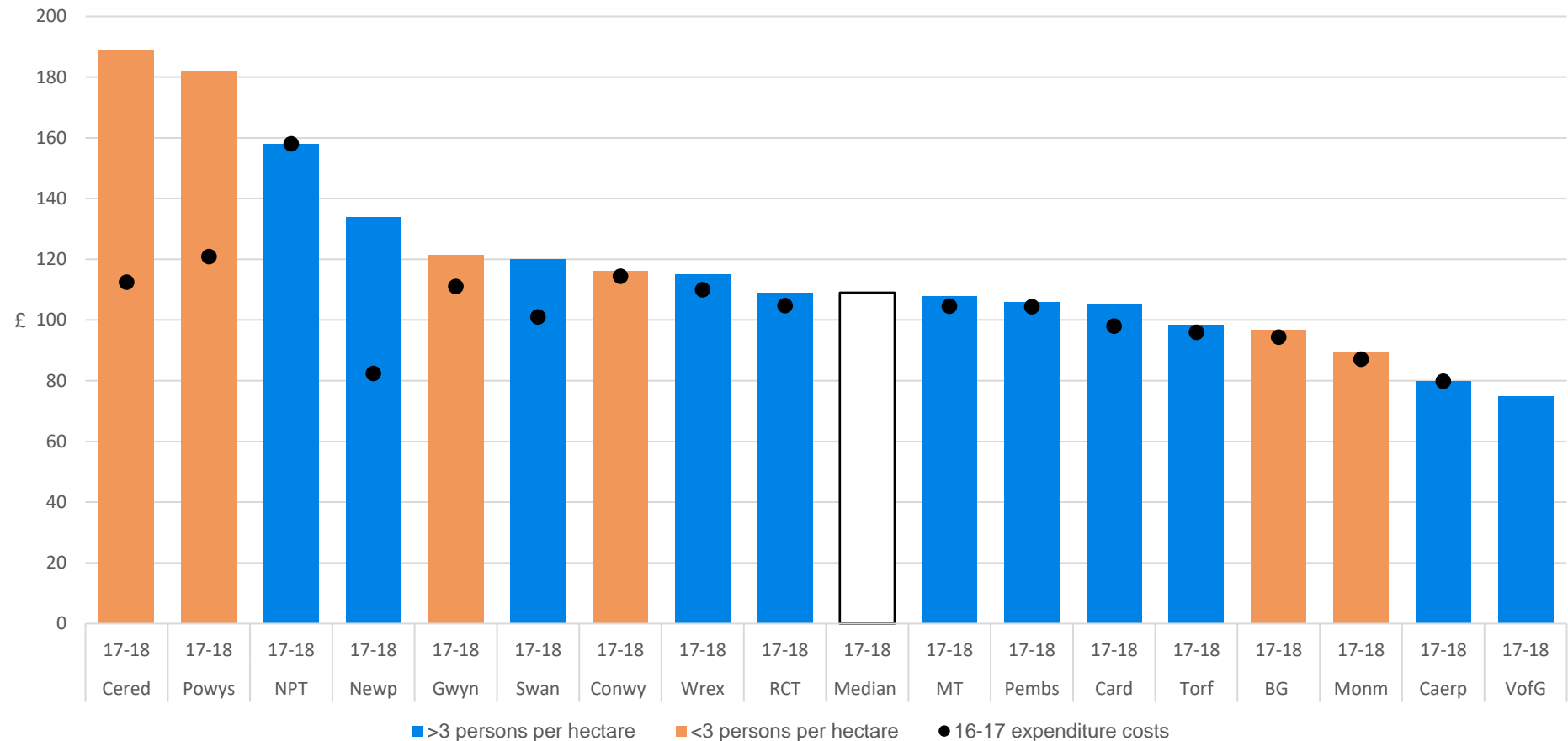
We can see from Exhibit 9 that Ceredigion County Council at £189 per tonne and Powys County Council at £182 per tonne had the highest cost to dispose of each tonne of commercial waste. These councils also had the highest cost rise to dispose of each tonne of commercial waste between 2016/17 and 2017/18 at £77 and £61 respectively. In comparison Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council was the third highest council with a cost per tonne of £158, the same as in 2016/17. The Vale of Glamorgan Council at £75 per tonne and Caerphilly County Borough Council at £80 per tonne had the lowest cost to dispose of each tonne of commercial waste. Caerphilly County Borough Council also had the lowest cost rise to dispose of each tonne of commercial waste between 2016/17 and 2017/18 at only £0.14.

Given Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's cost as a data outlier in the analysis, using the median figure of £109 per tonne may provide a more useful analysis. In 2016/17 the median figure was £105 per tonne. This analysis shows that 11 councils in 2017/18 were within £20 either side of the median figure, which is 2 fewer than in 2016/17 when the figure was 13 councils. The exceptions were Ceredigion County Council at £189 per tonne, Powys County Council at £182 per tonne, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council at £158 per tonne, Newport City Council at £134 per tonne, Caerphilly County Borough Council at £80 per tonne and the Vale of Glamorgan Council at £75 per tonne. The margin between the highest and lowest cost to dispose of each tonne of commercial waste increased from £32 per tonne in 2016/17 to £109 per tonne in 2017/18.

The majority of councils increased their cost to dispose of each tonne of commercial waste between 2016/17 and 2017/18, with some having a much higher increase than others. More councils have also now started to divert waste from landfill disposal, and now send waste for treatment at energy from waste facilities. Therefore, data from Newport City Council and Caerphilly County Borough Council for the cost to dispose of each tonne of commercial waste is lower than possible for landfill disposal, where landfill tax must be applied. The standard rate for landfill tax increased to £84.40 from April 2016. It has since increased to £88.95 per tonne from 01 April 2018 and from 2019/20 will rise again to £91.35 per tonne.

4. Recycled Commercial Waste
Exhibits 10 – 16

Exhibit 10	The quantity of commercial waste recycled by each council in 2017-18
Exhibit 11	The percentage of commercial waste collected that was recycled in 2017-18
Exhibit 12	The total expenditure for each council in 2017-18 on commercial waste recycling
Exhibit 13	The income for each council in 2017-18 on commercial waste recycling
Exhibit 14	The net expenditure for each council in 2017-18 on commercial waste recycling
Exhibit 15	The cost per tonne of commercial waste recycled by each council in 2017-18
Exhibit 16	Customer charge for 1100 litre capacity bin versus the percentage of commercial waste agreements held

In 2017/18 **16 councils** reported that they provided an in-house commercial recycling collection service.

Newport City Council and Carmarthenshire County Council provided only a part of this service in-house, whilst contractors provide the recycling collection services at Bridgend County Borough Council and Gwynedd Council. Powys County Council, together with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Ceredigion Council all provided data for the quantity of commercial waste recycled for 2017/18. In 2018 Powys County Council began collecting trade and recycling waste following the collapse of Cae Post Ltd, a resource recovery centre based in Welshpool.

10. The quantity of commercial waste recycled by each council in 2017-18

| | 17-18 | 17-18 | 17-18 | 17-18 | 17-18 | 17-18 | 17-18 | 17-18 | 17-18 | 17-18 | 17-18 | 17-18 |
| | Gwyn | Swan | Conwy | Pembs | Newp | Caerp | Median | MT | Powys | NPT | BG | Cered |

■ >3 persons per hectare   ■ <3 persons per hectare   ● 16-17 tonnes
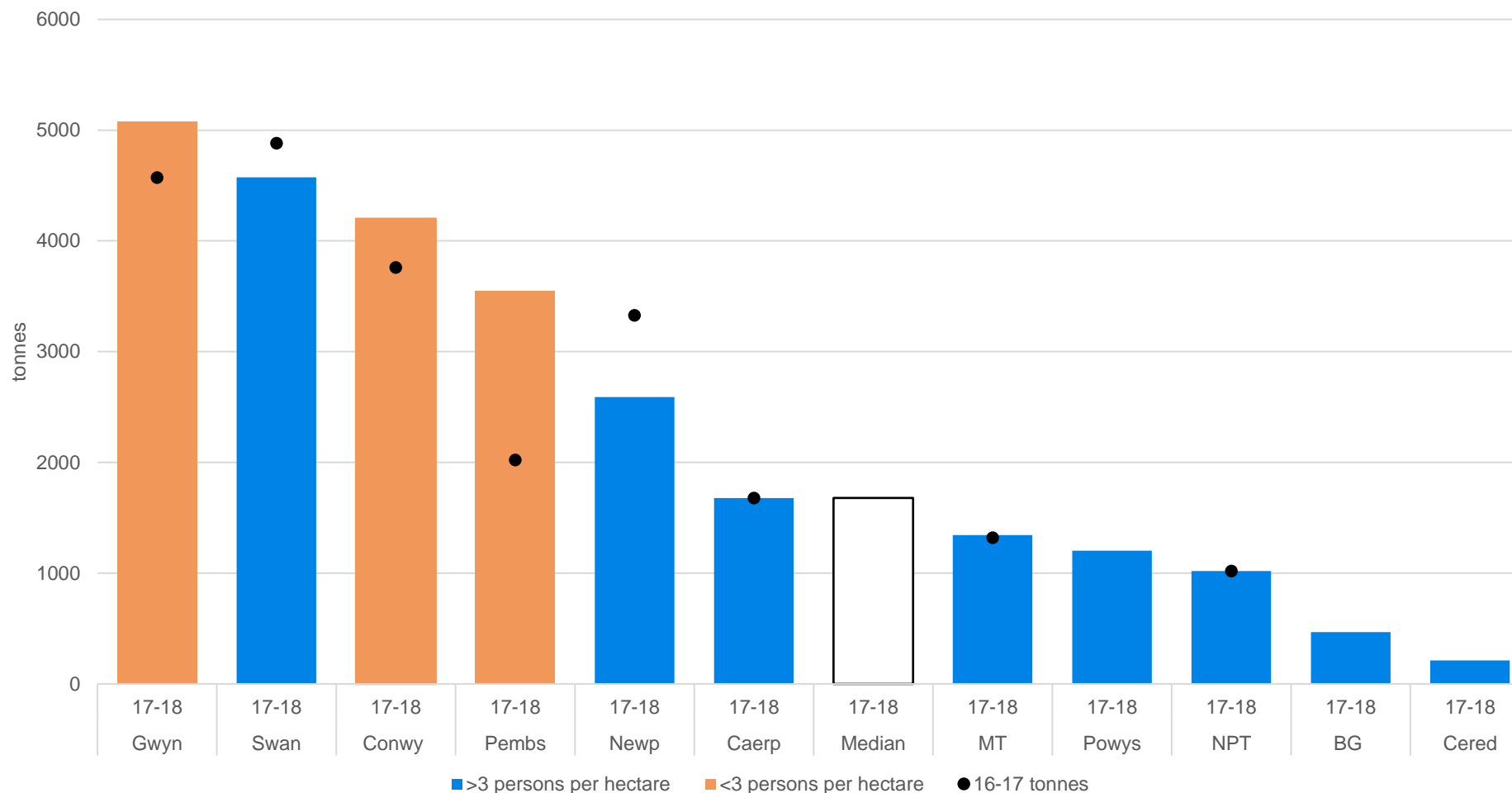
11 councils submitted data to benchmark the quantity of commercial waste recycled during 2017/18. This is higher than in 2016/17 when only 9 councils submitted this data.

Exhibit 10 shows that Gwynedd Council recycled 5,077 tonnes of commercial waste in 2017/18. This is an increase of 506 tonnes on 2016/17 when 4,571 tonnes were recycled. The City and County of Swansea Council recycled 4,573 tonnes. This is a decrease of 309 tonnes on 2016/17 when 4,882 tonnes were recycled. Whilst Conwy

County Borough Council recycled 4,200 tonnes. This is an increase of 440 tonnes on 2016/17 when 3,760 tonnes were recycled. The councils submitting benchmarking data with the least amount of commercial waste recycled were Ceredigion County Council at 212 tonnes, followed by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council at 468 tonnes. Since 2015/16 the City and County of Swansea Council has seen a continued fall in the quantity of commercial waste recycled at 5,460 tonnes in 2015/16, 4,882 tonnes in 2016/17 and 4,573 tonnes in 2017/18, whilst Gwynedd Council has been able to reverse the decrease in its quantity of commercial waste recycled at 4,843 tonnes in 2015/16, 4,571 tonnes in 2016/17 and 5,077 tonnes in 2017/18. The median amount of commercial waste recycled for 2017/18 was 1,679 tonnes.

Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 Pembrokeshire County Council had the largest increase in the quantity of commercial waste recycled at 1,525 tonnes, followed by Gwynedd Council at 506 tonnes and then Conwy County Borough Council at 440 tonnes. Caerphilly County Borough Council and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council reported no change, whilst Newport City Council and the City and County of Swansea Council reported decreases of 740 tonnes and 309 tonnes respectively. The overall quantity of commercial waste recycled by the 11 councils shown in the graph in 2017/18 was 25,910 tonnes. When we compare those same councils benchmarked in 2016/17 and 2017/18 on the quantity of commercial waste recycled, there has been 6.4% or 1,446 tonnes increase.

2017/18

5 councils	operated a comingled collection system to recycle commercial waste
2 councils	operated a part segregated system to recycle commercial waste
3 councils	operated a kerbside sorted system to recycle commercial waste
4 councils	operated a comingled collection and part segregated system to recycle commercial waste
4 councils	operated a part segregated and kerbside sorted system to recycle commercial waste

Responses received from 18 councils

11. The percentage of commercial waste collected that was recycled in 2017-18

| | 17-18 MT | 17-18 Wrex | 17-18 Conwy | 17-18 Pembs | 17-18 Newp | 17-18 Gwyn | 17-18 Median | 17-18 Swan | 17-18 BG | 17-18 Cered | 17-18 Card | 17-18 NPT | 17-18 Caerp |

Legend: ■ >3 persons per hectare ■ <3 persons per hectare ● 16-17 %

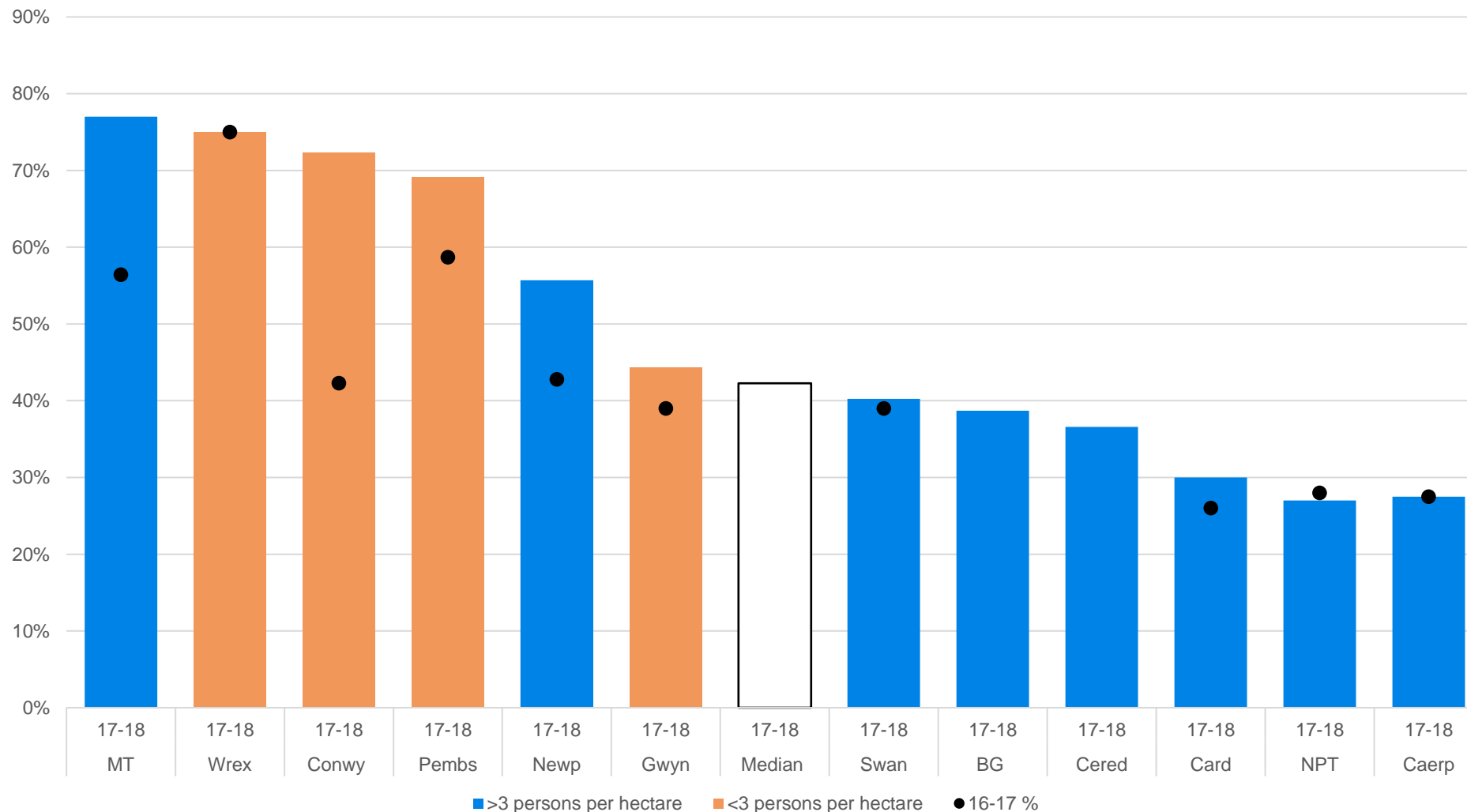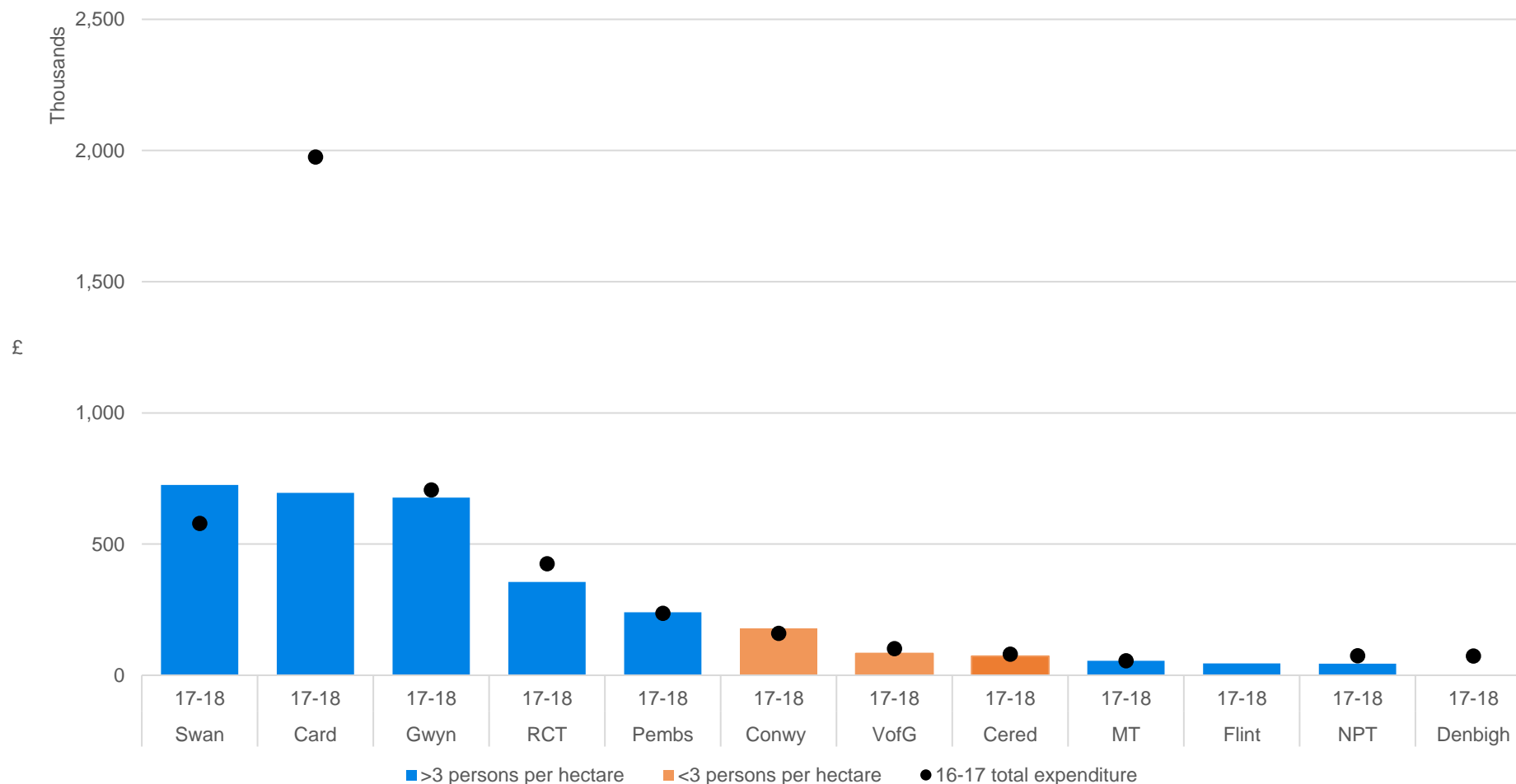Exhibit 11 shows that a median of 42.27% of commercial waste collected by the councils benchmarking in 2017/18 was recycled. The median percentage of commercial waste collected that was recycled by those same councils benchmarked in 2016/17 and 2017/18 increased from 40.64% to 50.00%. This is a significant and encouraging increase that continues an upward trend from 2013/14. Standout performing councils in 2017/18

30

were Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council at 77%, in 2016/17 the figure was 56.41% and Wrexham County Borough Council at 75%, in 2016/17 the figure was also 75%. After recording a percentage recycling figure of 75% in 2015/16, and then a fall in 2016/17 to 56.41%, the 2017/18 figure of 77% is a strong turnaround for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 several councils increased by a large margin their percentage of commercial waste collected that was recycled. Conwy County Borough Council increased its percentage from 42.30% to 72.30%, Newport City Council increased its percentage from 42.78% to 55.70% and Pembrokeshire County Council increased its percentage from 58.70% to 69.10%. Cardiff Council, which recycled the least percentage of commercial waste collected in 2016/17 at 26% increased this to 30% in 2017/18. Whilst this is still a low figure, it is likely to increase in the years to come as the council looks to expand its commercial waste service, including skip service and undertake targeted recycling campaigns focusing on small to medium-sized businesses.

Some councils remain uncertain about the value of commercial waste recycling. They consider that there is a risk that commercial waste recycling will have a negative impact on their overall recycling rate if they collect additional commercial waste without achieving high recycling of this waste. Many commercial waste customers also want the council to take their non-recyclable residual waste. This can reduce overall recycling performance, as in general, a smaller proportion of commercial waste is recycled than is the case for the household components in municipal waste. Some councils which operate collection rounds serving both domestic and commercial premises have no accurate means of identifying the weight of commercial recyclables, so it is difficult for them to accurately monitor and benchmark commercial waste recycling rates.

12. The total expenditure for each council in 2017-18 on commercial waste recycling

| | 17-18 Swan | 17-18 Card | 17-18 Gwyn | 17-18 RCT | 17-18 Pembs | 17-18 Conwy | 17-18 VofG | 17-18 Cered | 17-18 MT | 17-18 Flint | 17-18 NPT | 17-18 Denbigh |

Legend: ■ >3 persons per hectare   ■ <3 persons per hectare   ● 16-17 total expenditure

We can see that 12 councils submitted total expenditure costs for 2017/18, which is one more than in 2016/17. Their combined total expenditure on commercial waste recycling decreased by 30% between 2016/17 and 2017/18 from £4,466,820 to £3,129,454[11]. 7 out of the 11 councils who provided comparable figures decreased by 44% their combined total expenditure on commercial waste recycling from £3,437,190 in 2016/17 to

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[11] Flintshire County Council not included due to 2016/17 figure being unavailable

£1,930,039 in 2017/18. Ceredigion County Council had the smallest decrease at £7,723. 3 councils increased their total expenditure. These were the City and County of Swansea Council, with an increase of £147,282 on 2016/17, Pembrokeshire County Council, with an increase of £3,797 on 2016/17 and Conwy County Borough Council, with an increase of £18,639 on 2016/17. Total expenditure on commercial waste recycling at Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council remained largely unchanged, recording an increase of just £67.07.

Cardiff Council had the largest decrease in the total expenditure on commercial waste recycling, from £1,975,656 in 2016/17 to £695,345 in 2017/18. This reduction of £1,280,311 can be attributed largely to a fall in collection expenditure, the council's treatment expenditure also decreased over the same period. Despite this sharp fall Cardiff Council still had the second highest total expenditure on commercial waste recycling, with the City and County of Swansea Council being the highest at £725,544, the 2016/17 figure was £578,262. Gwynedd Council had the third highest total expenditure in 2017/18 at £677,352, the 2016/17 figure was £706,557. With only these 3 councils in the top quartile for expenditure on recycling in 2017/18, the other 9 councils benchmarked spend less than £516,386 in 2017/18. The average, although skewed by top quartile expenditure, was £284,496. The average for 2016/17 was £370,200.

Newport City Council had no expenditure or income costs relating to commercial waste recycling in 2017/18, which had been the case for 2016/17. Instead of processing in-house, the council directed customers with large amounts of recyclables to Newport WasteSavers.

13. The income for each council in 2017-18 on commercial waste recycling

The 13 councils shown made a combined total income of £2,699,306 from commercial waste recycling in 2017/18. This is a decrease of 75% or £2,017,280 on 2016/17, when the combined total income was £4,716,585[12]. Conwy County Borough Council, Gwynedd Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council increaseed their income on commercial waste recycling, ranging from £7,875 to £24,323. The remaining councils decreased their income on commercial waste recycling, ranging from £215 to £1,805,071.
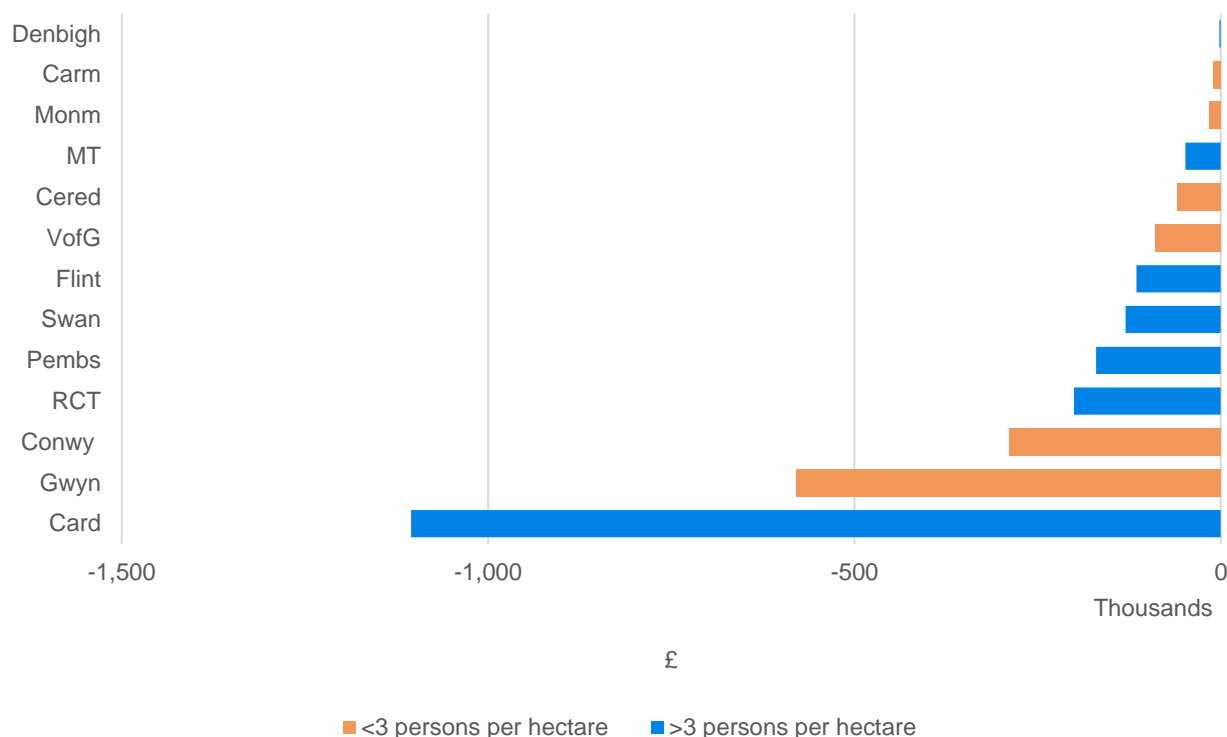

Cardiff Council made the most income from commercial waste recycling in 2017/18 at £1,104,962. This represents a decrease of £1,805,071 on 2016/17, when the income made was £2,910,033. The next highest for income made was Gwynedd Council with £579,736, which is an increase of £15,182 on 2016/17, followed by Conwy County Borough Council with £289,264, which is an increase of £24,323 on 2016/17. Councils with the least amount of income on commercial waste recycling were Denbighshire County Council with £2,092, Carmarthenshire County Council wih £10,210 and Monmouthshire County Council with £16,152. Gwynedd Council, Conwy County Borough Council and Pembrokeshire County Council, rural councils all increased their income from 2016/17, whilst Cardiff Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the City and County of Swansea Council, urban councils all decreased their income from 2016/17.

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[12] Flintshire County Council not included due to no comparable 2016/17 figure

14. The net expenditure for each council in 2017-18 on commercial waste recycling

Legend: ■ <3 persons per hectare ■ >3 persons per hectare
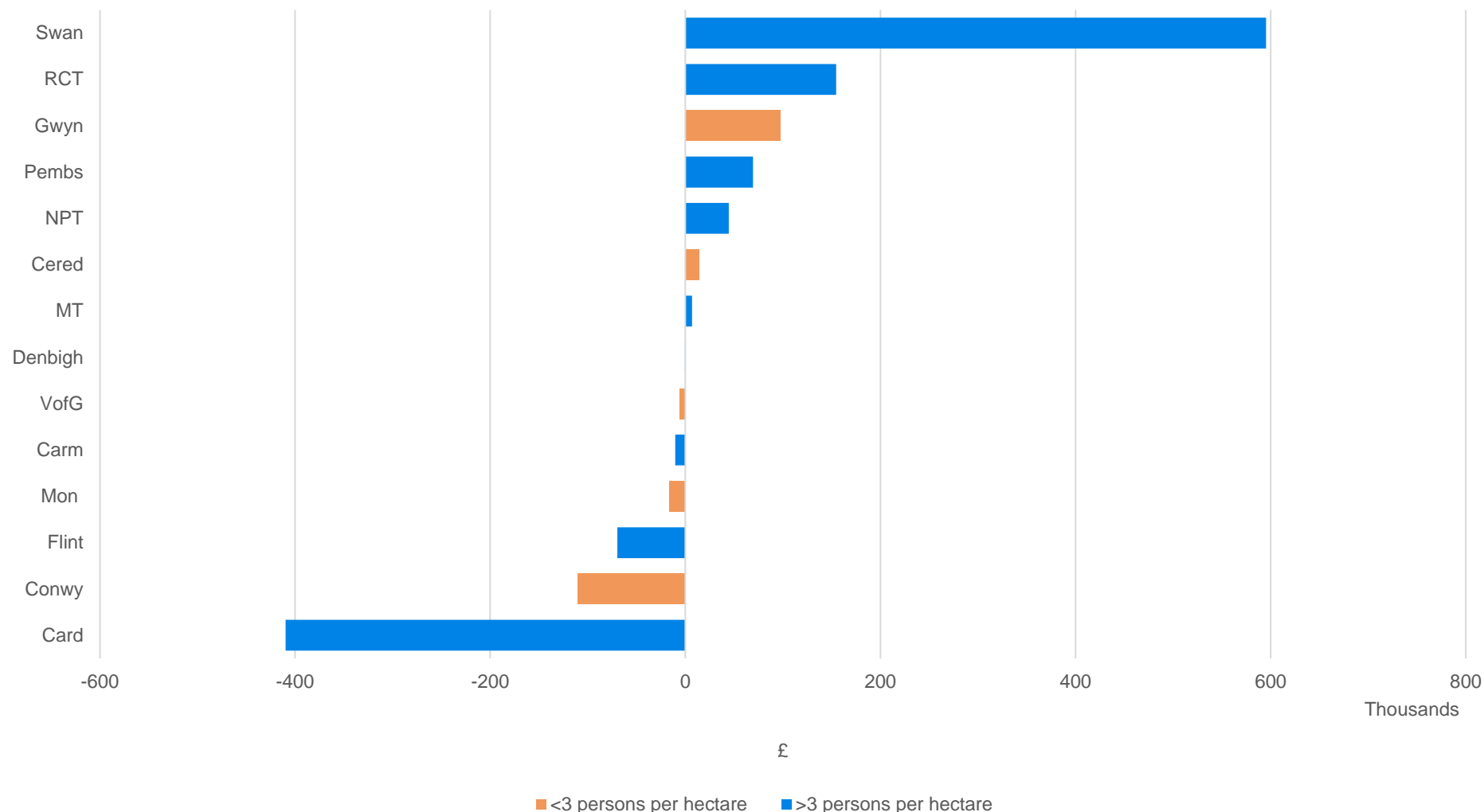
The net expenditure on commercial waste recycling in 2017/18 for the City and County of Swansea Council at £595,444, Rhonadda Cynon Taf County Borough Council at £154,735 and Gwynedd Council at £97,796 and for 4 other councils indicates that income from recycling did not cover expenditure on this part of the service. Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 7 councils subsidised their commercial waste recycling collection service. However, 5

councils decreased their net expenditure, including Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, whose net expenditure decreased from £209,779 in 2016/17 to £154,735 in 2017/18 and Gwynedd Council, whose net expenditure decreased from £142,003 in 2016/17 to £97,796 in 2017/18. A further 2 councils, the City and County of Swansea Council and Ceredigion County Council increased their net expenditure by £323,894 and £1,398 respectively.

7 councils made a net surplus on their commercial waste recycling in 2017/18, which is an increase from 4 councils in 2016/17. Cardiff Council made the largest net surplus at £409,617, a decrease on 2016/17 at £934,377 whilst the other 6 councils' net surplus remained largely unchanged. In 2017/18 the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Denbighshire County Council both made a small net surplus, having previously subsidised their commercial waste recycling. The combined net surplus for Cardiff Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Carmarthenshire County Council decreased from just over £1 million in 2016/17 to £622,657 in 2017/18.

Because councils often offer the incentive of low charges or free collections for recycling commercial waste, many struggle to raise income from recycling and this service remains heavily subsidised. Eventually when commercial waste recycling is established councils should consider setting customer charges that are high enough to cover the cost of this element of their commercial recycling service. However, presently councils use a variety of ways to help their recycling services to break-even, including cross funding from a residual commercial waste service that makes a significant profit; or using grant funding. In 2017/18 Neath Port Talbot used £100,000 and Pembrokeshire used £29,864 of the Single Revenue Grant to improve the financial position of their commercial waste recycling services.

15. The cost per tonne of commercial waste recycled by each council in 2017-18

9 councils submitted data for benchmarking in 2017/18 on the cost paid to recycling contractors per tonne of commercial waste that they recycled. This cost excludes collection costs and is why even when the contractor pays the council per tonne of recyclable commercial waste received, high collection costs can still lead to an overall deficit for the commercial recycling service. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council continued to pay £3 per tonne in 2017/18, as was the case in 2016/17, whilst Caerphilly County Borough Council had the highest cost per tonne at £85 per tonne (average). The median cost per tonne of commercial waste recycled for 2017/18 was £44[13].
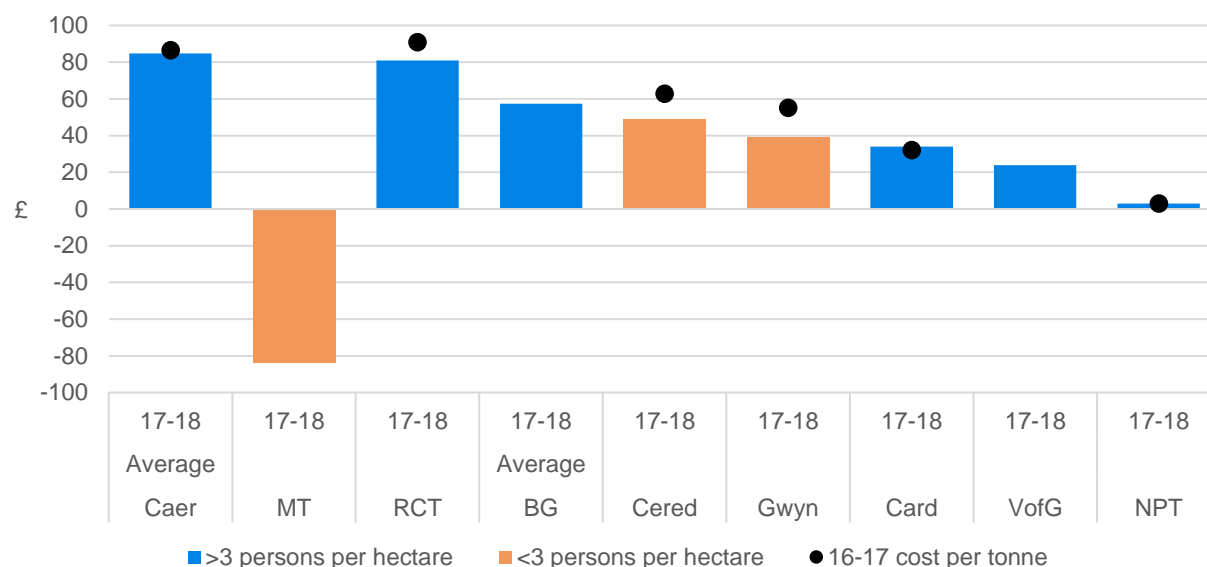
Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 several councils reduced their cost per tonne of commercial waste recycled. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council decreased its cost per tonne from £91 to £81, Gwynedd Council decreased its cost per tonne from £55 to £39, whilst Caerphilly County Borough Council decreased its cost per tonne from £87 to £85. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council was the only council in 2017/18 to cover the cost of each tonne of commercial waste that was recycled, making £84 per tonne. It is likely that the City and County of Swansea Council also covered the cost of each tonne of commercial waste that was recycled, having made £51 per tonne on commercial waste recycled in 2016/17. However, given the variations in trying to calculate the cost per tonne of commercial waste recycled e.g some councils operate comingled collection, whilst others operate part segregated or kerbside sort and given the low number of replies from councils to this data request, it would perhaps be easier if councils instead provided a total cost figure for the sale of their recyclate materials.

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[13] Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council not included as income received from commercial waste recycled

16. Customer charge for 1100 litre capacity bin versus the percentage of commercial waste agreements held
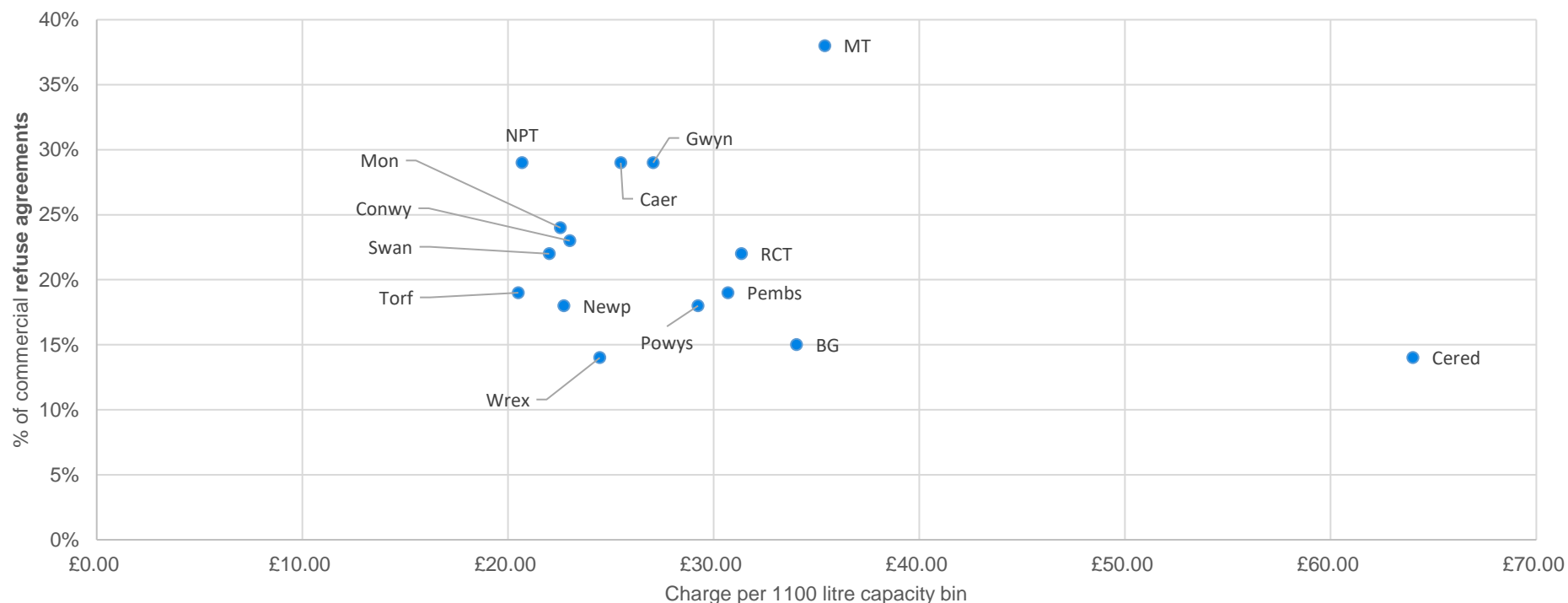
This final exhibit, Exhibit 16 shows a potential new way of analysing the current commercial recycling and residual waste benchmarking data collected from councils. The aim is to identify possible reasons for changes to and/or trends in the commercial recycling and residual waste services, in order to develop more of a narrative to accompany the data. The graph above plots two datasets showing the percentage (%) of commercial waste agreements held by councils, plotted against the cost charge councils place on a 1100 litre capacity commercial waste bin. We might expect to see a reduction in the percentage (%) of commercial waste agreements held by councils, as the customer cost charge for a 1100 litre capacity bin increases due to expense. However, this is proven to be largely not the case, although Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council has one of the highest percentages (%) of commercial agreements held, and one of the lowest customer bin charges per 1100 litre capacity bin. The graph does point to factors other than the cost of bins as having an influence when businesses consider entering into commercial waste agreements with councils, such as quality of service and reliability.

5. Debt Management

Average debt of 1.8%[14] in 2017/18 has remained unchanged since 2016/17. The level of debt management suggests that commercial recycling and residual waste managers continue to remain quite effective in controlling and recovering late payments.

On average just £7,583[15] of debt remained outstanding at the end of 2017/18. This is a decrease on 2016/17, when the figure was £13,758. Whereas in 2016/17 only **7 councils** were benchmarked, in 2017/18 this figure was **12 councils**. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council decreased its outstanding debt to £26,650, having previously had a figure of £50,603 in 2016/17, whilst Newport City Council decreased its outstanding debt to just £98, having previously had a figure of £16,678 in 2016/17. Caerphilly County Borough Council had the largest increase in outstanding debt, from £9,781 in 2016/17 to £17,335 in 2017/18.

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[14] 1% used for Cardiff Council, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the City and County of Swansea Council, as 'Under 1%' submitted
[15] £2000 used for the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as '£2000 or less' submitted

6. Marketing, Service Quality and Enforcement

Of the **17 councils** who responded to the question, **9 councils** have seen a reduction in the number of commercial recycling and residual waste agreements over the last year, and **6 councils** have seen an increase. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council saw the greatest increase at 7.30%. On average the number of commercial recycling and residual waste agreements increased by 1.41%, from 20.40% in 2016/17 to 21.81% in 2017/18.

The reduction in the number of agreements might be attributed to some councils reviewing the importance of their commercial recycling and residual waste business to their overall recycling rate and to income plans, and had not actively marketed this service. Alternatively, changes may have come about due to competitive pressures from the private sector.

Whilst 2017/18 has seen an increase in the number of councils benchmarking undertake more active marketing of their commercial recycling and residual waste services, **7 out of 18 councils** as opposed to **5 out of 19 councils** in 2016/17, the numbers are still small. Examples of marketing activities undertaken by councils include contacting businesses in the area, leafleting and being part of more wider council campaigns. Cardiff Council has developed a new separate website to market its commercial waste service, visit the website here Other councils though do provide some contact details on their bins and bags. The impact of marketing activity on the number of agreements is unclear. There are many factors influencing the success of marketing, and scope for the benchmarking group to explore the use of more effective marketing techniques. The Welsh Government's proposed new business waste regulations, which are being consulted upon will include a requirement for occupiers of non-domestic premises to present certain recyclable materials for collection separately. This might have an impact on expenditure on marketing by councils.

8 councils have a current business plan, or are developing one, for their commercial recycling and residual waste services, but only **4 councils** have a formal approach to measuring the quality of these services. Just **4 councils** have developed performance indicators to assist the improvement and monitoring of their commercial recycling

and residual waste services, but most councils have service standards to respond to and follow-up complaints. Where councils employ contractors to deliver commercial recycling and residual waste services, most have regular meetings to monitor quality issues.

12[16] **councils** have a formal enforcement strategy, which they apply through visits, letters and the use of fixed-penalty notices. Most councils were prepared to prosecute traders if necessary, although only a few had undertaken any prosecutions in the last two years. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council however recorded 51 prosecutions for the 2017/18 benchmarking, having recorded 'nil' for the 2016/17 benchmarking. This has been helped by having more powers in relation to Duty of Care checks and an increase in staffing levels within the Enforcement Section. Fixed penalty notices are becoming more widely used for commercial waste enforcement.

The WLGA has published guidance to assist council waste and enforcement officers and managers to successfully achieve behaviour change from residents by ensuring that all kerbside recycling and food waste is captured in the correct receptacles, and is not incorrectly placed in the residual waste stream. Whilst applicable mainly to residents, elements of the guidance might be transferable to a commercial waste setting. For further details, please visit the WLGA website here

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[16] Formal enforcement strategy under review at Gwynedd Council. Formal enforcement strategy in draft at Monmouthshire County Council

2017/18

What is the unit cost for purchasing the following commercial waste bins for your council?

Council	Bin size	Cost per unit	Bin size	Cost per unit	Bin size	Cost per unit	Bin size	Cost per unit
Blaenau Gwent	1100 litre (m)	£233.66	660 litre (m)	£207.00	360 litre (p)	£34.50	240 litre (p)	£21.65
Caerphilly	1100 litre (m)	£180.00	660 litre (m)	£180.00			240 litre (p)	£17.69
Cardiff			660 litre (m)	£220.00	360 litre (p)	£40.00	240 litre (p)	£17.00
Ceredigion							240 litre (p)	£20.41
Conwy			660 litre (m)	£104.65			240 litre (p)	£25.97
Gwynedd	1100 litre (p)	£145.00	660 litre (p)	£108.74	360 litre (p)	£50.69	240 litre (p)	£16.50
Merthyr Tydfil	1100 litre (m)	£267.00	660 litre (m)	£255.00	360 litre (p)	£42.00	240 litre (p)	£19.00
Monmouthshire	1100 litre (m)	£23.11	660 litre (m)	£17.55	360 litre (p)	£14.71	240 litre (p)	£11.66
Neath Port Talbot	1100 litre (m)	£218.00	660 litre (m)	£207.00	360 litre (p)	£242.00	240 litre (p)	£15.70
Newport	1100 litre (m)	£247.25	660 litre (m)	£251.56	360 litre (p)	£43.84		
Newport Cardboard	1100 litre (m)	£409.73	660 litre (m)	£398.81				
Powys	1100 litre (m)*	£89.18						
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1100 litre (m)	£246.85	660 litre (m)	£236.03			240 litre (p)	£26.80
Swansea	1100 litre (m)	£290.00			360 litre (p)	£50.00		
Swansea	1100 litre (m)*	£195.00						
Torfaen	1100 litre (m)	£116.00					240 litre (p)	£15.30
Wrexham	1100 litre (m)	£80.00	660 litre (p)	£105.00			240 litre (p)	£16.10

Key
m – metal
p – plastic
* – refurbished existing bin

COMMERCIAL RECYCLING AND RESIDUAL WASTE SERVICES

WLGA WASTE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

£14.2 MILLION

COMBINED TOTAL EXPENDITURE BY COUNCILS ON THEIR COMMERCIAL RESIDUAL WASTE SERVICES IN 2017-18

Figure covers 21 councils

27,589 TONNES

COMBINED TOTAL AMOUNT OF COMMERCIAL WASTE RECYCLED BY COUNCILS IN 2017-18

Figure covers 12 councils, with an average of 2299 tonnes collected per council

£3.1 MILLION

COMBINED TOTAL EXPENDITURE BY COUNCILS ON THEIR COMMERCIAL RECYCLING SERVICES IN 2017-18

Figure covers 12 councils

14

NUMBER OF COUNCILS WITH COMMERCIAL RECYCLING AND RESIDUAL WASTE SERVICES IN 2017-18

7 other councils have a commercial residual waste service only

4

NUMBER OF COUNCILS WHO USED GRANT FUNDING IN 2017-18 ON THEIR COMMERCIAL RECYCLING AND RESIDUAL WASTE SERVICES

49%

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF COMMERCIAL WASTE COLLECTED BY COUNCILS IN 2017-18 WHICH WAS RECYCLED

Figure covers 12 councils. Increase on 2016-17 average percentage of 43%