

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

16 January 2018

Subject: Update on the development of a new waste management strategy for Wiltshire following a public consultation

Cabinet member: Councillor Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary

The report sets out that a total of 3,875 responses were received in response to the Wiltshire Council Waste and Recycling survey 2017 during the consultation period.

It gives an overview of the results of the survey and the key themes emerging from the consultation. A revised timetable for developing the new Waste Strategy is proposed.

Proposal(s)

To note the overview of the results of the Wiltshire Council Waste and Recycling survey 2017, the key themes emerging and initial proposals of how these will be used to inform and develop a draft strategy and to note the revised timetable for development and adoption.

Reason for Proposal

To ensure that Environment Select Committee members are updated on the development of a new waste management strategy, so that the views and priorities of members and residents continue to inform the future delivery of household waste and recycling services for Wiltshire residents.

Tracy Carter

Director Waste and Environment

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

Date of meeting 16 January 2018

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Cabinet member: Councillor Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste

Key Decision: No

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an initial overview of the results of the public consultation to inform the development of a new waste management strategy for Wiltshire Council and identify the key themes which are emerging.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The council's vision is to create strong communities. One of the goals within the 'Strong Communities' priority is to achieve high recycling rates and reduced litter. Another key goal for the service is to recruit more volunteers and work with the voluntary and community sector. One of the challenges identified is supporting local communities on issues such as fly-tipping and littering, which are costly to address.
3. The business plan states that in order to achieve the goal of high recycling rates and reduced litter the council will increase opening hours at household recycling centres, where appropriate; deliver a new waste contract and recycling collection service; and support community initiatives such as litter picks and activities that reduce waste.
4. A new waste management strategy which reflects the views and priorities of Wiltshire residents will provide the strategic framework for the council to deliver the goals outlined in the business plan.

Background

5. At the Environment Select Committee meeting held on 25 October 2016, a report was considered which provided an update of the council's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2006-2016. At that meeting Councillor Toby Sturgis, then Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste, presented a report explaining that due to legislative and policy changes an updated version of the current strategy had been prepared and that a new strategy would start to be developed in 2017.

6. At this meeting, the committee also resolved that elected members should have a greater role in the early development of the new strategy. As a result member workshops were scheduled for discussion of key waste management challenges and the future of household waste and recycling services in Wiltshire.
7. A report was presented to the meeting of Environment Select Committee held on 19 September 2017. This report provided an update on emerging themes arising from the members' workshops held during July 2017. These themes were used in the development of a questionnaire for public consultation.
8. Environment Select Committee members were provided with the opportunity to comment on the draft public consultation questions before the survey was signed off by Councillor Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste.
9. The public consultation started on 4 September and ran until 14 November 2017. During this period, press releases were issued, officers attended most community area board meetings and provided chairmen's announcements to highlight the survey. Notification was sent to all town and parish councils and hard copies of the survey were made available in the council's libraries.

Main Considerations for the Council

10. Residents, community groups and environmental groups were encouraged to contribute to the consultation by completing an online questionnaire or by completing a paper copy of the questionnaire. In addition some interested parties sent the council additional written comments setting out priorities for consideration by the council in the development of the new strategy.
11. A total of 3,875 responses were received. In addition to the multiple choice questions asked, the council wanted to ensure that residents were able to provide written comments in response to a number of questions. A total of 4,591 individual comments were received through the online questionnaire. A further 34 emails and letters were submitted containing additional detailed observations and notes.
12. The council is very pleased that the consultation generated a high response rate and will ensure that the comments and themes raised through the consultation are fully considered in the development of the draft strategy.
13. Whilst we are grateful to residents and organisations for choosing to submit so many comments, these are taking considerable time to collate and analyse. We are committed to analysing all comments in full so they can be considered in the development of the strategy. This means that we

are not able to present a draft strategy to the committee today as we had originally planned.

14. Appendix 1 contains each of the questions asked in the online consultation and sets out how respondents have answered each of the questions.

15. The new strategy will be developed in accordance with the waste hierarchy which prioritises those waste management practices which are more environmentally sustainable than sending waste to landfill. Reducing the quantity of waste we produce is at the top of the hierarchy, followed by re-using waste, recycling and recovering energy from waste. Landfill is at the bottom of the hierarchy as the option of last resort. The waste hierarchy is central to environmental legislation. Initial, high level analysis of the results and comments shows the following emerging themes which are linked to the waste hierarchy in the table below.

Waste Hierarchy	Emerging themes
Reduce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents felt that the council should be actively engaging with manufacturers and central government to reduce unnecessary waste that consumers and councils need to deal with. • Respondents are keen for the council to work with town and parish councils as well as schools and pre- schools to provide waste reduction and recycling workshops and information. • 57% of respondents would prefer to manage their food waste at home, without the need for a separate collection. • 10% of respondents would be interested in becoming a local recycling or composting champion.
Reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents would generally not be prepared to travel further to visit a household recycling centre however some residents have indicated that they would be prepared to travel further should there be a reuse shop at the recycling centre and if the centre was open more often.
Recycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents understand the benefits of recycling and strongly believe that it is important to recycle in order to protect the environment. • Respondents want to be able to recycle more materials from home and would like more information on what to recycle to make recycling more convenient • A proportion of respondents felt that they recycled all they can at home and therefore they do not need any incentive or information to encourage them to recycle more. • Regular and convenient communications at

	<p>home, including stickers and leaflets were preferred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost half of respondents are wrongly disposing of plastic packaging in their blue lidded bin. In addition 29% of residents were also putting food and drinks cartons into their blue lidded bin. • Residents strongly favoured fortnightly recycling collection, with only 7% of respondents suggesting that recycling could be collected less frequently.
Energy from Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally respondents are supportive of recovering energy from waste in Wiltshire should it be financially beneficial to do so and if the technology is feasible.
Less to landfill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was strong support for all elements of the hierarchy rather than landfilling waste with encouraging more recycling being the most popular option.

16. The council will further analyse the results of the consultation and the comments received. These will then be used to inform development of a draft version of the future waste management strategy. This will be presented to the Environment Select Committee at its meeting to be held on 13 March 2018. The report will address the issues previously raised on why residents choose not to recycle and the draft strategy will contain strategic goals for waste management.

17. Once Environment Select Committee members have reviewed and commented upon the draft strategy, a further draft strategy will be presented to the council's Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 24 April 2018. Subject to Cabinet agreement the strategy will be presented to full Council on 22 May 2018 for adoption.

Safeguarding Implications

18. There are no specific safeguarding implications arising from this report.

Public Health Implications

19. There are no specific public health implications arising from this report.

Procurement Implications

20. There are no specific procurement implications arising from this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

21. There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

22. There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

Risk Assessment

23. As this report provides an interim update it is not considered necessary to complete a risk assessment.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

24. Not applicable

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

25. Not applicable

Financial Implications

26. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

27. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Options Considered

28. This report provides an update on the development of the council's new waste management strategy therefore at this point there are no options to be considered.

Conclusions

29. The report sets out the response to the consultation and the themes that have emerged from the early analysis of the results. This report details a revised timeline for the development of the draft waste strategy, ensuring that Environment Select Committee members have an opportunity to comment on an early draft of the strategy before this is considered by Cabinet and full Council for adoption.

Proposal

30. That the Environment Select Committee:

- i) Accept the revised timetable for the consideration of a Draft Waste Management Strategy, as detailed above
- ii) Note the overview of the results of the Wiltshire Council Waste and Recycling survey 2017, the key themes emerging and initial proposals of how these will be used to inform and develop a draft strategy

Tracy Carter
Director Waste and Environment

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January 2017

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

Responses to the Wiltshire Council Waste and recycling survey 2017

Appendices

Appendix 1: Waste Strategy: Online Consultation Questionnaire Results