

**Wiltshire Council**

**Environment Select Committee**

**Date Tuesday 3 September 2024**

---

### **Household Waste Management Strategy Update (2024/25)**

#### **Executive summary**

This report provides members of the Environment Select Committee with an update on the council's adopted Household Waste Management Strategy (2017-2028), focusing on the following elements:

- a) A review of relevant legislation and national policy changes affecting the Household Waste Management Strategy 2017-27.
- b) A report on the performance of the waste management service in 2023/24.
- c) A report on progress against the 2023/24 action plan for the waste management service.
- d) Presentation of a revised action plan for the waste management service for 2024/25, for endorsement by members of the Environment Select Committee.

#### **Proposal**

That the committee:

- a) consider the report and appendices, and provide comment on the Household Waste Management Strategy Update, and Action Plan 2024/25...
- b) provide comment on the Household Waste Management Strategy
- c) endorse the 2024/25 Action Plan.

#### **Reason for proposal**

The HWMS 2017-2028 contains a commitment to provide annual updates to ESC.

**Author:** Martin Litherland, Head of Waste Management

Contact details: martin.litherland@wiltshire.gov.uk

## **Household Waste Management Strategy Update (2024/25)**

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To:
  - a) Provide a review of relevant legislation and national policy changes affecting the Household Waste Management Strategy 2017-27.
  - b) Report on the performance of the waste management service in 2023/24.
  - c) Report on progress against the 2023/24 action plan for the waste management service.
  - d) Presents a new action plan for the waste management service for 2024/25 for endorsement by members of Environment Select Committee.

### **Background**

2. In 2017 the council's waste service undertook a public and stakeholder consultation to help develop a new household waste management strategy. A report was presented to Environment Select Committee at its meeting held on 18 January 2018 which gave an overview of the results of the survey and the key themes emerging from the consultation.
3. A further report was presented to Environment Select Committee at its meeting held on 26 June 2018. Appended to the report were a draft strategy, an annual performance review 2017/18 and an annual action plan for the year 2018/19. The committee resolved to endorse the draft strategy and action plan.
4. The adopted strategy contains a commitment to provide the Environment Select Committee with an annual review of emerging legislation and policy that may affect the strategy, an annual review of performance and an annual action plan to deliver the strategy priorities.

### **Main considerations for the Council – review of legislation and policy changes relevant to waste services.**

#### **Policy Review 2024-25 (Appendix 1)**

5. At a national level, waste management policy continues to experience a period of unprecedented change, primarily with the introduction of the Environment Act 2021. Since last year's review, key details of the new requirements under the Environment Act 2021 have emerged. The policy review considers the changes and updates, the council's response to these, and provides an update on other consultations regarding legislative changes or proposals relevant to the Waste Service.

6. The key waste-related changes contained within Environment Act 2021 are:
  - 6.1 The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) expected to commence October 2027.
    - 6.1.1 This scheme will require consumers to pay a deposit on all single-use drinks containers in scope. These include plastic PET bottles (excluding milk containers as these are typically made from HDPE) and metal cans). Deposits will be redeemed via a national network of take-back facilities, primarily located on retailer premises. Glass bottles and cartons are not currently in scope.
  - 6.2 Extended Producer Responsibility for packing (EPR) which commenced April 2024.
    - 6.2.1 Producers of packaging will need to pay fees based on the type and amount of packaging that they place onto the market. Fees will eventually become “modulated”, with packaging that is difficult to recycle attracted higher fees. A national Scheme Administrator will allocate funding from these EPR fees to all councils, to reflect the costs they incur in collecting and managing waste packaging.
  - 6.3 Simpler Recycling (previously known as Consistency in Recycling), with mandatory changes to kerbside recycling collections to be phased from 2025. Defra undertook public consultations on these elements in May/June 2021.
    - 6.3.1 To include mandatory recycling collections of core materials such as paper, card, metal tins and cans, plastic bottle, pots, tubs and trays, and cartons. It also includes requirements to collect flexible plastics (such as films and bread bags) and weekly collections of food waste.
7. There are several potential policy changes which have been consulted on by Defra which affect the council’s Household Waste Management Strategy including:
  - 7.1 Call for evidence to support the near elimination of biodegradable waste disposal in landfill from 2028. This call for evidence does not set out new requirements but will inform future policy.
  - 7.2 Consultation on potential amendments to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation. Closed April 2023. DEFRA intends to move forward with changes to POPs regulation when parliamentary time allows. This will result in lower limits for existing POPs which could affect materials not currently regarded as POPs waste.
  - 7.3 Consultation on preventing charges for DIY waste at household waste recycling centres (HWRCs). Concluded there was insufficient evidence to require the prevention of local authorities from using HRC booking, and

recognised that some local authorities were using booking systems to help facilitate the acceptance of chargeable items as allowed for under revised guidance, but reserved the right to review this position.

8. Due to the level of unprecedented change to national waste management policy, some of which coincide with the natural expiry of a number of key contracts, the Waste Transformation Programme has been developed. This programme will oversee the 4-year delivery of a complex and wide-ranging programme of work to ensure multiple waste collection, waste treatment and disposal contracts are procured and commissioned which support compliance with new statutory requirements.

### **Annual Performance Review 2023-24 (Appendix 2)**

9. The Annual Performance Review in Appendix 2 provides a summary of waste management performance against the priorities set within the Household Waste Management Strategy during the period of April 2023 to March 2024.
10. In 2023/24, the council's Waste Services managed 226,748 tonnes of municipal waste, of which 212,341 tonnes were classified as household waste.
11. The amount of waste produced per household has increased slightly between 2022/23 and 2023/24 by 7kg, however a lesser proportion of this waste was sent to landfill or landfill diversion, and more was recycled and composted. More detail is contained in Appendix 2.
12. Wiltshire's confirmed recycling rate (the total percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting) for 2023/24 has increased to 43.7%. A detailed narrative relating to this increase in Wiltshire's recycling performance is provided in the Annual Performance Review, which also outlines the external factors that directly influence recycling rates.
13. 41.4% of household waste was sent for waste treatment/energy recovery in 2023/24, compared with 44.6% in 22/23.
14. Only 14.9% of Wiltshire's household waste was sent to landfill in 2023/24, compared with 15.7% in 2022/23.

### **Annual Action Plan 2023-24 (Appendix 3 and Appendix 4)**

15. The annual action plan documents the Waste Strategy priorities and activities for waste services in the coming year and outlines how the service will focus its resource within the next year to meet the aims and priorities outlined within the waste strategy.
16. *Appendix 3* details progress against those actions identified in the 2023/24 action plan.

17. *Appendix 4* provides the annual action plan for 2024/25. Some of the actions from the previous action plan have been deferred to the current plan as they form part of longer term programmes aimed at working towards zero avoidable household waste in Wiltshire.
18. The number of actions within the 2024/25 action plan has been reduced from previous years to reflect the shift in focus to the work being undertaken as part of the Waste Transformation Programme. A restructuring of waste services will be completed by September 2024, providing additional capacity to deliver the Waste Transformation Programme alongside the 'business as usual' commitments of the service and support delivery of discrete Action Plan items.
19. Increasing the promotion of waste prevention and reuse activities remains a priority for the service in 2024/25. A new position of Waste and Recycling Engagement Officer was created and successfully recruited to in 2023/24, and this post will continue to prioritise these actions to help deliver the waste elements of the Environment Directorate Communications Plan. In addition, a review will be undertaken to identify how waste prevention activities can be better incorporated within the future procurement strategy which will consider service delivery models post 2026. This will cement the council's commitment to manage waste up their waste hierarchy, and drive improvements through new contracts.
20. Engagement with residents will continue through the council's, now well-established, 'Recycling: Lets sort it' campaign with the aim to increase the amount and quality of the recycling collected, whilst reducing the amount of contamination present in recycling.
21. The service will undertake further work to understand and assess the impact of new requirements under Environment Act 2021, and plan the detailed service response in order to plan for service developments to maintain compliance. This includes planning for food waste collections in 2027.
22. The Council continues to send a relatively small proportion of household waste to landfill. Diverting waste from landfill continues to be a high priority. The 2024/25 Action Plan contains activities to review the types and sources of waste which are currently sent to landfill, and assess the impacts of new policy and legislative requirements on the existing energy from waste contracts to continue to divert as much of this waste from landfill as possible.

### **Safeguarding Considerations**

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

### **Public Health Implications**

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

### **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

25. The key environmental and climate change considerations arising from this report are the continuing prioritisation of the reduction of waste sent to landfill, as landfill is widely recognised as being the least environmentally sustainable way of managing waste. The action plans continue to focus on managing waste in line with the established waste hierarchy, and therefore directly support the councils position in tackling climate change.

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

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

### **Financial Implications**

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

### **Conclusions**

28. The report sets out key considerations for reviewing the council's household waste management strategy. The report contains an update on national policy, a review of performance for the 2023/24 financial year, an update on actions adopted in 2023/24 and a new action plan for 2024/25. Members of the Environment Select Committee are invited to comment on these documents and endorse the 2024/25 Action Plan.

### **Proposal**

29. That members of the committee consider the report and appendices, and provide comment on the Household Waste Management Strategy Update, and Action Plan 2024/25.

**Martin Litherland**  
**Head of Service – Waste Management**

---

Report Author: Charlotte Knowles-Lawson, Waste and Recycling Engagement Officer  
22.08.2024

### **Background Papers**

None

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: National Policy Review 2024/25  
Appendix 2: Annual Performance Report 2023/24  
Appendix 3: Annual Action Plan 2023/24 – Progress update and outturn  
Appendix 4: Annual Action Plan 2024/25