

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

Date Tuesday 25 July 2022

Household Waste Management Strategy Update (2023/24)

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 2022/23.
 - c) Report on progress against the 2022/23 action plan for the waste management service.
 - d) Presents a new action plan for the waste management service for 2023/24 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 2023-24 (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. However, whilst some of the new requirements are known, government announcements on key details remain outstanding which continues to undermine the ability of local authorities and other key stakeholders to plan for these significant changes. The policy review document seeks to set out the known impacts and anticipated timescales for change.
6. Following a number of stakeholder consultations, DEFRA have released some information regarding the implementation of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme from April 2024 and a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) which is due to commence from October 2025. However, there has been no further information released by government in regards to the Consistency in Recycling Collection changes.
7. In support of the Environment Act, DEFRA have released the Environment Improvement Plan 2023. This considers the goals and targets set out in the 25 year Environment Plan and states that government aims to eliminate avoidable waste by 2050 through a number of mechanisms, including the elimination of biodegradable waste to landfill and avoidable plastic waste.
8. On a local level, the service is currently developing a service plan which documents the key activities which the Waste Service will undertake in 2023/24 to meet the priorities identified in the council's waste strategy and business plan. The service plan aims to respond to the waste priorities within the waste strategy, as well as the Climate Strategy Action Plan (2022-24) and reflect the financial and social drivers that affect the service.
9. Service changes have also been agreed as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy with the aim of increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill. As analysis has shown that one third of waste placed into the general waste skips at the council's household recycling centres (HRCs) could have been recycled. These measures include a communication campaign to encourage the pre-sorting of waste before residents travel to their local recycling centre and will be supported by the provision of waste sorting areas to be used by those that bring unsorted waste to their HRC.

Annual Performance Review 2021-22 (Appendix 2)

10. The Annual Performance Review at Appendix 2 provides a summary of waste management performance against the priorities set within the

Household Waste Management Strategy during the period of April 2022 to March 2023.

11. In 2022/23, the council's Waste Services managed 223,120 tonnes of municipal waste, of which 208,126 tonnes was classified as household waste.
12. The amount of waste produced per household has continued to reduce over recent years with 913.8 kg per household recorded in 2022/23 compared with 970.6 kg per household in 21/22. Further detailed narrative is contained in Appendix 2.
13. Wiltshire's confirmed recycling rate (the total percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting) for 2022/23 has reduced to 39.7%. A very dry summer has significantly affected the recycling rate with a drop of 13.4% in composted materials. Additionally there is a national trend in recycling rate reduction (Figure 1). A detailed narrative for this drop in Wiltshire's recycling performance is provided in the Annual Performance Review, which also outlines the external factors that directly influence recycling rates.

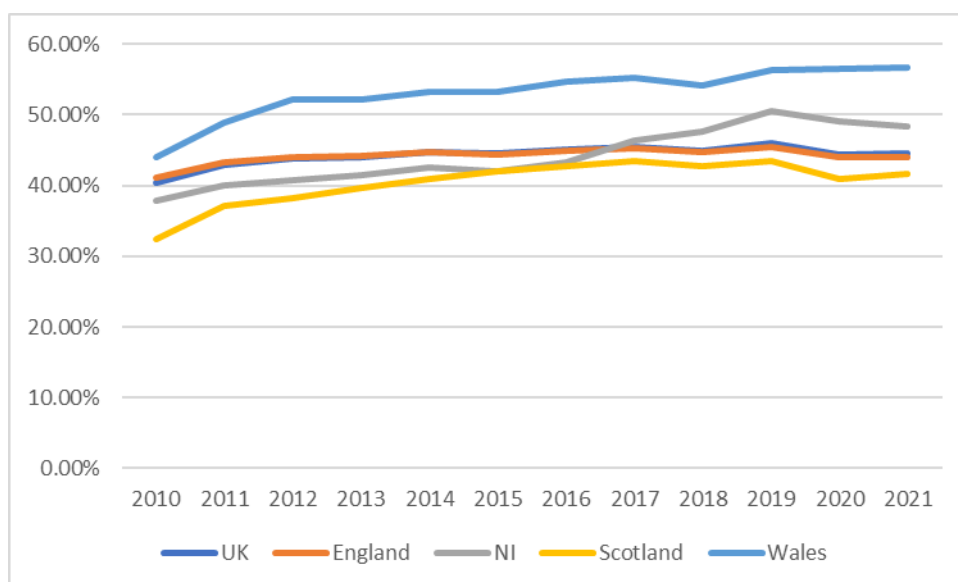


Figure 1: Recycling rate from Waste from Households, UK and country split, 2010–2021 (UK statistics on waste, .Gov.uk)

14. 44.6% of household waste was sent for waste treatment/energy recovery in 2022/23, compared with 39.1% in 21/22.
15. Only 15.7% of Wiltshire's household waste was sent to landfill in 2022/23, compared with 18.7% in 2021/22.

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

16. The annual action plan documents the 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.
17. *Appendix 3* details progress against those actions identified in the 2022/23 action plan.
18. *Appendix 4* provides the annual action plan for 2023/24. 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.
19. The number of actions within the 2023/24 action plan has been reduced from previous years to reflect service resource constraints, and also aims to reflect a more strategic approach to action planning for 2023/24. In reviewing previous actions, a number were considered to be 'business as usual' activities which will instead be reflected in our Service Plan.
20. Increasing promotion of waste prevention and reuse activities remains a priority for the service in 2023/24. A new 'Waste and Recycling Engagement Officer' post is being recruited to which will provide dedicated resource in order to prioritise these actions and help deliver the waste elements of the Environment Directorate Communications Plan. In addition, a review will be undertaken regarding how waste prevention activities can be incorporated within the future procurement strategy which will consider service delivery models post 2026. This will cement the council's drive to manage waste up their waste hierarchy.
21. Engagement with residents will continue through the council's '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.
22. The Council continues to send a relatively small proportion of waste collected to landfill. Diverting waste from landfill continues to be a priority. The 2023/24 Action Plan contains activities to review the wastes which are currently sent to landfill and consider whether alternative disposal routes can be established, working with a range of stakeholders where necessary to achieve this.
23. It is anticipated that further details regarding the implementation of the Environment Act 2021 will be released from government in the coming year. Once more details are known, the service will undertake further work to understand and assess the impact of new requirements, and plan the detailed service response in order to plan for service developments to maintain compliance.

Safeguarding Considerations

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

Public Health Implications

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

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

26. 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. A key action proposed in the annual action plan for 2023/24 aims to assess the carbon performance of the service to support the Climate Change Strategy 2021.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

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

Financial Implications

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

Conclusions

29. 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 2022/23 financial year, an update on actions adopted in 2022/23 and a new action plan for 2023/24. Members of the Environment Select Committee are invited to comment on these documents, and endorse the 2023/24 Action Plan.

Proposal

30. That members of the committee consider the report and appendices, and provide comment on the Household Waste Management Strategy Update, and Action Plan 2023/24.

Martin Litherland
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11.07.2023

Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1: National Policy Review 2023/24

Appendix 2: Annual Performance Report 2022/23

Appendix 3: Annual Action Plan 2022/23 – Progress update and outturn

Appendix 4: Annual Action Plan 2023/24