

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

Date of meeting 26 June 2018

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

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

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary

The report sets out the council's draft 'Household Waste Management Strategy' for comment ahead of reporting to Cabinet for consideration in advance of adoption of the completed strategy by full Council.

It provides an overview of the results of the consultation carried out in 2017 including a summary of all the written responses that were received during the consultation period. The report sets out the key themes emerging from these comments, showing how they have influenced the development of the strategy.

Proposal(s)

To note the content of the report and to provide further comment to inform the next draft of the 'Household Waste Management Strategy'.

Reason for Proposal

To ensure that Environment Select Committee members continue to work on the development of the new household 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

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Key Decision: No

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the written results of the public consultation which have been used to inform the development of a new household waste management strategy for Wiltshire Council.
2. The report sets out the council's draft 'Household Waste Management Strategy' for consideration and comment ahead of its adoption.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. A new household 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

6. 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.

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. A report was then presented to the meeting of Environment Select Committee held on 18 January 2017. This report set 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 gave members an overview of the results of the survey and the key themes emerging from the consultation. However the written comments received during the consultation were not available at that time.
12. A revised timetable for providing feedback on comments received through the consultation and for providing a draft Household Waste Management Strategy was proposed and agreed.

Main Considerations for the Council

13. 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.
14. 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 number of emails and letters were also submitted containing additional detailed observations and notes.
15. Appendix 1 contains each of the questions that were asked in the online consultation where written comments were invited from and provided by respondents. The table below summarises the main themes which emerged from these responses.

Question	Total Responses	Top responses	Percentage
Question 3 - If you do not recycle, please state why.	94	Complexity of collection services – different bins for different materials, confusion over collection dates and onerous requirements (e.g. wash and squash plastic bottles)	19%
		Restricted range of plastics that can be recycled	15%
		Lack of recycling services and convenience compared to other countries	15%
Question 4 - Do you have any ideas of how we could make further savings from the waste and recycling budgets?	2114	Concerns that budget savings and additional charges at HRCs would result in increased fly tipping	31%
		Increase the reuse, resale or upcycle of items to generate a profit or to donate to charity	8%
		Extend opening hours and days at household recycling centres.	7%
		Work with shops to reduce packaging. Only support the use of sustainable, easily recyclable packaging. Provide deposit return schemes. Support 'zero-waste' stores and cafes.	7%
Question 7 - What one thing would encourage you to recycle more?	2450	Expand the number of collected materials.	21%
		Extend range of plastics collected (including films)	17%
		Increase communications, education and engagement. Promote our charged services better.	13%
		Simplicity of collection services	11%

16. In addition to the comments received in response to the consultation survey a number of interested parties also sent the council detailed written comments setting out priorities for consideration in the development of the new strategy. These additional comments have been reviewed and the key themes are summarised below. The correspondence is available to view on request.

Theme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase engagement with residents and other organisations or authorities. • Promote sustainable alternatives or technology. • Provide more information on what happens to recycling and its associated benefits. • Facilitate education sessions and regular workshop type engagement with local schools, area boards, local councils, BIDs or community groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence both the retail sector and residents, by use of incentives (for reduced packaging or increased participation) or introduction of deposit return schemes. • Lead the way by introducing challenging targets for retailers to remove single use plastics.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and support targeted local services for example bring sites or days, local repair and upcycle groups. • Improve household recycling centre locations and design.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand and simplify our current services. • Extend the number and types of material collected at the kerbside, one bin for all recycling. • Introduce food waste collections. • Increase collection frequency and bin sizes for recycling. • Provide better alternatives for those with difficulties in current arrangements at their properties.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify our approach to 'waste' and begin to treat it more as a resource with the associated financial benefits from energy from waste and sale of recyclable materials. • Procure shorter term contracts to enable us to adapt to fast moving changes in approach or technologies which would help the council to be more flexible and therefore in turn will help to increasing recycling rates and contract performance.

17. All feedback and results from the Waste and Recycling consultation survey have been analysed and used in the development of the draft Household Waste Management Strategy 2017-2027 which is attached in Appendix 2a.

18. The vision and priorities outlined within the draft strategy have been structured around the waste hierarchy. The waste hierarchy is central to environmental legislation and 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.

19. The draft strategy sets out an overarching vision of working towards zero avoidable household waste in Wiltshire. In order to achieve our vision the strategy outlines four priorities based on the waste hierarchy and a fifth priority to reduce litter and fly tipping.

- Priority 1 - The council will work with national, regional and local partners to provide advice and information to encourage residents to reduce the amount of household waste they create.
- Priority 2 - The council will work with local reuse organisations and contractors to increase the opportunity for items to be repaired and reused.
- Priority 3 - The council will continue to ensure that cost effective and efficient recycling services are provided so that residents are able to recycle a range of materials as easily as possible.
- Priority 4 – The council will recover energy from waste which cannot be reused or recycled; this remains strategically important for the council as it prevents this waste from going to landfill.
- Priority 5 – The council will continue to respond to reports of litter and fly tipping and use the tools available to us to tackle this.

20. It is proposed that the council's draft Household Waste Management Strategy is made up of three individual documents.

- The overarching strategy which presents the council's aims, goals and priorities for the next 10 years of waste management services in Wiltshire (Appendix 2a).
- An annual performance review which evaluates the council's performance against the priorities shown within the overarching strategy and the actions agreed for the previous year (Appendix 2b).
- An annual action plan which documents the goals and priorities for the service to deliver for the coming year. This action plan will review the national and local context and clearly outline how the service will develop within the next year to meet the strategic aims and priorities within the overarching strategy (Appendix 2c).

21. The strategy will be updated and a performance review and an action plan will be produced annually and presented to the council's Environment Select Committee for consideration and comment.

Safeguarding Implications

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

Public Health Implications

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

Procurement Implications

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

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

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

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

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

Risk Assessment

27. As this report provides an update and a draft strategy for consideration it is not considered necessary to complete a risk assessment.

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

28. Not applicable

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

29. Not applicable

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

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

Options Considered

32. 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

33. The report sets out the key themes emerging from the written comments and response to the consultation survey. This report contains a draft Household Waste Management Strategy for comment by members of Environment Select Committee ahead of its adoption.

Tracy Carter
Director Waste and Environment

Report Author:

Vicki Harris, Principal Waste Services Officer

June 2018

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: Analysis of themes emerging from the written comments received through the waste and recycling consultation survey.

Appendix 2a: Waste Strategy: Draft Household Waste Management Strategy 2017-2027.

Appendix 2b Waste Strategy: Draft Household Waste Management Strategy 2017-2027 Annual Performance Review 2017-18

Appendix 2C Waste Strategy: Draft Household Waste Management Strategy 2017-2027 Annual Action Plan 2018-19.