

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

26 June 2018

Briefing Note: Committee's request to consider potential scrutiny of the Council's plastic waste management policy

Background

As resolved at [1 May 2018](#) Environment Select Committee (ESC), the Committee agreed to consider the potential scrutiny of the Council's plastic waste management policy, as a part of their work around the [Government's 25-year Environment Plan](#) (hereafter referred to as "The Environment Plan").

Purpose

This Briefing Note is intended to inform members' view on whether additional actions in respect of plastic waste management be recommended for future action plans, for the waste management service.

Main Considerations

With the mobilisation of the new waste contracts on 30 July 2018, households will see changes to the materials that can be placed into the blue lidded bin. One element of this change will mean that plastic pots, tubs and trays will be collected for recycling at the kerbside from 30 July 2018 onwards.

Separately, as part of the Environment Plan, the Government have committed to reducing all avoidable plastic waste by 2042. For example, the Government recently opened a consultation on extending the 5p plastic bag charge to small retailers on a voluntary basis. Secondly, the government's waste action body will be looking at whether supermarkets can operate with "plastic-free aisles".

In light of this, the Committee may wish to consider potential scrutiny of the Council's plastic waste management policy, once the new waste contracts have commenced and there has been a sufficient "settling in" period. Additionally, it is anticipated that there will be enhanced national guidance for Local Authorities at this point too, as actions relating to plastics identified in the Environment Plan begin to become operational.

If the Committee does decide that further scrutiny into this area is necessary, it may be useful for the Committee to refer the work to the Waste Contracts Task Group, as an addition to their defined [Terms of Reference](#) (ToR).

Proposal

For the Environment Select Committee to agree a way forward on the potential scrutiny of the Council's plastic waste management policy, from January 2019, once

amendments to national guidance have been implemented and the Council's new waste contracts have been operational for a sufficient time period.

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