

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

4 September 2018

Task Group and Programme Boards Representatives Updates

Purpose

To provide an update on recent task group and programme board activity and propose any decisions requiring Committee approval.

1. Waste Contracts Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Peter Evans

Cllr Sven Hocking (Chairman)

Cllr Ruth Hopkinson

Cllr Bob Jones, MBE

Cllr Jacqui Lay

Cllr Nick Murry

Supporting Officer: Natalie Heritage

Terms of Reference:

1. To support the delivery of the Business Plan 2017-27 objective(s) of high recycling rates and reducing litter by monitoring, scrutinising and supporting:
 - a) A review of the council's commercial waste policy
 - b) Increased awareness of changes to waste collections
 - c) The implementation and performance of the council's waste contracts for collecting and managing waste and recyclables (Lot 1, Lot 3, Lot 4 and Lot 5 - commencing 30 July 2018)
 - d) The performance of the contract for managing council-owned HRCs (commenced October 2017 – Lot 2)
 - e) The potential development of services within the council's waste contracts.

2. To hold quarterly meetings to focus on the waste contracts (following their commencement), with further ad-hoc meetings convened, when appropriate, to consider other areas within the terms of reference above.

Recent activity:

The task group met on 20 June to receive a briefing on the Council's Commercial Waste Policy and the contract for Lot 2 (the management of Household Recycling

Centres). Following Cllr Robert Yuill's appointment as Portfolio Holder for Waste, Cllr Sven Hocking was elected as the new Chairman for the task group.

New bin stickers for household waste bins

The task group further discussed the bin stickers due to be distributed to all households, which would detail the items to be placed in each household waste bin. As stated at the previous meeting, the task group supported agency staff placing stickers on householders' bins, as opposed to Waste Services' approach, which favoured the householder placing the bin sticker in their preferred place (e.g. either on their waste bin or inside their house).

Waste Services returned to the task group with costings for agency staff to fulfil the task of placing the stickers on householders' bins. The cost of employing agency staff to undertake this work matched the cost of posting the stickers to each household in Wiltshire and therefore, Waste Services would continue with the postage method for the bin stickers. The Service also felt that this was the best approach to take, in pursuit of ensuring that the quality of Wiltshire's recyclate can be of a good quality.

Despite Waste Service's reasoning, the task group still supported the agency staff approach for the bin stickers. The task group argued that relying on the householder to place the bin sticker in their preferred place presented a greater risk to the quality of Wiltshire's recyclate, than if agency staff were responsible for the task. For example, the task group felt that the householder may not place the bin sticker in an appropriate place, whereas if agency staff were responsible for placing the bin stickers on household waste bins, then there could be no doubt that all households in the county would be clear about which item ought to be disposed of in which bin.

The Council's bin stickers were due to be printed soon and thus, the task group felt it appropriate to make their representations known at this time and asked the Cabinet Member to reconsider her decision about the distribution of the bin stickers for household waste bins.

Due to the delay in implementation of the full service change, the council has not incurred the cost of purchasing and posting stickers to residents. This expenditure has been deferred until next year; when the change to glass only in the black box and all other dry recyclable materials in the blue lidded bin takes place. The service notes the task group's ongoing view that the stickers should be applied to the bins by agency staff. In order for the sticker to be securely applied, the bin surface needs to be clean and dry. The service therefore remains of the view that it is better for the resident to carry out this task, rather than risk failure due to – for example – wet weather on a day when this activity is scheduled. This also reflects the approach taken with garden waste bin stickers sent to residents who sign up each year.

In lieu of a sticker at this stage, every household should have had a label attached to their blue lidded bin, on the last collection day before the collection of plastic pots, tubs and trays and cartons commenced. Residents could leave this attached to their bin as a reminder if they choose, or remove it to retain for future reference if needed. The label also reminded residents to put their bins out by 07:00, in anticipation of any

changes to the order of collections on any given day, although there have been no changes to collection days at this stage.

The Council's commercial waste policy

As the Council's commercial waste arrangements had changed, the task group recommended that community groups be dealt with under special circumstances. For example, they supported extra leniency if a community group did not leave their waste bin out at the appropriate time.

In the interest of reducing the incidence of fly-tipping across the county, the task group discussed the responsibility of the individual householder to ensure that any tradespeople who carry out work on their property are licensed waste carriers. Environmental enforcement manage the issue of fly-tipping and the Council have issued fines for illegal waste practises.

The task group supported a Briefing Note being circulated to all members on the changes to the Council's commercial waste policy.

A briefing note was issued to members in February in advance of the changes and is available [here](#).

Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)

Queuing at HRCs was raised. Waste Services had undertaken a large amount of work to mitigate queues at Wiltshire's HRCs and ensure that they are freed up for Wiltshire's residents. For example, the 'proof of address' scheme was one policy which had been developed in response to minimising queues at HRCs.

Following the briefing, the task group undertook a visit to Trowbridge HRC and a second visit was arranged to Melksham HRC the following day, for those members unable to attend the Trowbridge visit. Members noted that both sites were very clean and the thoroughfare clear, also signage was displayed in the best places to attract users' attention and site staff were very eager to help users.

The next meeting of the task group will take place on 2 October 2018, where the task group will be interviewing business owners and tradespeople. This will help them to understand how the commercial industry has adjusted to the recent change to the Council's commercial waste policy.

Proposal:

For the Environment Select Committee to endorse the Waste Contracts Task Group's:

- i. preferred approach of Waste Services employing agency staff to place bin stickers on householders' waste bins, as opposed to relying on the householder to place their bin stickers in the most appropriate place**
- ii. view that special arrangements be made for community groups who have been affected as a result of the change to the Council's commercial waste policy**

2. Rapid Scrutiny: Plastic Waste for Wiltshire's roads

Membership:

Cllr Trevor Carbin

Cllr Tony Jackson

Cllr Jacqui Lay

Cllr Brian Mathew (Chairman)

Supporting Officer: Marie Gondlach

Recent Activity:

The group met on 12 July with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste and the Director for Highways, as well as the Head of Highways Asset Management.

The durability of using plastic waste in Wiltshire's roads was discussed, along with the cost benefit associated with this process. The focus was also on how feasible it would be for this initiative to be implemented in Wiltshire and whether it was likely to bring about much benefit for all stakeholders; in order to answer this question, it was agreed that further research was required. Fundamentally, the group agreed that the central issue remains the amount of plastic that is produced/used in Wiltshire.

The group are due to meet again soon and this time with MacReber (the company who create the plastic waste-asphalt mix used for road surfaces) to further progress their enquiries.

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