

Household Waste Management Strategy Update

Purpose of Report

1. To:
 - (i) Provide an updated draft of the Household Waste Management Strategy 2017-27 for comment
 - (ii) Report on performance of the waste management service during 2018-19
 - (iii) Propose an action plan for the waste management service for 2019-20For comment by members of Environment Select Committee.

Background

2. In 2017 the council carried out a county-wide consultation to help develop a new household waste management strategy. A report was presented to Environment Select Committee at its meeting held on [16 January 2018](#) which set out that 3,875 responses had been received to the consultation. The report gave an overview of the results of the survey and the key themes emerging from the consultation.
3. A 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 2018-19. The committee resolved to endorse the draft strategy.
4. Government had announced that Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) would be producing a resources and waste strategy in 2018. This was published on [18 December 2018](#) along with notification of a number of consultations which Defra intended to carry out in 2019.
5. The consultations commenced in February 2019 and ran for 12 weeks. The council submitted individual responses and engaged with Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport and the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers to inform their responses. The consultations were:
 - (i) Reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system;
 - (ii) Consistency in household and business recycling collections in England;

- (iii) Introducing a deposit return scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

At the same time HM Treasury published a consultation on the introduction of a plastic packaging tax.

- 6. The government responses to the results of the consultations were published in July 2019.

Main Considerations for the Council

- 7. The service has reviewed the government responses to the results of the consultation documents and at present sees no reason to recommend changes to the vision and priorities outlined in the council's strategy. The waste hierarchy upon which the strategy is based continues to remain central to environmental legislation and prioritises those waste management practices which are more environmentally sustainable than sending waste to landfill, which is the option of last resort. The section of the draft household waste management strategy on national policy and legislation has been updated to reflect the government responses (see **Appendix 1**). Key points and next steps are set out below.

Reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system

- 8. Government intends to introduce an extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging in 2023. Defra will take primary powers in the Environment Bill to enable them to implement new extended producer responsibility (EPR) systems. They will then bring forward detailed proposals on the specific nature of an EPR system for packaging and associated secondary legislation for consultation in 2020. This should lead to an increased demand for recyclable materials to be used in the production of new packaging.

Consistency in household and business recycling collections in England

- 9. Government will work with local authorities and other stakeholders to develop more detailed regulations and guidance to implement consistency in recycling. Defra anticipates bringing forward more detailed proposals early in 2020 and implementing the necessary changes to achieve greater consistency in household and business recycling as soon as possible thereafter. The target year for measures to come into effect from is 2023. The key impacts for Wiltshire Council would be the proposal to mandate weekly collections of food waste and the consideration being given to the provision of fortnightly free of charge garden waste collections.

Introducing a deposit return scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

- 10. Government also intends to introduce a deposit return scheme in 2023. The expectation is that there will be a further consultation on the detail of the scheme in early 2020. The key impact for Wiltshire Council would be the loss of plastic bottles, steel and aluminium cans and glass bottles from the collection of dry recyclable materials.

Introduction of a plastic packaging tax

11. For all areas of the plastic packaging tax design, government will continue to consider which approaches will best support the objectives of the tax, are most administratively feasible and do not have a disproportionate impact on business. HM Treasury will also continue to work closely with Defra to ensure that the plastic packaging tax complements the reforms to the packaging producer responsibility regulations and proposals for consistent collection of waste in England and a potential deposit return scheme for drinks containers. The government will set out the next steps at Budget 2019. HMRC will publish a technical consultation on the detail of the tax design at a later date, and publish draft legislation for consultation in 2020.
12. Wiltshire Council will continue to engage with government on the further development and subsequent consultations on these proposals. Once there is certainty on the detail of implementation the council will review and amend its household waste management strategy and services to ensure compliance with new legislation.

Annual Performance Review 2018-19

13. Since 30 July 2018 residents have been able to recycle plastic pots, tubs and trays and food and drink cartons from the kerbside by adding these materials to the blue lidded bin. The tonnes of dry recyclable materials collected from the kerbside in 2018-19 increased by more than 700 tonnes to over 40,400. Although the cartons are a lightweight material the council has collected over five million to date since the service was introduced.
14. Alongside the increase in the tonnes of dry recyclable materials collected, there was a decrease in the tonnes of garden waste collected at the kerbside in 2018-19. This reduced by over 2,100 tonnes compared to 2017-18 with fewer tonnes collected month by month from July to October last year. The reduction contributed to a fall in recycling performance to 42.63% in 2018-19.
15. The council published the end use register for 2017-18 showing the destination of all the waste and recyclable materials collected that year. This is attached at **Appendix 3**. The end use register for 2018-19 will be published in the near future.
16. A strategic aim for the council is to reduce the waste sent to landfill as this is widely recognised as being the least environmentally sustainable way of managing waste. All the waste services and contracts the council has in place are designed to ensure that the amount of waste sent to landfill is reduced. Through improvements to waste prevention information and recycling services and diverting a significant proportion of non-recyclable household waste to energy from waste plants, the council now sends less than 16% of Wiltshire Council's collected waste to landfill each year. This is a significant reduction compared to previous years.
17. In 2018-19 there was a significant improvement in the percentage of Wiltshire roads which were predominantly free of litter and detritus, with 86% being predominantly free of litter and 80% being free of detritus. Reports of fly tipping fell for the first time in some years to 2,822 compared to a high point of 3,167 in 2017-18.

Annual Action Plan 2019-20

18. The annual action plan 2019-20 is attached at **Appendix 4**. This documents priorities and activities for the waste service team for the coming year. This action plan outlines how the service will develop within the next year to meet the strategic aims and priorities within the overarching strategy. Some of the actions from 2018-19 continue in 2019-20 as they are part of longer term programmes to improve services for residents and to enable the council to achieve its vision of working towards zero avoidable household waste in Wiltshire.
19. A key action for 2019-20 is to introduce changes to the kerbside collection of recycling, including introduction of a comingled collection service with paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, cans and food and drink cartons collected from the blue lidded bin and glass from the black box. To achieve this the service will effectively communicate the changes in collection services and collection dates to residents, ensuring that they are aware of the changes and the importance of collecting high quality recycling. There will be renewed focus on working with community area boards, the corporate communications team, customer services and other key stakeholders to achieve this.

Safeguarding Considerations

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

Public Health Implications

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

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

22. There are no specific environmental and climate change considerations arising from this report. The council's household waste management strategy continues to prioritise reducing the waste sent to landfill as landfill is widely recognised as being the least environmentally sustainable way of managing waste.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

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

Financial Implications

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

Conclusions

25. The report sets out key considerations for reviewing the council's household waste management strategy, including government's response to the results of consultations carried out in 2019. The report contains a draft Household Waste Management Strategy, including a performance report for 2018-19 and an action plan for 2019-20 for comment by members of the Environment Select Committee ahead of its adoption.

Proposal

26. That members of the committee provide comment to inform the next draft of the Household Waste Management Strategy prior to its adoption.

Tracy Carter
Interim Waste Transition and Carbon Reduction Lead Officer

Report Author: Tracy Carter
Tracy.carter@wiltshire.gov.uk
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Background Papers

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

None

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Draft Household Waste Management Strategy
- Appendix 2: Draft Annual Performance Report 2018-19
- Appendix 3: End Use Register 2017-18
- Appendix 4: Draft Annual Action Plan 2019-20