

Report of the Waste Task Group

Purpose of report

1. To present the recommendations of the Waste Task Group and seek endorsement for them.

Background

2. On 30 August 2012, the Environment Select Committee (ESC) established the Waste Task Group to consider the future options for the delivery of the waste services. This was endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management on 6 September 2012.
3. The Task Group met on four occasions between October 2012 and January 2013 with the following membership:

Cllr Alan Hill (Chairman)
Cllr Rosemary Brown
Cllr Nigel Carter
Cllr Brian Dalton
Cllr Jose Green
4. The Task Group received evidence from Tracy Carter, Director of Waste Management Services on 10 October 2012 and from Andy Conn, Head of Waste Management, on 7 January 2013.
5. The Task Group reviewed the following documents:
 - Waste Management Service Delivery Review (Report to the ESC 30 Aug 2012);
 - Wiltshire Council Draft Waste Management Strategy 2012;
 - Future delivery of the Waste Management Services (Report to Cabinet 6 Nov 2012);
 - Councillor Briefing Note No. 124: Waste Performance – Results for first half 2012 – 13;

Summary of information

6. The Task Group was informed that the Waste Management Services team has created a unified service delivery across the County since the formation of Wiltshire Council. The Task Group acknowledges that the implementation of the new scheme, which was considerably different in some parts of the County could have led to confusion and complaint from the public. However, due to the efficient and well-organised way that the transition was managed, very little

disruption to the service occurred and consequently very few complaints were received.

7. The contract for collection of non-recycled waste, plastic bottles and cardboard and garden waste for the west Wiltshire area could terminate in 2014 or be extended by up to seven years. The decision to extend the contract for the west Wiltshire area will depend on whether the Council decides to deliver the service in-house or to outsource it. There is a commitment that delivery of all kerbside collections should be by one provider.
8. The contract for the collection of glass, paper, cans and textiles, the provision of landfill capacity, the provision of material recovery facilities and markets for dry recyclable materials, waste transfer stations, composting facilities, treatment of wood waste and management of the household recycling centres and mini recycling centres will terminate in 2016 with no option to extend.
9. There is a commitment to split the services delivered currently by the 2016 contract into three parts – landfill, composting and recycling services, enabling different contract periods to be considered and a wider range of providers to bid.
10. The Task Group noted that the Waste Management Service is currently developing a number of business cases to inform decision making on future contracts.
11. The Task Group identified a number of specific concerns and suggested key lines of enquiry which are represented in their recommendations.

Recommendations

The Task Group recommends that:

- 1. The Environment Select Committee within the newly-elected Wiltshire Council should establish a Waste Task Group to action the recommendations below.**
- 2. The Waste Task Group should seek assurance that the Waste Management Services team has sought and considered advice from independent advisors regarding waste management strategy; in particular, to review the performance of the current contractor in managing Wiltshire's waste and identifying potential improvement areas.**
- 3. The Waste Task Group should seek assurance that the Waste Management Services team has taken the proximity principle into account in the development of its waste strategy. The Task Group believes that the creation of the site at Porte Marsh Industrial Estate in Calne has demonstrated good practice in materials recycling, embracing the proximity principle, and forms a good template for similar facilities to be considered in other Wiltshire communities.**
- 4. The Council reviews its terminology to reflect the concept of waste being a resource.**

5. **The Waste Task Group should seek assurance that the Council reflects the recent trend for shorter contracts in waste management, to ensure that the Council benefits more than under the current long-term contracts and to retain flexibility.**
6. **The Waste Task Group should seek assurance that no opportunities for the encouragement of green technology are lost.**
7. **The Task Group should consider the lines of enquiry identified in Appendix 1, along with others it may indentify, to ensure that it is fully informed in respect of the future delivery of the waste and recycling collection services.**

Cllr Alan Hill – Chairman, Waste Task Group

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Recommended key lines of enquiry

Appendix 1

Recommended Key Lines of Enquiry

It is suggested that the Waste Task Group:

1. Seeks to gain a better understanding of the financing of recycling activities and how the returns for the Council are managed.
2. Requests a report from officers on the management of clinical waste in Wiltshire. This topic seems to have been the subject of discussion between the GPs practices/hospital outpatients departments and waste management services for some time now and seems to be handled differently in various parts of the County, which is unsatisfactory when we are supposed to be providing a unified service.
3. Seeks to gain a better understanding of the financial implications and risks associated with the proposed options for the collection of waste service, ie in-house or outsourced.
4. Considers the paper to be presented to Cabinet on the redesign of waste collection rounds and future working patterns. The Task Group suggests that the times currently proposed in the new working pattern arrangements under the two-shift pattern be moved to more acceptable times ie 6am – 2pm and 2pm – 10pm.
5. Seeks to know what options the Council has investigated with regard to the collection of green waste; in particular, varying collections according to the season. Consideration should be given to charging for this service.
6. Investigates how the Council can make efforts to raise awareness and educate the public over which plastics can be successfully recycled in Wiltshire to increase recycling rates.
7. Investigates and compares the waste management strategies in other Authorities, similar to Wiltshire, eg Lincolnshire and Northumberland.
8. Monitors the performance of a current contractor so that, if they make efficiencies or improve effectiveness, Wiltshire Council derives some benefit from the savings.
9. Monitors the operation of the anaerobic digester sited at Warminster to assess its success or otherwise with a view to establishing similar sites elsewhere in Wiltshire if appropriate.
10. Seeks to know to what extent the energy generated from Wiltshire waste is reflected in the gate price paid by the Council.