

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

Date 13 January 2021

Household Waste Management Strategy Update (2020/21)

Purpose of Report

1. To:
 - a) Provide a review of relevant legislation and policy changes affecting the Household Waste Management Strategy 2017/27
 - b) Report on the performance of the waste management service during 2019/20
 - c) Report on progress against the 2019/20 action plan for the waste management service.
 - d) Propose an action plan for the waste management service for 2020/21

For 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 18 January 2018 which gave an overview of the results of the survey and the key themes emerging from the consultation.
3. A further 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 and action plan.
4. The adopted strategy contains a commitment to provide Environment Select Committee with an annual review of emerging legislation and policy that may affect the strategy, an annual review of performance and an annual action plan to deliver the strategy priorities.
5. The reporting of 19/20 performance, action plan updates and legislation review has been delayed through a combination of a senior management review early in 2020/21, the roll out of significant changes to the mixed dry recyclables collection service and also by the service response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, this report aims to cover these elements as well as detailing the action plan reviewed during the 20/21 financial year.

Main Considerations for the Council – review of legislation and policy changes relevant to waste services.

6. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) produced a Resources and Waste strategy in 2018. A number of consultations followed the publication of this national strategy which sought the views of various stakeholders on a number of potentially significant changes to waste legislation and the delivery of future waste management services. The consultations, target dates and potential impacts to Wiltshire are listed as follows:
 - a) **Reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system** – *Government intends to introduce an extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging. Target year for implementation is 2023. This should lead to an increased demand for recyclable materials to be used in the production of new packaging, and reduced usage of “difficult to recycle” packaging products.*
 - b) **Consistency in household and business recycling collections in England** - *Aims to achieve greater consistency in household and business recycling across the country. 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 potential to be required to provide a fortnightly free of charge garden waste collection.*
 - c) **Introducing a deposit return scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland** – *Aims to introduce a scheme whereby residents return packaging items to the point of sale in return for reward. Target year for implementation is 2023. This is likely to lead to the loss of plastic bottles, steel and aluminum cans and glass bottles from the collection of dry recyclable materials.*
7. The council submitted responses to each of the relevant consultations and engaged with Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) and the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO) to inform their responses. Further detailed consultation on these proposals were due to be released in 2020. However, these have been delayed due to COVID-19.
8. Due to the delay in the consultation process, and in the absence of any additional detail regarding the impact of these proposals on local government waste management services, there is no reason at present to recommend changes to the vision and priorities outlined in the council’s strategy.
9. The section of the draft household waste management strategy that deals with national policy and legislation has however been updated to reflect the latest government position. See appendix 1.

Annual Performance Review 2019-20 (appendix 2)

10. From 30 July 2018, the council provided residents with the opportunity to recycle plastic pots, tubs and trays and food and drink cartons at the kerbside, in addition to paper, card and cans using their blue-lidded wheeled bin. The impact of this has been that the council's recycling rate for 19/20 increased to 43.45% from 42.69% in 18/19. The amount of residual waste collected also reduced from 569 kg per household in 18/19 to 558 kg per household in 18/19.
11. A strategic aim of the council's waste service council is to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill as this is widely recognised as being the least environmentally sustainable method of disposal. Improvements to the kerbside recycling services, access restrictions to the household recycling centres (van and trailer permits), provision of waste prevention information and contracts to divert a significant proportion of non-recyclable household waste to energy from waste plants, have all contributed to the council sending less than 16% of collected municipal waste to landfill in 2019/20.
12. In September 2019 Wiltshire Council received recognition from the Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Agency (DEFRA) for consistently achieving a high standard of roadside cleanliness across the county. In 2019/20, 86% of Wiltshire roads were assessed as being predominantly free of litter and 81% roads being predominantly free of detritus. These positive results are the highest recorded in 7 years and supports the council's initiative to introduce scheduled litter picks and litter picking resources.
13. The Council received 2,823 fly tip reports in 2019/20 compared with 2,822 in 2018/19, an increase of just 0.03% from the previous year.

Annual Action Plan 2019/20

14. The annual action plan documents the priorities and activities for the waste service for the coming year. This action plan outlines how the service will develop and focus its resource within the next year to meet the strategic aims and priorities outlined within the waste strategy.
15. *Appendix 3* details progress against those actions identified in the 2019/20 action plan.
16. *Appendix 4* proposes the annual action plan for 2020/21. Some of the actions from the previous action plan continue in 2019/20 as they form part of longer term programmes aimed at working towards zero avoidable household waste in Wiltshire.
17. A number of the actions identified in the 2020/21 plan focus on the review of the council's household recycling centre network and the development of a new HRC strategy. Continuing housing and population growth, alongside a growing public appetite and expectation to be able to recycle

a broadening range of items and materials mean that demand for HRC services is increasing. The existing network therefore needs to be reviewed in order to ensure that the facilities offered remain fit for purpose.

18. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has required the council to reassess how the HRC service is delivered, primarily to ensure that the necessary social distancing measures can be maintained whilst providing reasonable access to Wiltshire residents. An online booking system has been successfully implemented and which provides us with an opportunity to consider whether such adaptations may continue to have a place part of the future provision of HRC facilities, as the council attempts the balance the increasing demand on its services against its statutory duties and costs of service delivery.
19. A further key theme in the 2020/21 is to regularly assess the carbon impact of the council's waste services in order to support the council's climate change strategy and objective to become carbon neutral by 2030.

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. Key actions proposed in the annual action plan aim to assess the carbon performance of the service to support the climate change strategy.

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. The financial impacts of Covid-19 on the waste service were reported to the Finance Task Group in December 2021.

Conclusions

25. The report sets out key considerations for reviewing the council's household waste management strategy. The report contains a draft policy review, a review of performance for 2019/20, an update on actions

adopted in 2019/20 and a draft action plan for 2020/21. Members of the Environment Select Committee are invited to comment on these draft documents ahead of adoption.

Proposal

26. That members of the committee provide comment on the draft Household Waste Management Strategy Update.

Martin Litherland **Head of Service – Waste Management**

Report Author: Martin Litherland
Martin.litherland@wiltshire.gov.uk
30.12.2020

Background Papers

None

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Draft Household Waste Management Strategy Policy Review 2020/21
- Appendix 2: Draft Annual Performance Report 2019/20
- Appendix 3: Annual Action Plan 2020/21 – Progress update
- Appendix 4: Draft Annual Action Plan 2020/21