

**Wiltshire Council**

**Environment Select Committee**

**Wednesday 13 July 2022**

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## **Household Waste Management Strategy Update (2022/23)**

### **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 from April 2020 to March 2022
  - c) Report on progress against the 2020/21 action plan for the waste management service.
  - d) Propose an action plan for the waste management service for 2022/23for 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. Reporting of 2020/21 performance, action plan updates and legislation review was not completed due to pressures on the service and council as a result of Covid-19. This report incorporates these elements covering both 2020/21 and 2021/22 as well as detailing the action plan proposed for the 2022/23 financial year.

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

### **Policy Review 2022-23 (Appendix 1)**

6. The section of the draft household waste management strategy that considers the impact of changing national and local policies has been updated to reflect the latest position. See Appendix 1.
7. At a national level, waste management policy is undergoing a period of unprecedented change, primarily with the introduction of the Environment Act 2021. Whilst there are still gaps in the detail of how the Act will affect local authorities and the wider industry, the policy review sets out anticipated impacts and timescales for change.
8. DEFRA undertook further public consultation on many of the waste-focused elements of the Environment Act in 2021. The government's outcomes from most of these consultations have not been published and are not expected before summer 2022. Until all outcomes of the consultations are known, the timescales for implementation of the key waste-related proposals remain unconfirmed. However, the policy review does attempt to estimate the timescales for delivery of key proposals to help shape the council's thinking on the impact of the Act on waste services.
9. Since the previous Household Waste Management Strategy update in 2020, the Council has adopted several key policy documents which impact and influence the strategy:
  - The new Wiltshire Council Business Plan (2022 to 2032) was approved in February 2022 and documents the council's commitment to finding opportunities to increase reuse and recycling, as well as an aim to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill (Outcome 4).
  - The Environment Directorate has developed a Service Plan for 2021 to 2023 which documents the actions required by Waste Services to deliver the Outcomes within the business plan.
  - In February 2022, full council adopted Wiltshire Council's Climate Strategy which sets out the next five years of the council's journey to become carbon neutral. Due to the significant carbon impact of waste management, Waste has been identified as a key delivery theme within the strategy.
10. It is therefore essential that Waste Services work in collaboration with partners both at a local and national level to continually understand the impacts of these policy changes of the delivery of waste services in Wiltshire to enhance service provision and deliver services which are aligned with emerging regulation.

### **Annual Performance Review 2021-22 (Appendix 2)**

11. The Annual Performance Review provides a summary of waste management performance against the priorities set within the Household Waste Management Strategy during the period of April 2021 to March 2022. Due to Covid-19 there was no strategy update for 2020/21 however this annual performance review also includes performance data for April 2020 to March 2021.
12. Trend data shows that since 2016 there has been a general decrease in the total amount of household waste generated per household. The 2020/21 figure was abnormally low due to Covid-19 impacts on HRC opening, whereas 2021/22 returned to the normal steadily declining trend, despite ongoing Covid-19 impacts on residents affecting their behaviour. Trends however do show that the amount of non-recycled waste produced per household (after recycling) has not changed significantly since 2016, despite the pandemic.
13. Wiltshire's recycling rate (the total percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting) has remained relatively static in recent years at 42.3 to 43.8%. It was anticipated that a new kerbside recycling service, introduced in March 2020 with all dry recycling, except glass, being collected mixed in a wheeled bin would increase the recycling rate. The introduction of the service coincided with the first lockdown and significant changes to people's lives, which will have impacted on the amount and type of wastes households generated. Although significantly more dry recycling was collected from residents in 2020/21 and 2021/22 with the new co-mingled collection system, the amount of contamination and rejected material separated out from the collected recycling at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) also increased. Actions to improve the performance of the MRF to reduce the levels of rejected materials are ongoing, as well as communications to residents about what items to include in their recycling to maximise the amount of material which can be successfully recycled.
14. Through improvements to waste prevention information and recycling services, together with diverting a significant proportion of non-recyclable household waste to energy from waste plants, the council now routinely sends less than 20% of collected waste to landfill each year.

#### **Annual Action Plan 2022-23 (Appendix 3 and Appendix 4)**

15. The annual action plan documents the priorities and activities for waste services in 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.
16. *Appendix 3* details progress against those actions identified in the 2019/20 action plan.
17. *Appendix 4* proposes the annual action plan for 2022/23. Some of the actions from the previous action plan continue into this version as they

form part of longer term programmes aimed at working towards zero avoidable household waste in Wiltshire.

18. Engagement with communities and improved communications is one of the actions required to meet a number of the strategic priorities. It is essential that the council effectively engages with service users and community forums to maximise the potential of the services provided and meet the overall strategic aim of zero avoidable waste. The service must positively engage with Area Boards, community environmental groups and forums and support community initiatives so that these interested parties can act as advocates for the service. It should be noted that the benefits of community engagement are often not easily measurable or quantifiable, and the council needs to consider the level of resource required to deliver this work successfully, and where this capacity might be best placed to be most effective.
19. Promotion and expansion of reuse opportunities are key actions within the draft plan for 2022-23. Opportunities for reusing good quality household items are available at the majority of household recycling centres. The draft action plan proposes that these opportunities will be more widely communicated and promoted to residents. Where opportunities for reuse are not already available, the service will seek further potential for reuse schemes to be developed.
20. The council is committed to increasing recycling. The draft action plan highlights a number of actions which are proposed to help increase recycling. Particular focus will be on utilising intelligence gained from waste compositional analysis surveys being completed during 2022, to increase the quantity and quality of recycling collected. This should be done alongside work with the council's contractors to improve their MRF processes to maximise the amount of high quality recycling captured for reprocessing.
21. The plan proposes actions to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill by maximising the waste sent to the council's Energy from Waste contracts. This includes a review of the waste which is sent to landfill and consideration of alternative collection and pre-treatment options available to the council so this waste can be diverted from landfill.

### **Safeguarding Considerations**

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

### **Public Health Implications**

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

### **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

24. 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 2021.

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

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

### **Financial Implications**

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

### **Conclusions**

27. 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 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years, an update on actions adopted in 2020/21 and a draft action plan for 2022/23. Members of the Environment Select Committee are invited to comment on these draft documents ahead of adoption.

### **Proposal**

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

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

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### **Background Papers**

None

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Draft Household Waste Management Strategy Policy Review 2022-23  
Appendix 2: Draft Annual Performance Report 2021-22

Appendix 3: Annual Action Plan 2020-21 – Progress update  
Appendix 4: Draft Annual Action Plan 2022-23