

REVIEW OF INTEGRATED RECYCLING AND WASTE STRATEGY 2016

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Portfolio: Environment and Recycling

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of the Report

- To highlight the requirement to commence a review the current Integrated Recycling and Waste Strategy.
- To agree an outline basic timetable for the review and subsequent procurement phases.
- To outline a proposal for a cross party Cabinet Panel to be established to review the current strategy, consider options and risks for future provision and develop a new Strategy to be recommended to Cabinet.

Recommendations

(a) That Cabinet agree the outline and timetable for the review and subsequent procurement of the Integrated Recycling and Waste Strategy.

(b) That Cabinet agree to form a representative cross party Cabinet Panel to review options for the future service provision and risks and develop the new Strategy.

Reasons

- To ensure continuity of service at the end of current contract periods.
- To develop a service that provides residents with an affordable, environmentally sound, excellent, and compliant service.
- To provide the council with timely information regarding potential investment pressures and savings that may be provided from the adoption of a new strategy.
- Ensure that there is adequate time for review, consultation, procurement and implementation of the future service.
- To provide a stable platform to enable the Council to maintain and develop the recycling and waste service and to further to increase opportunities for recycling.

1. Background

1.1 The Council's current recycling and waste strategy has been prepared following the principles agreed by Cabinet in October 2007 and consultation with stakeholders. It sets out the direction for the Waste Management services up to 2016. The strategy was prepared taking account of national guidance (Waste Strategy for England 2007) and the 'principles and policies' set out in the Integrated Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (2020 Vision).

1.2 The service under went a major redesign in 2010, with the introduction of weekly food waste collection, fortnightly garden, residual and kerbside recycling of paper, card, plastic, cans and textiles. Due to residents and staff commitment to the service this has seen an increase in recycling from 27% in 2008/9 to 51% in 2011/12, as well as a reduction in residual waste by over 35%. Over the same period it has been possible to provide a more financially efficient service. The service has been recognised on a national basis and has won five

national awards and been nominated in a number of others over the last couple of years, due to the design and standard of the service.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 The Councils current Integrated Recycling and Waste Strategy runs until 2016 which is the same time as all the Councils associated waste management collection, disposal and treatment contracts. In order for the Council to develop a future collection and treatment service it is important that the Council has a clear and stable integrated recycling and waste strategy to 2023 or further.
- 2.2 Due to the complexities and options surrounding provision of recycling and waste collections to residents it is important that a full review of the current integrated waste strategy is undertaken in good time to provide for continuity when the current waste contracts terminate in July 2016.
- 2.3 Below is a timetable that details the required key tasks and stages to ensure that this date is met:-

Tasks	2012	2013				2014				2015				2016	
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Formation Cabinet Working Group															
Review of Collection and Treatment Options															
Consultations of Collection and Treatment Options															
Determination of Collection and Treatment Options															
Development of service design															
Procurement of Services															
Implementation of Service															
Start of New Collection Service (6th July 2016)															

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 It is proposed to progress the project in accordance with the timescales indicated above to ensure that there is no risk to the continuity of collection services in July 2016 when current arrangements terminate.
- 3.2 An important element of the project is the formation of a representative cross party Cabinet Panel of Members. This group of members will be an integral part of the development of the future waste strategy for the borough. The group will be involved in visiting other local authorities and treatment facilities to look at the benefits and weakness of other collection and treatment systems. These visits will enable Members to be well informed when considering the future direction for the Councils waste and recycling services. It is proposed that the Cabinet Panel will be involved throughout the process.

4. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The proposals relate to the effective delivery of high quality collection and treatment arrangements for recycling and waste, which would contribute to the following:

A clean, safe and sustainable borough

- ❖ The negative impacts that the Council, residents and local businesses have on the environment will have reduced
- ❖ Our streets and open spaces will be clean, clear and tidy

A Healthy and Active Community

- ❖ Council Services will be influenced by resident engagement, enabling local communities to shape services which directly affect their lives.

A co-operative Council delivering high quality, community driven, services.

- ❖ High performing services will be delivered for all residents and customers.

5. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 5.1 The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC) requires a reduction in bio-degradable waste to be land-filled by 75% in 2010, when compared against the 1995 level.

- 5.2 The Government's Waste Strategy requires 40% of domestic waste by weight to be recycled by 2010 and 50% by 2020. The waste strategy is designed to increase recycling and therefore meet the legislative requirements without incurring financial penalties from Europe.

- 5.3 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 empowers the Council as a Waste Collection Authority to direct householders how to present waste.

6. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 During the development of the new strategy a full equality impact assessment will be undertaken during the selection of management options.

7. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 7.1 There are limited financial implications in respect of the formation of Cabinet Panel. Officer time will be accommodated from within existing staffing resources.

8. **Major Risks**

- 8.1 The major risks are considered to be:

- Delays in developing a waste strategy, thus not being able to procure the services required at the end of the current contract periods.
- Failure to develop a waste strategy that is affordable to the Council or that does not meet the environment targets that the Council is required to meet.

9. **Key Decision Information**

The decision is one that would affect all wards and has a significant positive budgetary implication for the Council. It has therefore been included on the Forward Plan.