

ITEM 8

Waste Strategy 2018 - 2023

Report of the Head of Environmental Services (Portfolio: Environmental)

Recommended:

That the committee review and endorse the Waste Strategy 2018 - 2023.

SUMMARY:

The following report introduces the Waste Strategy 2018 – 2023 and invites comment and endorsement before final approval by Cabinet in January 2018

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2015-19 states within its key priority 'Enjoy: the natural and built environment' that over the next four years and beyond, it will invest in 'increasing recycling and reducing the amount of household waste'. Furthermore the plan specifically states 'We will undertake a full review of our Waste Strategy, which will consider all the options and costs for how we could increase current levels of recycling.'
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to introduce the Waste Strategy 2018 – 2023 and invite comment and endorsement before final approval by Cabinet in January 2018.

2 Background

- 2.1 Whilst there is no requirement to have a strategy for waste it is helpful to demonstrate to those interested that we have a route map and a desire to improve the services we offer to residents.
- 2.2 Developing the strategy also provides a platform for explaining the journey of waste within Test Valley over the years, highlighting to the reader that dimension and scale of the provision of services is an evolution over a considerable period of time and not something that appears overnight.

3 Consultations

- 3.1 In preparing the strategy a range of consultation has been carried out with stakeholders. Initially during 2013 and again in 2015, community consultations were conducted, originally as part of the launch of Recycling Stars and latterly, as part of WasteWise – a project led by ResearchBods. Residents were given the opportunity to share their opinions on a variety of waste related topics.

- 3.2 In addition to the borough specific consultation detailed above, during 2015/16, IPSOS MORI also carried out a satisfaction survey on behalf of Hampshire County Council.
- 3.3 A Management Team (OMT) workshop was held during October 2016 where views and ideas were sought. A similar session was held for Councillors during November 2016.

4 Hampshire Waste Partnership Review

- 4.1 In tandem with developing the strategy has been a higher level Hampshire-wide review of waste and recycling, now commonly referred to as the Hampshire Waste Partnership (HWP). It is the outcome of this review that has added some delay in bringing our own strategy forward.
- 4.2 The primary outcome of the HWP review has recently been approved by council leaders and Chief Executives and this extends to the development of a detailed business case for a building a 'Super' Materials Recovery Facility that will have the ability to sort mixed plastics (pots, tubs and trays). The plan is to replace two existing facilities with one facility.
- 4.3 A further outcome of the HWP review, being funded by HCC, is the development of a Behaviour Insights project aimed at engaging with residents in order to minimise waste, increase recycling, and reduce contamination.

5 The Waste Strategy

- 5.1 The intended audience for the strategy is broad and applies to anyone who has an interest in waste collection and recycling in Test Valley. This broad audience has been very much taken into account during the preparation of the strategy where the final document is deliberately not technical.
- 5.2 The strategy and the subsequent action plan are mindful of the quality of service that residents currently enjoy within Test Valley and takes into account the financial constraints the council has to significantly develop, change or introduce new services.
- 5.3 The strategy itself takes on a natural flow through setting the local and national context; highlighting the borough's waste journey over time; giving an insight into service performance; culminating into a section that considers the ideas and suggestions that were raised during consultations.
- 5.4 For each idea and suggestion the strategy either carefully dismisses the suggestion, with reason, or indicates that if this is something worth further consideration.
- 5.5 The final section is a concise action plan with realistic and deliverable projects. In the main, the largest area of influence is within behavioural change arena where we will look to engage with residents in order to improve what they do in terms of waste minimisation, increased recycling and reduced contamination.

5.6 Currently there are no costs associated with the action plan. The level of activity will determine business cases for which further approval will be sought – if indeed required.

6 Conclusion

6.1 The Waste Strategy is fully supportable. It describes the waste journey and highlights significant areas of service change and improvement over time and set outs ways that the service can be improved in terms of increased recycling and waste minimisation. The document itself does not commit the council to any additional expenditure.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
<u>Confidentiality</u> It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1	File Ref:	
(Portfolio: Environmental) Councillor Stallard			
Officer:	Paul Wykes	Ext:	8351
Report to:	OSCOM	Date:	20 December 2017