

Report

Cabinet Member for City Services (Deputy Leader)

Part 1

Date: 14 February 2020

Subject **Waste Strategy Document**

Purpose To seek approval from the Cabinet Member for City Services on the proposed Waste Strategy Document.

Author Waste and Cleansing Service Manager

Ward All Wards

Summary The Council started a review of all the waste activities with the aim of coming up with proposals that would ensure improved sustainability and increased recycling performance on a long term basis; proposals were presented to the Cabinet Member for City Services and approved on 28th Dec 2018. However there was a lack of a strategy document that incorporated main objectives, an action plan and a monitoring program, all of which has been included now in an overarching document.

Proposal That the Cabinet Member approves the Waste Strategy included as Appendix A

Action by Head of City Services

Timetable Immediately

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate
- Head of Finance
- Head of Law and Regulatory Services
- Head of People and Business Change

Signed

Background

In 2014, driven by the need to improve its recycling performance, recommendations from the Wales Audit Office to establish a new Waste Strategy, and financial pressures coming from tighter budgets and reductions in grant funding, Newport agreed to get support from the Welsh Government's Collaborative Change Programme to undertake a review of the waste activities. Under this programme, Newport City Council Officers worked with Welsh Government and WRAP from 2015 to 2017 to review the Council services, analyse all the different options available and come up with a tailored proposal that would ensure the Council met the set targets and avoid the imposition of fines.

The review comprised of options appraisal for the main areas of household collections, Household Waste Recycling Centre and commercial waste, including a full cost benefit analysis of different scenarios based on the preferred options of each area, and complete Business Case on the recommended scenario.

All reports with the findings and recommendations from the CCP process, including the Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Business Plan, were presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for analysis and recommendations. A Policy Review Group was established and a recommendations report presented to the Cabinet Member for Streetscene in May 2018.

Following the report from Scrutiny, alternative options were considered for domestic collections, to assist the Council in meeting the statutory recycling targets and avoid the additional, significant cost pressures associated.

All proposals were then presented to the Cabinet Member for City Services for approval as the basis for the review Council's Waste Strategy; the proposal was approved on 28th Dec 2018

In summary, the decision taken included activities for improvements split into the three main service deliver areas:

- Household waste collections, with the restriction of residual waste capacity for domestic properties by introducing 120 litre wheeled bins for fortnightly collection of non-recyclable waste only, and the introduction of a new waste education and enforcement team to support the residual waste cap.
- Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC), by developing a second HWRC.
- Commercial waste collections, by developing recycling focused commercial waste collections.

However, this decision, although outlined the main activities set out as a future strategy, did not include other vital elements that would enable proper scrutiny and there was a lack of a proper strategy document that incorporated main objectives, action plans and monitoring program. Therefore, a full Waste Strategy document has been developed to ensure all the different elements linked to improved recycling are strategically driven and robustly monitored.

Financial Summary

1. There are no financial implications linked to the approval of the Waste Strategy documents; for financial implications linked to the main activities approved under the waste strategy please see Cabinet Member report on 28th December 2018.

Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
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Lack of proper monitoring	L	L	By having an overarching waste strategy and defining KPIs, action plans and reporting mechanisms there is a robust system in place to ensure proper and timely monitoring	Waste and Cleansing Service Manager
Failure to follow WAO recommendations	L	M	Implementation of a new Waste Strategy is a recommendation from WAO in their last 2 audit reports; so far implementation was partial as a proper strategy incorporating all the different elements highlighted by WAO were needed	Waste and Cleansing Service Manager

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The Council's Corporate Plan includes different wellbeing objectives, linked to the Council commitments and corresponding action plans, organised under 3 themes: Thriving City, Aspirational People, Modernised Council and Resilient Communities. Recycling and waste is covered within the Council's wellbeing objective 2 - To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment, action 10 – Increase household recycling and divert waste from landfill, and the Corporate Plan also includes the construction of a new Household Waste Recycling Centre as part of its 20 actions by 2022.

The Corporate Plan is the overarching element where the waste strategy, vision and specific objectives sit; this document is based on the need to meet the recycling targets set by Welsh Government, but it goes beyond that, as it is a platform to ensure the right approach is used and sustainability and long term are key, in line with the Council priorities.

Options Available and considered

Option 1: To approve the Waste Strategy document

Option 2: Not to progress with the proposal

Preferred Option and Why

Option 1, as having the Waste Strategy document in place will enable the Council to progress the different actions approved by Cabinet Member on December 2018 in a structured and integrated way.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

The Waste Strategy has numerous elements that have all been considered as part of the MTFP budget setting process and takes account of grant reductions, changes to working practices and the development of a new HWRC site. To this effect, the Waste Strategy has no adverse impact as it will be funded through existing and proposed budgets which will continue to be monitored on a regular basis.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report. Many of the actions set out in the Strategy have already been agreed and implemented in order to meet recycling targets and to deliver Corporate

Plan and well-being objectives. However, this Waste Strategy provides a policy context for these actions and an overarching framework to monitor outcomes.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

The Waste Strategy sets out a strategy and a detailed action plan for improving recycling and reducing waste. Over the next five years.

This strategy supports the ethos of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. In addition, the well-being goals and the sustainable development principle contained in the Act along with the council's well-being objectives and the Well-being Plan well-being objectives have been fully considered when developing this strategy and the cover report. This has been summarised in the appropriate section of this report.

Finally, a Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment has also been completed and detailed are contained in the appropriate section of this report.

Local issues

N/A

Scrutiny Committees

A draft Waste Strategy document was presented to the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate on 2nd September 2019. Comments from the Committee were as follows:

1. The Committee welcomed the comprehensive report and Action Plan Update presented and acknowledged the levels of performance achieved.
2. The Committee acknowledged that all Actions included in the Draft Strategy are part of the City Services Service Plan, which will be monitored by the Committee six-monthly.

Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

To fulfil the requirements linked to the Equalities Act 2010 and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015, a Fairness and Equality Impact assessment was carried out linked to the main proposal included in the Waste Strategy, and presented to Cabinet Member together with those proposals in December 2018, and is available for consultation.

The Equalities Impact Assessment showed that most of the protected groups will not be affected by the proposed changes; however, it's been identified that elderly residents and people with restricted mobility may benefit from having smaller, lighter residual bins. Potential negative impacts on families with children and people with health problem, who generate extra waste (nappies, hygiene waste) will be counteracted by the Council continuing with its policy of allowing extra capacity to residents who meet the policy's requirements.

There is a general positive impact on all residents due to the increase in HRWC facilities; this will especially favour those who reside on the Eastern part of the city.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

N/A

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015) sets out in legislation how the Council must work towards improving the environmental wellbeing of Wales. This Act states that the Council should take into account long term and preventative measures when decision making.

The proposal will enable the Council to have a proper strategy in place that will map out a sustainable way to increase recycling performance. This is linked with other essential aspects of the waste hierarchy and will ensure the viability of activities linked to reuse projects or work with community groups already under way, contributing to healthier, more prosperous and resilient communities. By generating local employment and favouring circular economy will also contribute to a more prosperous Wales.

More detail on how the proposal links to the wellbeing goals can be found as Appendix 4 of the Waste Strategy.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

N/A

Consultation

N/A

Background Papers

Welsh Government – Towards Zero Waste

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee – 26 July 2017 and 16 November 2017

Cabinet Member Decision – Scrutiny Waste Strategy Policy Review Group Final Report 9 May 2018

CCP review reports

Cabinet Member Decision – 28th December 2018

Date: 06 February 2020