

Meeting:	General scrutiny committee
Meeting date:	Monday 28 September 2020
Title of report:	Task and finish group report - waste management strategic review
Report by:	Chair of waste task and finish group

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To consider the Task and Finish Group's report on waste management strategic review.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- (a) the committee considers the task and finish group's report at appendix 1; and**
- (b) the committee submits the findings and recommendations to the executive for consideration.**

Alternative options

1. The recommendations proposed in the Group's report represent the Group's findings. If there are any additional recommendations that the committee wishes to make these can be considered at the meeting.

Key considerations

2. General scrutiny committee established a task and finish group on 29 November 2019 to carry out a waste management strategic review.
3. As a Unitary Authority the council has statutory functions as both a Waste Collection Authority (WCA) and Waste Disposal Authority (WDA).
4. The waste collection contract expires on 1 November 2023, there is no further option to extend.
5. The waste disposal contract is a joint contract with Worcestershire County Council, it will expire on 10 January 2024 but has a 5 year extension option (if triggered it will extend it to 10 January 2029).
6. Alongside current contracts ending, the government's Resource and Waste Strategy for England 2018 promises the greatest change to waste policy in a generation, including a more consistent approach to waste management with the rest of Europe, Scotland and Wales. The impact of these changes will be significant in terms of resourcing, performance and cost. Practical implications are also significant, including likely changes to waste composition, new fleet requirements, waste treatment needs and of course the public expectation and acceptance of changes to the service.
7. The review focuses on how the council can best deliver its waste management service in light of expected changes resulting from the Resource and Waste Strategy 2018 and the council's own ambitions outlined in the County Plan.
8. The group's report is attached at appendix 1. The committee is asked to agree the recommendations for submission to the executive for consideration.

Community impact

9. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council is committed to promoting a positive working culture that accepts and encourages constructive challenge and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development and review.
10. The recommendations contribute to the following priorities in the County Plan: Reduce the amount of household waste per person (kg) per year and preparing for changes proposed in Resource and Waste Strategy for England 2018.

Environmental Impact

11. The findings and recommendations in this review support the council's [environmental policy commitments](#) in aiming to:
 - Make efficient use of natural resources
 - Minimise waste
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emission from our own activities and encourage reduction in partner organisations and those of the wider community
 - Raise awareness of, mitigate against, and adapt to climate change
 - Prevent and reduce pollution and protect our environment
 - Promote links between environmental sustainability, economic growth and wellbeing

12. It strongly supports the **County Plan's** ambitions for Herefordshire to:
 - Protect and enhance our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live
 - Support an economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources
13. The review makes recommendations to bring about a more sustainable circular economy where resources (materials) are kept in use for as long as possible. The recommendations (if enacted) will bring about the greatest positive impact for climate change of any initiative currently under consideration by Herefordshire Council. Furthermore the council waste management service are critical in supporting the County's economy, providing an essential service to businesses and other organisations, particularly small to medium sized enterprises, (SMEs).
14. The recommendations agreed by the committee will be sent to the executive. If agreed by the executive a full assessment of the Environmental Impact of implementing changes to our waste management service will be undertaken to be considered by Cabinet as the appropriate decision maker.

Equality duty

15. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
16. If the committee agrees with the findings of the task and finish group, the report will need to be considered by the executive and, depending on their decision, due regard will need to be given to the public sector equality duty.

Resource implications

17. The recommendations agreed by the committee will be sent to the executive. In considering their response an assessment of resource implications will be undertaken.

Legal implications

18. The functions of the general scrutiny committee include the powers to make reports or recommendations to the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive and to make reports or recommendations to council or the cabinet on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.

Risk management

19. The recommendations agreed by the committee will be sent to the executive. In considering its response the executive will need to assess any risks arising from the recommendations.

Consultees

20. None

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Report of the Task and Finish Group – Waste, a Strategic Review.
- Appendix 2 – Waste Collection Options Assessment 2019

Background papers

- None identified.