

## **Title of report: Executive response to the Waste Management Strategic Task and Finish Group Review**

**Decision maker:** Cabinet member commissioning, procurement and assets

**Decision date:** Thursday 22 April 2021

**Report by:** Head of environment, climate emergency and waste services, Waste operations team leader

### **Classification**

Open

### **Decision type**

Non-key

### **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

### **Purpose**

To approve the executive response to the report from the Task and Finish group review concerning the Waste Management Strategic Review.

The General Scrutiny committee made 23 recommendations

### **Recommendation(s)**

That:

- a) **The response to the General Scrutiny committee's recommendations regarding the task and finish group review concerning the Waste Management Strategic Review, as attached at appendix 1 is approved.**

### **Alternative options**

1. None proposed; it is a statutory requirement to provide a response to recommendations made by general scrutiny committee. It is open to the executive to accept, partially accept or reject a recommendation from scrutiny committee, should a recommendation not be accepted an explanation should be provided.

## Key considerations

2. In September 2020 the council's waste management task and finish group presented a report to the council's general scrutiny committee outlining the work that had reviewed the future of waste management options for Herefordshire. The report can be seen in appendix 2.
3. At the General Scrutiny meeting held on 28 September 2020, the following additional recommendations were included. That;
  - a. the Task and Finish Group report and all of its recommendations be approved, subject to including:
  - b. that, as part of the consultation process, there is clear explanation given as to why option one is not being put forward as an option;
  - c. the Waste Team continue to work with and lead the communications on each of the schemes to ensure public understanding for the preferred options is secured;
  - d. asking that the reuse of waste is brought forward as quickly as possible at our local household recycling centres;
4. Herefordshire Council is required to renew both its collection and disposal contracts by 2023. Currently the collection contract is worth £4m per year and the disposal contract is worth £11m per year.
5. Resource and Waste Strategy 2018

The Resource and Waste Strategy 2018 (RWS 2018) introduces a raft of measures to adopt a circular economy approach. It is a strategy for England reflecting already enacted policy changes in Scotland and Wales.

These include:

- Consistent recycling collections (all local authorities collecting the same materials)
  - Compulsory weekly food waste collection
  - Separate garden waste collection
  - Initiatives to encourage urban recycling
6. The Environment Bill is currently progressing through Parliament and is expected to make significant changes to environmental legislation. Whilst there are currently no proposed targets within the bill we anticipate the following targets as these are consistent with the EU Circular Economy Package (EU-CEP):
    - A preparation for re-use and recycling (including composting/anaerobic digestion) target of 55% of municipal waste by 2025;
    - A preparation for re-use and recycling (including composting/anaerobic digestion) target of 60% of municipal waste by 2030;

- A preparation for re-use and recycling (including composting/anaerobic digestion) target of 65% of municipal waste by 2035 (RWS 2018 Target);
- A gradual limitation on landfilling of municipal waste, to 10% by 2035

## **Community impact**

7. 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.
8. The executive response to the report supports the County Plan (2020-24) priorities:
  - Protect and enhance our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live
  - Minimise waste and increase reuse, repair and recycling
  - Build understanding and support for sustainable living
  - Invest in low carbon projects
  - Identify climate change action in all aspects of council operation
  - Support an economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources;
  - Seek strong stewardship of the county's natural resource
  - Develop environmentally sound infrastructure that attracts investment
  - Support an economy which builds on the county's strengths and resources and spend public money in the local economy wherever possible

## **Environmental Impact**

9. A key objective of the task and finish group is to ensure the council's future waste management services reflect the ambition set out in the declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency.
10. Herefordshire Council provides and purchases a wide range of services for the people of Herefordshire. Together with partner organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors we share a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.
11. Consideration of the environmental impacts has been fundamental to the executive response which seeks to minimise waste, carbon emissions, increase reuse and to maximise recycling rates.

12. Further consideration to minimise the environmental impact of the service will be integral to the subsequent service design of the preferred waste management service. Here the future commissioning will include appropriate requirements on the contractor/delivery partner to minimise waste, reduce energy and carbon emissions and maximise recycling. This will be managed and reported through the future contract management arrangements.

## **Equality duty**

13. 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-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
14. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. For the recommendations that related to back office functions, we do not believe that it will have an impact on our equality duty. Where the recommendations relate to our providers they will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation.
  15. If approved by the executive, a further decision will be taken by Cabinet for the preferred waste collection model and to agree the implementation plan for the new waste management service with development of a Waste Management Plan, therefore due regard will need to be given to the public sector equality duty within these reports and plans.

## **Resource implications**

16. On 5 February 2021 the Cabinet member commissioning, procurement and assets approved a resourcing plan to take forward and implement the waste management review. This decision was informed by the recommendations of the task and finish group and allocated £821,000 from the dedicated waste reserve for:
  - The creation of a new Waste Transformation team comprising four temporary new posts;

- A budget allocation of £250,000 to enable the Waste Transformation team to procure waste management options appraisals, specialist procurement advice and specialist technical advice as required;
- And to authorise expenditure up to the value of £60,000 to jointly undertake market research, engagement and assessments, waste flow analysis and to further explore joint working opportunities to extend the existing waste partnership with Worcestershire County Council.
- <https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7589>

17. Where there are additional cost implications as a result of these recommendations they have been identified in the table below. All other actions will be met from existing budgets.
18. Where further decisions are required upon completion of the recommendations, these decisions will consider any resource requirements in future reports.
19. Existing resources within the Waste Management Team have been reduced therefore the possibilities for carrying out additional work within the existing contracts and under current circumstances are limited.

Recommendation Number	Recommendation regards	Resource Implication
2	The council allocates resource to prevent waste from households, restricting residual capacity and investing in waste prevention campaigns and home & community composting initiatives.	Creation of Waste Communications Officer Post funded from the waste reserve. £118,500 over 3 years
6	The council allocates resource to provide effective communication initiatives with residents and businesses to promote proper use of the service and to help maximise waste reduction, reuse and recycling.	
7	The council designs new services to expand reuse opportunities through both the household collection service and the Household Recycling Centres. Existing opportunities to extract reusable materials are explored and implemented.	
11	The council will ensure it provides value for money to the taxpayer by undertaking a detailed business case on preferred service options as part of any commissioning process encompassing the best approach to achieve cost effective services that provide value for money to the taxpayer.	Professional Fee Budget for technical Expertise allocated from the waste reserve. £250,000
15	The council commissions work to understand what changes to its disposal service will be required to best manage the materials arising from the waste collection service options.	
17	The council should seek to agree an approach with Worcestershire County Council on how their joint Energy from Waste (EFW) facility will be managed and operated to the mutual benefit of both councils on expiry or extension of existing arrangements.	

18	Waste Management Team is augmented with required staff and resource to plan, commission and implement new services and manage our new arrangements.	Expenditure up to the value of £821,000 to fund temporary staff, technical expertise and future joint working opportunities allocated from the waste reserve.  This includes the £118,500 and £250,000 set out above.
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## Legal implications

20. Any recommendations or proposals made by general scrutiny committee to cabinet on a matter require by statute a response from cabinet whether that be to accept, partially accept or reject a recommendation. This decision is an executive one and is a non-key decision. It is in response to the council's waste management task and finish group report in September 2020.
21. There are no legal implications or considerations in doing what is proposed.

## Risk management

22. There are no risks associated with agreeing the content of this report as the Executive response provides information and indicates how the work is being taken forward.

## Consultees

23. None

## Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Executive response to the Waste Management Strategic Task and Finish Group Review
- Appendix 2 - General Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group report – waste management strategic review

## Background papers

- None identified