

# **Title of report: Executive Response to Recommendations Made by Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Regarding Waste and Recycling**

**Decision maker: Cabinet Member Environment**

**Decision date:**

**Report by:** Head of Environment, Climate Emergency and Waste Services

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

Non-key

## **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

## **Purpose**

To approve the executive response to the report from the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee regarding Waste and Recycling.

## **Recommendation(s)**

**That:**

- a) **The response to the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee's recommendations regarding Waste and Recycling, as attached at appendix 1 is approved.**

## **Alternative options**

1. None proposed; it is a Constitutional requirement to provide a response to recommendations made by Environment and Sustainability 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. At the General Scrutiny meeting held on 28 September 2020, additional recommendations were included.
3. On 19 January 2023 Environment and Sustainability Committee considered an update on the Waste Management Review and the Committee made 8 recommendations. This report provides the executive response to those recommendations. The detailed response to each recommendations is found in Appendix 1 of this report.
4. On 25 November 2021, Cabinet approved the adoption of the three weekly residual collections with twin stream recycling service in line with the outcome of a public consultation.
5. In November 2022 the Council commenced a Competitive Dialogue procurement exercise for the new contract. The new contract duration is for an initial 8 years term with an option to extend by up to a further 12 years.
6. On 5 October 2023, Cabinet approved the continuation of the procurement process for the new waste collection contract under the existing collection model and for a phased introduction of the new collection model to be introduced at the appropriate time, subject to funding, legal responsibilities and approved business case(s).
7. On 25 January 2024, Cabinet delegated authority to award the new waste collection contract subject to the successful completion of the procurement process.
8. The new contract was awarded in February 2024.

## Community impact

9. The resulting improvements from these recommendations will contribute towards the 'Environment' ambition of our County Plan (2020 – 2024) specifically the 'Minimise waste and increase reuse, repair and recycling' ambition.

## Environmental Impact

10. The council seeks to treat waste as a resource, supporting a more circular economy for Herefordshire reducing, reusing and recycling materials so that they stay in use for longer, offsetting use of raw materials and reducing carbon emissions.
11. This decision seeks to deliver the Council's environmental policy commitments and aligns to the following success measures in the County Plan;
  - Reduce the council's carbon emissions; and
  - Work in partnership with others to reduce county carbon emissions.
12. This decision supports the commitments outlined in the Council's Environmental policy and Integrated Waste Management Strategy.
  - a. <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/23473/integrated-waste-management-strategy-2021-2035>
  - b. <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/directory-record/4848/environmental-policy>

## **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 –

- 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.
14. Environmental inequalities tend to disproportionately adversely impact areas of deprivation and those with lower household income<sup>1</sup>. This decision supports the commitments outlined in the Council's Environmental policy which are outlined in paragraph 12.
15. 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. Our providers will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation.

## **Resource implications**

16. There are no resource implications associated with agreeing the content of this report as the Executive response provides information and indicates how the work is being taken forward. Where further decisions are required upon completion of the recommendations, any resource requirements will be considered in future reports.

## **Legal implications**

17. The outcome of scrutiny reports requires a cabinet or individual cabinet member response within 2 months of receipt (paragraph 4.5.49 of the Constitution). Where a response requires an extension then this is permitted provided an interim report explaining the reason necessitating the extension is made.

## **Risk management**

18. 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**

19. None.

## **Appendices**

20. Appendix 1 - Waste and recycling: recommendations to the executive and executive responses

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-of-the-environment/the-state-of-the-environment-the-urban-environment>

## Background papers

21. None identified.

## Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

Please note this section must be completed before the report can be published		
Governance	John Coleman	Date 08/02/2024
Finance	Karen Morris	Date 14/03/2024
	Judith Tranmer	Date 14/03/2024
Legal	Sean O'Connor	Date 14/03/2024
Communications	Rory O'Rafferty	Date 14/03/2024
Equality Duty	Harriet Yellin	Date 14/03/2024
Procurement	Carrie Christopher	Date 14/03/2024
Risk	Kevin Lloyd	Date 05/02/2024
Approved by	Ross Cook	Date 18/03/2024

**Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.**