

<b>Report title</b>	Waste Strategy 2018-2028	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Steve Evans City Environment	
<b>Corporate Plan priority</b>	Confident Capable Council	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Tim Johnson, Deputy Managing Director and Strategic Director, Place	
<b>Originating service</b>	Waste Services	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Ross Cook Tel Email	Service Director - City Environment 01902 552368 <a href="mailto:ross.cook@wolverhampton.gov.uk">ross.cook@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report has been considered by</b>	Directorate Leadership Team Strategic Executive Board	30 April 2018 8 May 2018

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**Recommendation for decision:**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the City of Wolverhampton Council Waste Strategy 2018-2028.

**Recommendation for noting:**

The Cabinet is recommended to note:

1. That the Waste Strategy is subject to any legislative changes, consultation outcomes and financial constraints that may impact on the future methodology.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The challenges facing waste management are increasing year on year, the Council is shaping its service requirements to be efficient and effective whilst meeting its legislative, financial and operational responsibilities.
- 1.2 The development and subsequent implementation of the Waste Strategy over the next ten years will ensure the timely provision of facilities and services that maximise the sustainable benefits for the community and support regeneration and growth in the City.
- 1.3 Key to these outcomes have been our decisions to:
  - a. Internally deliver the waste and recycling collections and Household Waste Recycling Centre services from September 2018
  - b. Move to alternate week collections for general waste
  - c. Improve the Household Waste Recycling Centres
  - d. Achieve the target of 50% recycling by March 2020
  - e. Commence a major project to develop and deliver waste management facilities
  - f. Consolidate our collection and support operations onto a single site.
- 1.4 The Council is well placed to meet the challenges ahead and in doing so will provide the best possible platform for future generations to build on.
- 1.5 The Council is required under The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 to develop a management plan/ strategy which outlines how it manages municipal waste.
- 1.6 The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 also require the council undertake an assessment to ensure that recyclate are collected separately where it is Technically, Environmentally, Economically and Practical (TEEP) to do so. This Strategy will seek to find the best solutions as currently it is not cost effective to collect the materials separately.
- 1.7 The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010 govern the acceptable nature and associated levels of residuals elements produced as a result of the processes within the Energy from Waste Plant, there is an expectation that these levels will be reduced in 2018 and the council will account for any changes within the Strategy.
- 1.8 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 require an assessment and consultation process when making plans for matters such as waste management. Whilst a number of formal decisions on service changes were taken in February 2017, we will publish the Strategy and throughout the solutions development we will consult with the various statutory and non-statutory stakeholders so as to ensure we account for all responses. We are not able to define exactly what we are proposing until we investigate, evaluate and determine the best overall solution which is programmed to take place over the next two years.

- 1.9 The Government has recently published its 25 year Environment Plan, the main areas requiring evaluation in our Strategy are to achieve zero avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042, including the review of the regulations regarding packaging, to improve the management of residual waste by having zero avoidable waste by 2050, a review of household recycling systems and to continue to meet all previously published targets for waste all of which will be underpinned by a Resources and Waste Strategy due in 2018.
- 1.10 The Government's view on Waste from Energy is less clear but it does recognise its recovery role in the waste hierarchy, it is hoped that clarity will be provided in the Resources and Waste Strategy later this year.
- 1.11 City of Wolverhampton Council is a Unitary Authority, which means that it is responsible for both the collection and disposal of household waste.
- 1.12 The Strategy accounts for the Council's decision in February 2017 to change the collection and recycling service models and will address the significant changes in respect of our waste disposal operations because of the end of the contract in February 2023.
- 1.13 The Strategy is the Council's approach to waste management for the next ten years which affects the whole City and as such is a key decision.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 All manufacturers, processors, recyclers and local authorities operate within the Waste Hierarchy. It commences with prevention (avoidance) then minimisation, then reuse, then recycling and composting, then recovery and finally disposal.
- 2.2 As a local authority we have little or no control or impact on the first elements other than to vocally support the programmes for reducing the packaging and "single use" products used in daily life.
- 2.3 Our main interfaces with the Waste Hierarchy begin at the recycling and composting stage. In recent years we have introduced city wide door to door services for dry recycling products and garden waste.
- 2.4 We collect approximately 23,000 tonnes of dry recyclate and 20,000 tonnes of garden waste for reprocessing or composting.
- 2.5 We have agreed to introduce alternate week general waste collections commencing in 2018 to support on continued efforts to improve recycling rates.
- 2.6 We process 54,000 tonnes of general waste and 11,000 tonnes of trade waste emanating from the City through the Energy from Waste plant which generates approximately 54,000 kwh of electricity and over 18,000 tonnes of bottom ash which is then treated and used in highways and other building materials.
- 2.7 The Energy from Waste Plant processes 110,000 tonnes per year and we have commercial contracts in place to ensure the plant operates at full capacity.

- 2.8 We are fortunate to have the infrastructure to manage our waste without the reliance on landfill, less than 5% of our current waste requires landfilling and our future arrangements will seek to protect and where possible improve on the current achievement.
- 2.9 The waste transfer station used in support of the dry recycling collection service is insufficient for future use and will be reviewed with a view to provide a more suitable facility.
- 2.10 The Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) will also be reviewed to meet future requirements.

### **3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.**

- 3.1 Whilst this strategy looks mainly at our delivery of waste and recycling services for the next ten years, we always have an eye to the future and acknowledge that our longer-term visions post 2028 is to ultimately achieve a 'zero waste' city status and in doing so align with the circular economy model.
- 3.2 This begins with protecting natural resources then through to minimising landfill waste thereby complimenting and enhancing on the existing Waste Hierarchy model. While this is a longer-term aspiration to deliver we will start to achieve this within this lifecycle of the strategy.
- 3.3 We will be targeting our recycling rate to be above 50% by March 2020 through a city-wide programme of capital and revenue investment supporting initiatives and actions through continuous community engagement.
- 3.4 We will continuously strive year on year to improve our recycling and recovery rates to the highest practical and possible levels through investment in facilities and vehicles.
- 3.5 The waste recovery and energy production contract is due for replacement in 2023 and we have an extensive programme to establish our requirements for the foreseeable future and to secure the required outcomes.
- 3.6 The priority will be to ensure that where waste requires treatment then we will recover energy from that process and maximise the value of its contribution to reducing the council's costs and any reliance on landfill.
- 3.7 Early indications suggest significant capital investment will be required to deliver all the new facilities required over the next ten years.
- 3.8 We will undertake a detailed review to establish how best to deliver those facilities by 2020.
- 3.9 The attached appendix is the proposed Strategy and subject to approval it will then be designed and reformatted into an acceptable corporate publication.

#### **4.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 4.1 The Council agreed to the collection service changes in February 2017 and these will be implemented during 2018-2019 financial year.
- 4.2 The Council will over the next two years investigate, evaluate, consult and recommend the best overall solutions for its waste disposal functions. These options will be presented to council for approval at the appropriate time.

#### **5.0 Reasons for decisions**

- 5.1 The management of waste is a key Council service and this strategy will provide the framework for determining decisions and application of solutions over the next ten years and as such is a key strategic document affecting all communities in the City and its wider partners.

#### **6.0 Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 To facilitate changes to the collection and recycling service models, as referenced in paragraph 3.3, one off revenue investment in the region of £1.5 million and capital investment of £500,000 were approved by Cabinet (Resources) Panel on the 13 September 2016 and Cabinet on 30 November 2016 respectively. Both sums are reflected accordingly within the current Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme.
- 6.3 Early indications suggest significant capital investment will be required to deliver any new facilities required over the next ten years. These investment requirements, as referenced in paragraph 3.7, will be in accordance with existing governance processes and subject of future reports to Councillors for approval.

[TT/25052018/X]

#### **7.0 Legal implications**

- 7.1 The legal requirements on the Council in respect of waste are summarised in section 1 of this report. The strategy set out in the annex is designed to ensure that the Council meets these requirements

If the Council is required to enter into any specific contracts or agreements in order to implement the strategy authority will be required in accordance with the Council's Constitution and relevant legislation. Advice will probably be taken from legal colleagues but accountability for appreciating and detailing the legal implications remains with the accountable officer(s).

[TS/25052018/Q]

## **8.0 Equalities implications**

- 8.1 A full equalities analysis will be undertaken at the earliest point once future options have been identified for further evaluation and consideration.

## **9.0 Environmental implications**

- 9.1 Waste Management is subject to significant legislation and as such all of the current and future options will be provided within the permitted regulations and standards.

## **10.0 Human resources implications**

- 10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report, any changes to staffing requirements as a result of the future options will be reported at the appropriate time.

## **11.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 11.1 The services operate several council owned sites and any changes to their use will be agreed with the corporate landlord.

## **12.0 Appendices**

Appendix 1 - The City of Wolverhampton Council Waste Strategy 2018-2028