

Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel

08 December 2016

Report title	Waste and Recycling Strategy Consultation	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Steve Evans Environment	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Ross Cook, City Environment	
Originating service	Public Protection	
Accountable employee(s)	Andy Jervis Tel Email	Head of Public Protection 01902 551261 andy.jervis@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Place Leadership Team: Ongoing item SEB: Ongoing item	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

1. Consider and provide views and comments on the options for the reconfiguration of the waste and recycling service as presented as part of the Council's budget consultation exercise.

Recommendations for noting:

The Panel is asked to note:

1. The progress toward the development of a new Waste Strategy for the City.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the options for the reconfiguration of the waste and recycling service to achieve Council savings targets and identify opportunities to address some of the issues affecting performance of the waste services in recent years.
- 1.2 Scrutiny Panel is invited to consider the options, as contained in the public consultation, for a revised service and provide views and comments to the review team.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council's waste management and recycling service is supplied by an external partner, Amey, under the terms of a 14 year public-private partnership agreement expiring in 2021/22.
- 2.2 The Council has substantial savings, either incorporated into the medium term financial strategy (MTFS) or subject to scrutiny and consultation, for the reconfiguration of the waste service totalling £2.4 million for service re-configuration, and £500,000 for depot rationalisation.
- 2.3 In addition, the service is also facing complex mix of pressures that are summarised below:
 - i. the need to meet the requirements of the EU Waste Framework Directive 2008 (WFD) and the implications for existing recycling collection methods;
 - ii. the need to maintain and improve recycling rates and engage residents more, at a time when recycling rates are flat-lining in many areas of the UK;
 - iii. the need to respond to the shift in emphasis from quantity as the main measure of performance to the quality of recyclates collected;
 - iv. a divergence of policy preferences on the frequency of residual waste collections
- 2.4 The waste service is highly complex with inter-relationships between multiple waste streams, legislative requirements and fleet management as well as being highly visible to residents. Many different waste management and recycling solutions have been adopted by other waste authorities and there is no single "one size fits all" solution. Examples of approaches adopted by other authorities include:
 - Weekly, fortnightly or three weekly residual waste collections
 - Chargeable green waste collection
 - Food waste collected/ not collected
 - Recyclate types collected comingled, dual, multiple
 - Variations in work shift and collection patterns (e.g. four on/four off, double day shifts)
- 2.5 The 2015 report "Waste on the Front Line – Challenges and Innovations" commissioned by the Chartered Institute of Wastes Management (CIWM) identified the need to think strategically and holistically when planning for changes to waste services.

Otherwise services can be “left disjointed and could result in increased levels of litter and fly tipping, with associated effects on health, investment, general prosperity and social attitudes about how you value where you live”.

2.7 The waste service is a key user of various council sites and depots across the city. Better utilisation and potential disposals of some of these sites would aid the regeneration of key areas of the city. However the requirement of the waste service for facilities in the future cannot be determined without a clear and comprehensive strategy.

3.0 Progress, options and discussion.

3.1 Against this background, options for a reconfigured service to achieve savings targets and identify opportunities to address some of the issues affecting performance of the waste services in recent years have been developed over the summer and early autumn of 2016. Currently, the options for consideration are:-

- Cessation of food waste collection
- Reducing the frequency of residual waste collections from weekly to fortnightly or every three weeks
- Availability of a larger residual waste bin if required
- Improvements to existing bulky waste service
- Provision of a paid for garden waste service to replace the current free service
- Support to communities and families to help them recycle more
- Development of improved Household Waste Recycling Centre facilities to include:
 - Paid for trade waste disposal service
 - A re-use shop for discarded household items
 - Extended opening hours
 - User friendly configuration of a new site to improve traffic flow and reduce queuing etc

3.2 Specific questions about the possible impact and implications arising from these options are included in the Council’s budget consultation exercise which runs for 12 weeks from 24 October 2016 until 13 January 2017.

3.3 The presentation accompanying this report is intended to provide Scrutiny Panel with an overview of the option proposals and give panel members the opportunity to challenge and comment on them.

3.4 Panel feedback will be valuable and will be used to inform the final proposals which will be considered by Cabinet at its February meeting.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are significant budget reductions and income generation targets linked to the transformation of the waste service totalling £2.9 million due to be achieved by 2018/19. The most recent budget reduction and income generation targets for 2017/18 were presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 20 July 2016 and was further developed for inclusion in the draft budget report presented to Cabinet in October 2016 seeking approval to proceed to the formal consultation and scrutiny stages of the budget process
- 4.2 Financial modelling on the possible alternatives outlined in section 3 of this report have indicated that full year savings in the region of £2.4 million could be achieved, this would deliver the savings target for the revised waste collection service. A mid 2017 implementation date is planned therefore it is anticipated that a part year saving for 2017/18 could be achieved. Further to this, it is important to note, that these figures are subject to verification from Amey. There is therefore a risk to implementation which could further reduce the level of saving that could be delivered in 2017/18.
[TT/26102016/Z]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 In order to achieve the variations to the service, the Council must observe formal processes setting out the variations required. Amey must then provide an estimate based on the information provided. The Council and Amey must then negotiate to agree the variation to the service and the costs involved.
- 5.2 This legal process may take some time to resolve. Although it cannot be formally begun until the Council serves a notice under the contract, the Council may have informal discussions and correspondence with Amey. Any change to the contractual specification would be subject to negotiation and the time required to reach a conclusion will depend on the variation the Council requires.
[TS/24102016/W]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 An equalities analysis (EA) is being undertaken in order to assess the impact of the options being considered on equalities issues. Details of the findings of the EA will be available at the end of the consultation period.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 There may be environmental implications associated with the options covered by the presentation. These will be addressed at specific points in the discussions, however it is anticipated there will be improvements associated with the reduction in numbers of bins left on streets and those 'contaminated' with incorrect waste. There have been concerns raised about the possibility of increased fly-tipping of green waste and rodent activity, however there is no evidence from other areas that have previously implemented similar changes that these concerns will be realised.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There may be human resource implications associated with the options covered by the presentation. These will be addressed at specific points in the discussions.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no direct corporate landlord implications arising from this report. Once the preferred option has been identified, it will be possible to review the capacity and operations of the existing waste management facilities used by the service.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 Reports to Cabinet: 23/03/2016 - Waste and Recycling Strategy
- 10.2 Budget Review – Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20 report to Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel, 1 December 2016