
UPDATE TO THE RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Reason for the Report

1. A report titled 'Update to the Recycling & Waste Management Strategy' is due to be received at the Cabinet meeting on the 17th May 2018. The report will deal with decisions required to progress components of the Recycling Waste Management Strategy 2015-18, and update the Strategy for the next 3 years.

Background

2. Cardiff is Britain's best performing Core City for recycling. Driving recycling rates, improving operational efficiencies and reducing service costs continue to be priorities for the Council. The Council will therefore update the Recycling Waste Management Strategy 2015-18 to respond to the reduce, reuse recycling and waste challenge.
3. This is in the context of demanding recycling targets, where statutory recycling targets impose a £200 per tonne penalty for failure. If the Council does not increase the recycling performance year on year, the annual fines could quickly escalate to excess of £3.5million by 2020. If the Council stays at 60%, recycling fines could total and grow to over £10.45m by 2025.
4. Global recycling markets are also having an impact on the cost efficiency of local Waste and Recycling services. Since approving the Strategy in 2015, the recycling markets have seen a decrease in market values alongside an increase in quality demands for recycled materials. This places increased pressure on the Council to

improve the quality of separation and clean materials from both the kerbside and materials recycling facilities.

Update to the Recycling and Waste Strategy

5. The updated strategy will build on the current Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2015-2018 and will outline the planned changes to drive forward the next phase of the Council's recycling delivery. It is designed to meet the Council's statutory obligations.
6. The legislative context of recycling and sustainability in Wales aligns with the commitments made in the Council's Capital Ambition document. It places great value on recycling education, cleaner streets and community partnerships to drive sustainable attitudes and behaviours. These are of key importance in the updated strategy.
7. The Council is subject to a wide range of legislation relating to recycling, waste treatment and disposal. The key principles of this legislation are to deliver waste minimisation, increased recycling and address a broad range of statutory obligations. The core legislative drivers referenced in the Cabinet report are:
 - Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) regulations 2012;
 - The Landfill Allowances Scheme (Wales) Regulations 2004 for the disposal of biodegradable waste;
 - Waste (Wales) Measure 2010;
 - Recycling, Preparation for Re-use and Composting Targets (Definitions) (Wales) Order 2011 and Regulations 4 and 5 of The Recycling, Preparation for Re-use and Composting Targets (Monitoring and Penalties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 for recycling performance targets.
8. To meet the legislative requirements the Council must move from achieving 60% recycling to at least 64% in the next two years and to 70% by 2024/25. This means that at least a further 20,000 tonnes is required to be recovered to meet those targets. While the city grows so does the volume of discarded items from householders. These proposals explain where the performance is required to

improve and how the Council plans to help residents, business and its services to deliver those changes.

9. The Council remains committed to take preventative measures to ensure future recycling targets are secured and cost efficiencies maximised. The updated strategy tests the Council's compliance with the duties to collect recyclable materials separately while being cost effective and obtaining high quality recycling.
10. The report will also outline the Council's current progression against recycling performance in a Welsh and United Kingdom context. It also looks at the areas of recycling potential and the areas of focus to improve the recycling yields across the various waste streams to achieve the required increased performance. The strategy will set out the main areas where recycling remains available and should be targeted and explains how 70% and a further 20,000 tonnes of recovered recycling can be achieved.
11. A gap analysis undertaken on the 2015-18 recycling strategy helps to inform next steps. Any areas identified that are not progressing in line with the previous strategy are being reconsidered, and brought forward as part of a new Strategy. Also for context, an updated strategy will focus on how the Council performs against a range of measures to demonstrate how the Council continues to work towards the Welsh Government 'Collections Blueprint.'

Consultation & Engagement

12. Consultation is important for all service changes and has been key in shaping change since the first Recycling Strategy set out new services in 2001. Further tailored consultation will be undertaken on the key changes proposed as part of the strategy update.
13. The Strategy update will also take account of the relevant Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) that considers all the elements that plan to be carried out in the next three years.
14. Environmental Scrutiny Committee will consider and review the various elements of the strategy and supporting appendices over the coming months.

Way Forward

15. The Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment and officers from the Planning, Transport & Environment Directorate have been invited to provide a presentation on the item and answer any questions that Members may have.

Legal Implications

16. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

17. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Note the contents of the report and pass on to the Cabinet any comments, observations or recommendations that they might have.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance & Legal Services

12 APRIL 2018