
RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

Reason for the Report

1. To provide Members with a progress update on the changes being applied to Cardiff's Waste Management Strategy. This follows on from a scrutiny item that looked at a Cabinet paper titled 'Recycling & Waste Management Strategy – Delivery Plan Requirements 2018 – 2021' on the 15 May 2018. For reference, copies of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee cover report and Cabinet papers are attached to this report as **Appendices 1 & 2** respectively.

2. When considering this report the Committee should reflect on the comments of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee from 15 May 2018, the decisions taken by Cabinet on the 17 May 2018 and other factors that have since emerged that will have an impact on the development of Cardiff's Recycling & Waste Management Strategy. These include:
 - The Recycling & Waste Management Strategy related comments and observations contained within the Environmental Scrutiny Committee letter sent to Councillor Michael and his response following the meeting on the 15 May 2018 – attached to this report as **Appendices 3 & 4**;
 - The further expansion of the provision of wheeled bins in the city;
 - The provision of Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) education stations;
 - The pilot scheme for the collection of domestic glass waste for recycling, separate to other household waste collections;
 - The results of the citywide consultation for the Recycling & Waste Management Strategy 2018-21 – this included sections on the key change proposals in the

draft strategy, new infrastructure requirements, service standards and other proposals to help meet statutory targets for recycling;

- The ongoing work to develop the Council's approach to the management of single use plastics.

Background

3. A report titled 'Recycling & Waste Management Strategy – Delivery Plan Requirements 2018 to 2021' was received at the Cabinet meeting on the 17 May 2018 (papers attached as **Appendix 2**). The report dealt with decisions required to progress components of the Recycling Waste Management Strategy 2015-18, and update the strategy for the next three years.
4. As part of the delivery of the Recycling Waste Management Strategy 2015-18, and in preparation for an updated strategy, the report sought approval for:
 - The expansion of the provision of wheeled bins in the city;
 - Proposed changes to Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) education stations;
 - A pilot scheme for the collection of domestic glass waste for recycling, which is separate to other household waste collections; and,
 - Consultation on a 'Draft Recycling & Waste Management Strategy 2018-21', as well as the future infrastructure, partners and service standards required to meet statutory Welsh Government targets for recycling.
5. Cardiff is currently 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 is, therefore, in the process of updating the Recycling Waste Management Strategy 2015-18 to respond to the reduce, reuse and recycle waste challenge.
6. Delivering this change 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.

7. 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 & Waste Strategy

8. It is hoped that the updated strategy will build on the current Recycling & Waste Management Strategy 2015-2018 and outline the planned changes to drive forward the next phase of the Council's recycling delivery. It will be designed to meet the Council's statutory obligations.
9. 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. It is anticipated that these will be of key importance in the updated strategy.
10. 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 relevant to 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.

11. 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. The 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.
12. 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.
13. The report looks at the areas of recycling potential to focus upon to improve the recycling yields across the various waste streams; this it is hoped will help to achieve improved performance. The strategy will set out the main areas where additional recycling is available and how this can be targeted. It also explains how a 70% recycling rate can be achieved by recovering a further 20,000 tonnes of recyclate.

Cabinet Report – Recycling & Waste Management Strategy – Delivery Plan Requirements 2018 to 2021

14. The papers for the Cabinet item titled 'Recycling & Waste Management Strategy – Delivery Plan Requirements 2018 to 2021' are attached to this report as **Appendix 2** – this includes the 'Draft Recycling & Waste Management Strategy 2018 to 2021'.
15. The 'Draft Recycling & Waste Management Strategy 2018 to 2021' includes six appendices, these are listed below and individually cover the main aspects of the strategy:
 - **Appendix A1:** Separate Collection of Glass;
 - **Appendix A2:** Wheeled Bin Expansion;
 - **Appendix A3:** Minimisation, Education, Reuse and HWRC's;
 - **Appendix A4:** Planning Ahead – Infrastructure and Partners;
 - **Appendix A5:** Service Standards;
 - **Appendix A6:** Recycling Performance.

16. In addition to Appendices A1 to A6 the 'Draft Recycling & Waste Management Strategy 2018 to 2021' was supported by three further appendices that are contained within **Appendix 2** and are referenced below as:

- **Appendix B** – Gap Analysis;
- **Appendix C** – Compliance with Welsh Government Collections Blueprint;
- **Appendix D** – Equality Impact Assessments & Screening Tool.

Recycling & Waste Management Strategy – Consultation

17. To support the development of the Recycling & Waste Management Strategy the Council commissioned the Waste Strategy Consultation. This featured a survey that ran between July and September 2018. The survey was completed by 1,986 respondents and focused on the following areas:

- An assessment of how survey respondents currently engage with recycling and waste management services;
- Recycling & Food Waste Collections from Households;
- Increasing Recycling at Household Waste Recycling Centres;
- Ensuring efficient & cost effective recycling services;
- Planning ahead – recycling facilities and partnerships.

Cabinet Decision

18. After consideration of the Cabinet paper titled 'Recycling & Waste Management Strategy – Delivery Plan Requirements 2018 – 2021' (papers attached to this report as **Appendix 2**) the Cabinet resolved that the following decisions were taken:

1. *As set out in the Recycling Waste Management Strategy 2015-18:*
 - a) *the further expansion of the provision of wheeled bins as set out in Appendix A2 to the report be approved;*
 - b) *the provision of Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) education stations be approved; and,*

- c) a pilot scheme for the collection of domestic glass waste for recycling, separate to other household waste collections be approved.*
- 2. The undertaking of citywide consultation on the draft Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2018-21, including key change proposals in the draft strategy, new infrastructure requirements, service standards and other proposals raised in this report be approved.*
 - 3. The undertaking of an independent recycling waste review, which will assist in ensuring that all aspects of the draft Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2018-21 are progressive and robust be approved.*
 - 4. Agreement be given to exploring regional collaboration, alongside the Welsh Government, on the development of an initial outline business case and options appraisal for the proposed development of a regional recycling facility.*
 - 5. A further report be received following consultation and by the end of the 2018/19 financial year, which will consider the potential wider roll out of separate glass waste collections and a final version of the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2018-21 for approval.*

Way Forward

19. This item will be supported by officers from the Planning, Transport & Environment Directorate. Any feedback, comments or observations noted during the meeting may be discussed during the way forward and then included in a letter to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Legal Implications

20. 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

21. 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,
- ii. To consider future actions in relation to future scrutiny of this item.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance & Legal Services

31 October 2018