

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Waste Policy Working Group

Date: 6 September 2021

Author: Director of Environment, Communities and Leisure

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to set out the recommendations of the Waste Policy Working Group. The Working Group was established in line with the work planning cycle for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider forthcoming policies for the Council. This report outlines the process of the consideration of draft Waste Policy, the Working Group's findings and its recommendations.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision, however the subsequent decision in relation to the adoption of the policy by Cabinet will be key.

Recommendations

THAT:

- 1. Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the key findings of the Working Group in relation to Waste Policy and endorses the approach taken in consideration of the subject matter**
- 2. Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the findings of the working group for Waste Policy and recommends the draft Waste Policy to Cabinet for adoption**

1 Background

- 1.1 Gedling Borough Council has not previously set out and formally adopted a Waste Policy. This is being brought forward for consideration now in order to progress the stated ambitions of the Council, to formalise the approach and to address areas of underperformance in relation to recycling rates and contamination levels. An associated strategy is also being developed to set out the approach of the Council in terms of how the policy will be

delivered for residents, organisations and businesses in Gedling Borough within the national, regional and local context both through and with partners.

The Working Group invited participation at its meeting of 5th July 2021, and the membership was subsequently made up of the following Councillors who volunteered to take part:

- Cllr Liz Clunie (Chair)
- Cllr Andrew Ellwood
- Cllr Mike Hope
- Cllr Paul Wilkinson
- Cllr Paul Feeney
- Cllr Jim Creamer
- Cllr Michael Boyle
- Cllr Marje Paling

1.2 The Working Group agreed a terms of reference provided at Appendix 2 of this report. The terms of reference sought to consider a Waste Policy that provides a sustainable service that is fair and accessible to all and meets our recycling objectives as a Council.

1.3 The Working Group for Waste Policy agreed an approach and set out the meeting schedule of 3 meetings to consider the elements outlined below. The original approach to consider best practice nationally was adjusted to consider a local high performer within the Nottinghamshire County Council area, based on the rationale that the authority selected was working under the same County and contract conditions as Gedling Borough Council.

Meeting Date	Proposed Contents	Attendees
Monday 26th July 2021 at 4:30pm	Establish Issues 1. Performance Data 2. Meet a Supervisor 3. Elements of Waste Policy 4. Approach to Waste Policy Formulation	Supervisor Gedling Borough Council
Monday 9th August 2021 at 4:30pm	What Does Good Look Like? 1. LARAC overview of recycling / contamination 2. Technology use of microchipping for enforcement evidence – Research findings 3. Crew via video 4. Draft Policy sharing	Crew (video) LARAC CEO – Lee Marshall

Monday 23rd August 2021 at 4:30pm	Firming Up Draft Policy 1. Example of Excellent Recycling Rates - Notts 2. Example of Low Residual Tonnage - Notts 3. Draft Policy 4. Draft Report for Cabinet	Daryl Birch – Waste Operations Rushcliffe Borough Council
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- 1.4 The working group found that the following key elements that influenced the subsequent draft policy were critical to the development of a policy that is supportive of the key objectives of an efficient and effective waste service:
- Clarity of the responsibilities of householders in terms of “rules” for waste and recycling
 - Consistent communication through all channels was vital
 - Working with partners such as the County and District Councils and the contractor within the two-tier local government system was essential
 - Focus on the big issues within policy and link to enforcement
 - Clarity of the responsibilities of the Council in the delivery of the waste and recycling services
 - Options for enforcement actions relating to all elements of the policy
 - Commitment to the policy needs to be from the crews right through the layers of the organisation, with clear understanding
 - Options was the critical element of enforcement to provide the opportunity to be consistent and proportionate:
 - Educate and inform householders in simple clear messages containing the policy requirements in the first instance with clear communication
 - Ongoing communication and reminders were essential for householders with fortnightly information across communication channels to reinforce policy

- Options to take action where householders are not compliant to be focussed on the key issues of contamination in particular
- Cease treating contaminated bins as missed bins
- If a Garden Waste bin replacement is required due to customer damage, it will attract a fee. This fee will only apply if replacement due to resident damage or loss
- A replacement black (residual) bin will also attract a fee if due to loss or damage by a resident
- Ability to take enforcement action for the issue of vehicles blocking access to streets for the bin lorries and preventing collection of waste for whole streets

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the approach to the subject matter be endorsed, and that the draft Waste Policy be recommended to Cabinet for adoption at the October 2021 meeting.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 The alternative option would be not to recommend the draft policy to Cabinet. This is not recommended as it would not respond to the recognised need to increase recycling rates, reduce levels of contamination and decrease levels of residual waste in the Borough, in line with the Performance Reports received and considered by this Committee on a quarterly basis.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Any financial implications relating to proposed enforcement and other requirements associated with the Waste Policy will be set out in the forthcoming report to Cabinet and considered for inclusion in the Council's budget as part of the budget setting process for the 2022/23 financial year.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 A review of the draft Waste Policy has been undertaken. The relevant legislative framework is considered within the policy document.

- 5.2 **The Environmental Protection Act (1990)** - Deals with the protection of the environment and specifies responsibilities relating to litter and waste. The Act places a legal duty on local authorities to collect controlled waste and to recycle. The Act also provides enforcement powers in respect of how waste is presented by householders

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 It is noted that an equality impact assessment will be required for the Waste Policy prior to consideration by Cabinet. The service offers a range of assistance in terms of householder responsibility for waste disposal. This ranges from an assisted pull out to options to receive communication materials in a range of formats, to ensure services are inclusive.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 The Waste Policy supports the efficient collection of waste which supports the carbon reduction agenda through minimisation of journeys by the fleet.
- 7.2 The Waste Policy supports environmental sustainability through the stated aims of increasing recycling levels and reducing levels of contamination in recycling across the Borough.
- 7.3 The Waste Policy also supports environmental sustainability through the stated aim of reducing levels of residual waste per household.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Draft Waste Policy Gedling Borough Council 2021 (Separate Document)
- 8.2 Working Group Terms of Reference Waste Policy

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 The recommendation is based on the performance improvement requirements in the waste service, identified in the regular performance reports provided to Councillors and Portfolio Holders.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by: Paul Adcock

Date: 27/08/21

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by: Francesca Whyley

Date: 26/08/21

Monitoring Officer