

Item 08 – Waste & Recycling Strategy

The attached report was considered by the Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee on 11 November 2024. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee (11 November 2024, Minute 28)

The Head of Direct Services presented the report, which set out the new domestic waste and recycling strategy for the District. The draft strategy set out the proposed approach to managing waste and recycling collections in a more sustainable way, with the aim of reducing the environmental impact of waste in the District.

The officer advised that following Cabinet's recommendations the internal review was being undertaken, and explored service opportunities, costs and increasing recycling rates for new waste collection options that included food and glass, as the current collection system did not meet national recycling targets, nor was it in line with forthcoming legislation. The new strategy would include a glass and food waste collection.

In response to questions, the officer explained that the monitoring of the carbon footprint of the strategy was included in the Climate Change Action Plan. Cost saving had not been included as an objective of the strategy as it was intended to be a top-level document indicating the direction of the service, though cost savings were implicit within the strategy. Fixed targets had not been included as improvement in recycling was linked to funding from the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs and were set by government. The review of the service would work to the strategy objectives and establish costings, options, and further targets. All operational and logistical changes would be presented to Cabinet and the Advisory Committee for approval. Market research companies and a Member Working Group were being consulted to ensure the survey was appropriate. Work was ongoing regarding kerbside glass collection arrangements for converted flats.

Members discussed the report. They noted the importance of the public consultation to inform the delivery of the strategy. They further noted that the council's national standing in relation to recycling rates would improve once glass collection commenced. They raised the inclusion of value for money as an objective within the strategy, as waste collection was a significant expenditure for the council, but expressed that it should not undermine service provision. They were further concerned that some of the objectives, such as regulatory compliance, aimed too low, and expressed desire for the strategy to go beyond compliance. The officer advised members that the service was not currently compliant with occupational safety and manual handling legislation.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That

- a) Members comments on the proposed Waste and Recycling Strategy be noted and submitted to Cabinet for consideration;
- b) it be recommended to Cabinet that a public consultation on the delivery of the Waste and Recycling Strategy be approved, delegating responsibility to the Portfolio Holder for Cleaner & Greener to agree the survey approach and questions; and
- c) It be noted that a further report to Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee will be presented in March 2025 setting out options to deliver the Strategy, following the public consultation.