

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**24 APRIL 2008**

**REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT  
SELECT COMMITTEE**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Environment– Lead Cabinet Member –Councillor Mrs Beaumont**

#### **Review of Wastes Management and Recycling**

1. Summary

The attached report sets out the findings and recommendations from the Environment Select Committee's scrutiny review of Wastes Management and Recycling.

A comprehensive scrutiny review of waste management took place during 2004/05 which identified further work for the Select Committee to undertake including a review of the outcome of the kerbside plastics and cardboard recycling trial. In addition, there have been a number of national and local developments as well as stretching new national performance indicators.

The overall aim of the review was to achieve real improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of waste collection and disposal services and to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites, whilst maintaining or improving customer satisfaction in the service.

2. Recommendations

- (1) That the preferred means of 'recycling' is to sustain domestic kerbside sorting supplemented by bring sites already available in the Borough and the Household Waste Recycling Centre.
- (2) That a move be supported to extend the range of materials collected through the kerbside collection service Borough-wide by phased introduction of plastics and cardboard as quickly as possible; the precise details of the phasing to be determined by operational considerations however the trial areas should be included as early as possible.
- (3) That, as far as possible, the carbon impact of the use of items collected for recycling in the Borough is minimised.

(This recommendation is dependant upon operational capacity and funding availability to be determined by Cabinet)

- (4) That Officers investigate options for suitable containers to include:
  - Full option appraisal and extensive consultation (to include home sorting and storage centres)
  - Identification of appropriate solutions for individual areas recognising that different options may be suitable for different areas of the Borough

- Options of linking to design colleges, local manufacturing etc.

- (5) That the collection of 'side' waste is discontinued as soon as possible to dovetail with the expansion of the kerbside recycling service and that this be supported by education and enforcement activity.
- (6) That the provision of Community Skips is discontinued at the end of the current contract (March 2009) to further encourage the responsible disposal of waste in the Borough and that Officers investigate whether any changes can be made to the Bulky Waste collection payments system to make payments easier to make and the potential for occasional special community collections.
- (7) That the Local Development Framework and supporting development documents reflect the need to include sustainable Waste Management Obligations to ensure that any new developments contain appropriate waste and recycling facilities provision and storage and that planning officers are made aware of the importance of such facilities.
- (8) That the success of the consultation undertaken as part of this exercise and the ongoing public support for the waste collection service be acknowledged.
- (9) That the excellent award winning work and activities of the waste awareness service and on-street/door canvassing team be recognised whilst acknowledging that there is more targeted activity required on continued education and engagement to secure the long-term sustainability of wastes management.
- (10) That Officers prepare a waste awareness and education strategy to include recycling, waste reduction and responsible waste disposal, linked where appropriate to national campaigns; the campaign to target manufacturers and retailers and that Officers report proposals to the Environment Select Committee in 3 months.
- (11) That Officers explore options for funding through appropriate bodies such as the regional improvement partnership, WRAP, DEFRA, etc to deliver the waste awareness and education strategy.
- (12) That there is a review of the impact of the extended recycling scheme six months from its introduction to inform a Cabinet decision on any further changes to collection frequencies or other changes that may be necessary.
- (13) That the Committee recommends the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy – Implementation Plan to Cabinet for adoption/ approval.
- (14) That the Tees Valley Directors of Environment undertake a review into the developing options for dealing with food waste including a review into the operational and financial impacts of using appropriate new technologies.  
  
(The Select Committee wishes to offer support to this in any way it can and requests regular feedback on developments.)
- (15) That it be noted that the necessary changes will undoubtedly need workforce reconfiguration and that extensive consultation will be required in implementing new practices and procedures.

### 3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The topic was identified for review by the Scrutiny Liaison Forum at its meeting held in January 2007. A comprehensive scrutiny review of waste management took place during 2004/05 which identified further work for the Select Committee to undertake including a review of the outcome of the kerbside plastics and cardboard recycling trial. In addition, there have been a number of national and local developments, as well as stretching new national performance indicators, which made this review timely to complete.

#### 4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

**Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.**

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**24 APRIL 2008**

**REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT SELECT  
COMMITTEE**

**CABINET DECISION**

**Review of Wastes Management and Recycling**

**SUMMARY**

The attached report sets out the findings and recommendations from the Environment Select Committee's scrutiny review of Wastes Management and Recycling.

A comprehensive scrutiny review of waste management took place during 2004/05 which identified further work for the Select Committee to undertake including a review of the outcome of the kerbside plastics and cardboard recycling trial. In addition, there have been a number of national and local developments as well as stretching new national performance indicators.

The overall aim of the review was to achieve real improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of waste collection and disposal services and to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites, whilst maintaining or improving customer satisfaction in the service.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the preferred means of 'recycling' is to sustain domestic kerbside sorting supplemented by bring sites already available in the Borough and the Household Waste Recycling Centre.
- (2) That a move be supported to extend the range of materials collected through the kerbside collection service Borough-wide by phased introduction of plastics and cardboard as quickly as possible; the precise details of the phasing to be determined by operational considerations however the trial areas should be included as early as possible.
- (3) That, as far as possible, the carbon impact of the use of items collected for recycling in the Borough is minimised.

(This recommendation is dependant upon operational capacity and funding availability to be determined by Cabinet)

- (4) That Officers investigate options for suitable containers to include:
  - Full option appraisal and extensive consultation (to include home sorting and storage centres)
  - Identification of appropriate solutions for individual areas recognising that different options may be suitable for different areas of the Borough
  - Options of linking to design colleges, local manufacturing etc.

- (5) That the collection of 'side' waste is discontinued as soon as possible to dovetail with the expansion of the kerbside recycling service and that this be supported by education and enforcement activity.
- (6) That the provision of Community Skips is discontinued at the end of the current contract (March 2009) to further encourage the responsible disposal of waste in the Borough and that Officers investigate whether any changes can be made to the Bulky Waste collection payments system to make payments easier to make and the potential for occasional special community collections.
- (7) That the Local Development Framework and supporting development documents reflect the need to include sustainable Waste Management Obligations to ensure that any new developments contain appropriate waste and recycling facilities provision and storage and that planning officers are made aware of the importance of such facilities.
- (8) That the success of the consultation undertaken as part of this exercise and the ongoing public support for the waste collection service be acknowledged.
- (9) That the excellent award winning work and activities of the waste awareness service and on-street/door canvassing team be recognised whilst acknowledging that there is more targeted activity required on continued education and engagement to secure the long-term sustainability of wastes management.
- (10) That Officers prepare a waste awareness and education strategy to include recycling, waste reduction and responsible waste disposal, linked where appropriate to national campaigns; the campaign to target manufacturers and retailers and that Officers report proposals to the Environment Select Committee in 3 months.
- (11) That Officers explore options for funding through appropriate bodies such as the regional improvement partnership, WRAP, DEFRA, etc to deliver the waste awareness and education strategy.
- (12) That there is a review of the impact of the extended recycling scheme six months from its introduction to inform a Cabinet decision on any further changes to collection frequencies or other changes that may be necessary.
- (13) That the Committee recommends the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy – Implementation Plan to Cabinet for adoption/ approval.
- (14) That the Tees Valley Directors of Environment undertake a review into the developing options for dealing with food waste including a review into the operational and financial impacts of using appropriate new technologies.

(The Select Committee wishes to offer support to this in any way it can and requests regular feedback on developments.)

- (15) That it be noted that the necessary changes will undoubtedly need workforce reconfiguration and that extensive consultation will be required in implementing new practices and procedures.

## **DETAIL**

1. The attached report presents Cabinet with the findings of the review of Wastes Management and Recycling undertaken by the Environment Select Committee between November 2007 and March 2008. The overall aim of the review was to achieve real improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of waste collection and disposal services

and to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites, whilst maintaining or improving customer satisfaction in the service.

2. Following consideration by Cabinet, an Action Plan will be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations will be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications of each of the Waste Collection and Disposal options are identified at **Appendix 2** to the report. As the options are developed further into preferred policies, these will be subject to the availability of resources and other sources of external funding that will require further reports to Cabinet.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any substantial changes to waste collection policies will require a remodelling of current working practices. This will involve extensive employee consultation and is likely to result in a reconfiguration of the current workforce and their terms and conditions of employment.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

“This is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.”

## **COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

The scope of the recommendations contained within the review of Wastes Management and Recycling impact upon the Liveability theme of the Community Strategy by seeking to achieve real improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of waste collection and disposal services and to tackle climate change, promote recycling and improve or maintain customer satisfaction in the service.

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

As preferred policies emerge, these will be subject to a full impact assessment prior to implementation.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

Extensive public consultation took place as part of the review primarily through the “Start Talking Rubbish” campaign. The public consultation was undertaken through a variety of methods:

- Article and questionnaire in Stockton News with Freepost return facility
- On-line questionnaire on Stockton Council Web site
- Promotion of the questionnaire to staff through the Message of the Day facility
- Email link to all Council Members
- Market stalls in Billingham, Thornaby and Stockton
- Questionnaires and posting boxes at 12 public Council buildings across the Borough
- Targeted “door-knocking” in wards with an initial lower response rate
- Targeted distribution of questionnaires to BME community groups
- Targeted distribution of questionnaires to all Parish Councils in the Borough with in invitation to provide additional comments

- Workforce given opportunity to comment

**Name of Contact Officer:** Nigel Hart  
**Post Title:** Team Leader -Scrutiny  
**Telephone No. 01642 526193**  
**Email Address:** nigel.hart@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers

N/A

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

All

Property

N/A