

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

24 JANUARY 2019

**REPORT OF PLACE
SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member – Environment and Transport – Councillor Mike Smith

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF BRING SITES (RECYCLING)

1. Summary

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Place Select Committee's review of Bring Sites (Recycling).

2. Recommendations

The Committee recommend that:

- 1) On the basis of the data available, Cabinet endorses the proposal to reduce the number of Council-run bring sites to seven (as identified within the final report), with the projected savings re-invested into improving the remaining sites.
- 2) A communication plan be devised to inform residents and Councillors of this decision and the implementation period, highlighting the location of the remaining bring sites and reinforcing the kerbside collection offer.
- 3) Robust data-gathering continues for the remaining Council bring sites to monitor the effects of reducing the existing level of provision.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review of Bring Sites (Recycling) which was part of the 2018-2019 scrutiny work programme.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, 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 and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code).

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code).

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend that:

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DETAIL

1. Bring (recycling) sites are defined as areas in car parks and on streets at which Local Authorities or third parties provide containers for the public to deposit recyclable materials.
2. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) currently spend over £16,000 per year to J&B Recycling Ltd to service 19 bring sites within the Borough. Materials accepted at these sites include paper, glass, cans, cardboard, plastic bottles, textiles or a mixture of materials known as 'co-mingled'. Collection frequencies vary depending on the size of the site, ranging from 12 times per month for the largest to once a month for the smallest.
3. The overall management fee for this service is split between the five Tees Valley Local Authorities on the basis of the number of bring sites they operate. SBC have significantly more than Darlington (3), Hartlepool (3), Middlesbrough (1) and Redcar & Cleveland (3), some of whom have previously examined their provision and subsequently reduced their bring site offer. The current joint contract with the other Local Authorities will end in March 2019, and some Councils have confirmed that they will make their own arrangements once this has expired.

4. The amount of material collected at each site varies, and there is evidence that some are becoming under-used. In addition, incidences of anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping are increasingly linked to bring sites, and last year around £2,000 was spent on replacement containers due to arson, as well as unknown costs relating to the, on occasions, daily visits to these sites by the Council's street cleansing operatives. With this in mind, and in recognition of the impending service contract situation, it is a prudent time to review SBC bring site provision.
5. The aim of this short review was therefore to:
 - Understand current bring site provision across the Borough and establish the extent to which they are used and the costs involved, including geographical variances and associated issues such as anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping.
 - Ascertain the impact of any changes to the current bring site provision, specifically costs to the Council and the ability for residents to continue to recycle materials.
 - Propose a preferred option for the provision of bring sites in Stockton-on-Tees post-March 2019.
6. The Committee took evidence from representatives of the Council's Community Services team, including the Care For Your Area Service Manager, Strategic Waste & Community Transport Manager, and Waste Strategy Officer.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

7. The review supports the proposals to reduce current bring site provision. It is acknowledged that such a proposal would see some residents having to travel further to use the remaining bring sites, but that the location of the retained sites (in addition to the privately-managed bring site at Sainsbury's, Bishopton Road) would mean that an effective area-based service could still be maintained.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The proposal to reduce the number of bring sites across the Borough is anticipated to result in an estimated annual saving of £8,500 (over 50% of the current costs). Costs associated with clearing sites due to incidents of fly-tipping and / or anti-social behaviour are also likely to fall due to the reduced number of sites.

Re-investing projected savings into improving the remaining bring sites also has the potential to prevent problems for other Council departments (e.g. Street Cleansing), which could in turn further reduce time and resource demand.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no significant legal implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

11. This review will contribute to the following Council Plan 2018-21 themes and objectives:

Environment and Housing

- Deliver effective environmental services.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no direct implications in the report.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

13. The Committee have received evidence as set out in the final report of the Place Select Committee.

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Education related?: No

Background Papers: None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: n/a

Property: n/a