

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

15 FEBRUARY 2024

**REPORT OF PLACE
SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport – Cllr Clare Gamble

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF DOMESTIC WASTE COLLECTIONS, KERBSIDE RECYCLING AND GREEN WASTE

SUMMARY

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Place Select Committee's review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)

This topic was included on the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023-24. The review is now complete, and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Place Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the Council adopt a fortnightly refuse collection service.
- 2) That scenario 3 (fortnightly refuse collection with a weekly 'multi-stream collection of dry recycling and food waste) in the Place Select Committee report is adopted as the Council's new waste and recycling collection service. That consideration is also given to timescales around national mandated services and local waste disposal arrangements.
- 3) To review the green waste collection service in line with updated government guidance.
- 4) That a comprehensive communications and community engagement plan on proposed changes is implemented to ensure residents are sufficiently informed prior to the enactment of any changes, and to help embed the changes, to the waste and recycling service.

DETAIL

1. The attached report outlines the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste. In conducting the review, the Select Committee were aware that:
 - Levels of recycling in the Borough are amongst the lowest in the country
 - The cost of the weekly collection of general waste is increasing rapidly
 - Food waste collection is likely to be a requirement in the coming years and a proactive approach could contribute to the Council's carbon reduction targets

- The collection of garden waste/green waste also benefits some communities more than others
3. Overall, the Council's approach to waste reduction could be improved to reduce the financial and carbon cost. Therefore, this review aimed to consider the potential public reaction but also give appropriate consideration to the importance of the environment, the costs of service delivery, and the direction of national policy over food waste.
 4. The Committee has taken evidence from Council Officers and a representative from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). The Committee also visited the J&B Recycling plant, Hartlepool as part of this review.
 5. Following approval by Cabinet, an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee for their endorsement.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

6. The introduction of national legislation on weekly food waste collections, the unprecedented financial pressures exerted on local authorities and the Council's commitment to carbon reduction to combat climate change means that the Council must implement an alternative waste management strategy which is both financially viable and reduces the Council's carbon impact.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no corporate parenting implications identified at this stage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Government have committed to providing local authorities funding to meet reasonable new costs to implement separate food waste collections. There are still a number of unknowns in respect of timing and amount of funding to meet the ongoing operational costs. The move to alternate weekly is expected to result in cost savings, which will be reviewed as part of the transformation review of waste.
9. Further work will be carried out on subsequent phases of this work as new information becomes available following the creation of an action plan and the financial implications reported through the Transformation Board process.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications identified at this stage. The Council's duties with regard to the collection of household waste and recyclable waste will continue to be met if the recommendations are agreed.

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. There are some specific risks around the project as a result of the complexity and timing around some of the national announcements around nationally mandated services, local waste disposal provision as well as other operational around resourcing requirements e.g new vehicle requirements. These areas are being mitigated through effective project management and the identification of key milestones which will align with an agreed service roll out date. Communication and engagement with all residents in the borough is another key area of risk although one which will require a comprehensive and appropriately resources communications and engagement plan to ensure an effective transition to new collection arrangements.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

12. All wards will be affected by the recommendations.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

13. None.

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