

ENVIRONMENT CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 144

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Waste Management Strategy & Consultation Plan
Date of Meeting: 7 May 2009
Report of: Director of Environment
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Key Decision: Yes Forward Plan No. ENV8755
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The refuse and recycling service has undergone significant changes. Recycling levels have improved, the amount of waste produced per household has reduced, customer satisfaction has increased significantly and the costs of providing the service have reduced.
- 1.2 Reducing our waste and increasing re-use and recycling is not only necessary to protect the environment but also essential if we are to minimise cost increases associated with dealing with waste.
- 1.3 This report introduces a draft waste management strategy for the city which sets out options to improve how we deal with waste in future. The strategy focuses on municipal waste, which is waste for which the council has direct responsibility. Permission is sought to consult on the strategy as set out in the consultation plan attached to this report.
- 1.4 The draft strategy sets out proposals to minimise the total amount of waste produced, increase composting and recycling rates further and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill while maintaining current refuse collection frequencies. Proposals of how this will be achieved are set out in a detailed action plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 (1) That the Cabinet Member for Environment endorses the Draft Waste Management Strategy.
- 2.2 (2) That the Cabinet Member for Environment approves the proposed consultation plan for the strategy.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The refuse and recycling service has undergone significant changes recently. Revised collection rounds have improved the efficiency of the service and lower waste levels than anticipated have generated savings of

£1.6 million per year. The introduction of communal bins in central parts of the city will result in cleaner streets. These changes are the result of long term planning and investment in new waste infrastructure including a new waste transfer station and a new materials recovery facility which are key to the future sustainability of the service.

3.2 Over 28% of waste is recycled putting the council in the top quartile of local authorities in the UK. The percentage of waste disposed to landfill has reduced from 75% in 2005/06 to 60% in 2008/09.

3.3 Although our performance is good, a lot of waste that can be recycled through the existing kerbside service still ends up with the normal rubbish. Analysis has shown that if everyone recycled all their paper, card, cans, plastic bottles glass and batteries our recycling rate would increase from 28% to 37.5%.

3.4 There is still scope to improve performance further, which is necessary not only in order to protect the environment but also to minimise costs associated with dealing with waste. The land filling of waste is subject to more taxes which means recycling is the most cost effective option.

3.5 To address these issues a draft waste management strategy has been developed. The objectives of the strategy are to:

- Prioritise waste minimisation, re-use, recycling and recovery over disposal, in accordance with the waste hierarchy;
- Maximise diversion of waste from landfill to minimise the council's liabilities under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) and minimise other costs such as landfill tax
- Ensure compliance with emerging legislation surrounding waste management and recycling
- Increase the sustainability of waste management practices in Brighton & Hove
- Plan for continuous improvement in services, ensuring services are cost effective and available to all
- Protect our environment through minimising impacts on the physical environment, air quality and emissions and protect human health & well being
- Ensure costs of services represent value for money for council tax payers

3.6 Early consultation took place during the development of the options as set out in the section below.

3.7 Based on the research the strategy sets out nine policies to meet the strategy objectives. The policies cover to:

- Waste minimisation & prevention
- Re-use
- Increasing recycling rates
- Increasing composting rates
- Managing residual waste collection
- Communication

- Enforcement
- Business waste and waste from other organisations
- Service quality and value for money

- 3.8 A realistic three year action plan has been produced in order to deliver the policies in the short term. This will result in recycling rates increasing by at least 4%, from 28% to 32%, the amount of waste sent to landfill decreasing from 60% to 12% and continued reduction in the overall amount of waste produced.
- 3.9 In order to improve the service in line with the objectives in the strategy in the longer term, significant changes to the service and capital investment will be required. Further research is needed to ensure that any such changes meet the objectives and are sustainable in the long-term.
- 3.10 A copy of the draft waste strategy is available in Member's rooms. A summary of the strategy is attached as Appendix 1 and the Action Plan is attached as Appendix 2. The proposed consultation plan is attached as Appendix 3. A summary of the sustainability appraisal on the strategy is attached as Appendix 4. A full copy is available in Member's rooms.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Early targeted consultation took place during the early stages of the development of the draft strategy. This consultation included:
- **Member Consultation**, consisting of at least two member seminars, to bring councillors up to date with the waste management agenda, the challenges ahead and to seek initial feedback on strategy options.
 - **An Advisory Panel** consisting of regulators, local interest groups (business associations, the waste management sector), the Local Strategic Partnership, representatives from community focus groups and the sustainability commission. The advisory panel met three times and was responsible for testing specific proposals.
 - **Three Community Focus Groups** consisting of representatives from the Citizen Panel and respondents to Cityclean's service questionnaire who were responsible for testing specific options from a service user's point of view. Each of the groups met three times.
- 4.2 This report seeks approval to consult on the draft strategy in accordance with the consultation plan set out in appendix 3, and using the consultation document attached as appendix 1 as a basis. Subject to Cabinet approval the consultation period will begin towards the end of May and run for a period of six weeks.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The council faces significant financial risks from landfill tax and possible fines of up to £150 per tonne if the landfill of biodegradable waste exceeds government allowances. These financial risks have been factored into the financial models for the waste disposal budget and the calculation of the

waste PFI reserve, however, these risks can be mitigated by measures to reduce waste arising and increase recycling as outlined in the draft waste management strategy. Implementation of any proposals will be subject to the production of a robust business case and any upfront capital investment could be made available from the waste PFI reserve subject to a short payback period of no more than the life of the asset. The consultation process is estimated to cost £17,000 and provision has already been made in the existing communications budget.

Finance Officer Consulted: Mark Ireland

Date: 08/04/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The draft strategy seeks to improve performance within the legal framework governing the Council as a Waste Collection and Disposal Authority. In relation to the enforcement of recycling, the Council has power to do this under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. An enforcement policy would need to be drawn up and followed.

Lawyer Consulted:

Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 13/03/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The draft waste strategy has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening process. Based on this screening process specific parts of the strategy and action plan will be subject to full EqIAs.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The draft strategy aims to improve the sustainability of waste management in Brighton & Hove. It has been subject to an independent Sustainability Appraisal to assess the sustainability implications of the proposals. The SA will be available as part of the consultation process and the findings of the SA will be considered along with consultation responses in finalising the strategy.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The strategy will seek to fairly enforce waste legislation and continue to take fair and consistent enforcement action to tackle waste related offences such as fly-tipping.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The strategy sets out plans to manage the risks associated with waste generation in the city, in particular financial risks and environmental risks.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 Every household, visitor and business in the city produces waste. How this waste is managed has a significant impact on the environment, the economy and quality of life. The strategy sets out to further improve how

waste is managed which is expected to have an overall positive impact on the city.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 During the development of the waste management strategy numerous options to meet the strategy objectives were evaluated. The options presented in this draft strategy are the preferred options based on a range of criteria including environmental, financial, social criteria and deliverability of options in Brighton & Hove.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Brighton & Hove needs a robust and deliverable plan to further improve the sustainability of its waste management and recycling service and to minimise cost increases associated with waste disposal. The draft strategy sets out proposals to achieve this improved performance.
- 7.2 How waste and recycling services are offered affects every resident in the city. Improving the sustainability of how we manage our waste and keeping waste costs down requires the buy in of residents from across the city. It is therefore essential that the views of service users are sought and considered before the strategy is finalised.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Municipal Waste Management Strategy Consultation Summary (DRAFT May 2009)
2. Municipal Waste Management Strategy Action Plan (DRAFT May 2009)
3. Municipal Waste Management Strategy Consultation Plan (DRAFT May 2009)
4. Sustainability Appraisal of Brighton & Hove Municipal Waste Management Strategy – Final Report Summary

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. Draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy (DRAFT May 2009)
2. Sustainability Appraisal of the Brighton & Hove Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Background Documents

None.

