

## **Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board**

**10<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

<b>Subject:</b>	Our Waste Our Resources – A Strategy for England'
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member Safer Communities, Maria Crompton
<b>Director:</b>	Director Homes and Communities, Alan Caddick
<b>Contribution towards Vision 2030:</b>	 
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	Max Cookson

### **DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **That Scrutiny:**

1. Consider the contents of this report relating to the Governments strategy relating to "Our Waste Our Resources"

## **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 Further to the discussion at the Board on 5th March 2019 it was requested that an update report be presented to Scrutiny panel detailing how Sandwell MBC is responding to 'Our Waste Our Resources – A Strategy for England'.

## **2 IMPLICATION FOR VISION 2030**

### **2.1 Ambition 2**

Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.

Recycling reduces waste which otherwise would be sent to landfill sites.

## 2.2 Ambition 10

Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.

Sandwell council continue to provide a food waste recycling collection service for 120,000 properties (excluding high rise flats).

## 3 **BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Consideration was given to the cessation of food waste collection from within the borough.
- 3.2 This would have resulted in a saving of approximately £600k per annum in collection costs. It is not yet known if future government strategy will require mandatory food waste collections / recycling by local authorities or how these collections will be required to be made.

## 4 **THE CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 Sandwell are currently receiving support from WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) and Local Partnerships (Local Partnerships (LP). LP is a venture between HM Treasury the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Welsh Local Government Association), to assess strategic options in line with the proposals contained in the Government's Resources & Waste Strategy. The support will be provided to all local authorities that make up the West Midlands Combined Authority and is comprised of two separate but complimentary work packages:
- 4.2 Work package one: an assessment of the future municipal waste disposal/processing options available to the member authorities.
- 4.3 Work package two: an assessment of the future municipal waste collection options available to the member authorities.
- 4.4 As part of the above we are currently undertaking a "Mapping" exercise of waste assets with a view to establishing future requirements, along with reviewing existing contracts and obligations, which may offer the opportunity of utilising shared assets/resources. Currently a number of neighbouring councils, including (but not limited to) Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Solihull and Walsall are jointly participating in this strategic review of collection services. At present it would be prudent

to await until further guidance from Government In relation to separately collected materials before implementing any change to the current Food Waste and Recycling collection service within the borough.

## **5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)**

- 5.1 Sandwell are currently receiving support from WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme).  
Local Partnerships (Local Partnerships (LP) is a venture between HM Treasury the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Welsh Local Government Association), Waste Resources action programme.

## **6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 Cessation of food waste collections which would result in a saving of approximately £600,000 per annum. Neighbouring Authorities such as Wolverhampton have recently ceased food waste collections.
- 6.2 Alternative weekly collections or a “subscription service” for the food waste collections may be options available to the Local Authority. However, this is dependent upon the outcome of further guidance from Government.

## **7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Future procurement of the type of recycling vehicles to be purchased will be dependant on government strategy with regard to separate collections of food waste.
- 7.2 At present separate collections of food waste require a specialised vehicle which has a food pod collection area.

## **8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 As a Waste Collection Authority (WCA), under the Environmental Protection Act 1992, the Authority is required to provide a collection of household waste in its area. More recent legislation requires the Authority to provide a two-material recycling collection to householders if economic and practicable to do so. Note: this is just for guidance and not a legal interpretation of the legislation.
- 8.2 However, the EU amending Directive 2008/98/EC (Circular Economy) requires member states to ensure that bio-waste is either collected separately or recycled at source. This obligation is not required to be in place until 31st December 2023 and it will require transposition into UK regulation which is likely to include transition or derogation arrangements

which could limit the effect of this Directive on current municipal collection arrangements.

- 8.3 Government has recently produced a new resources and waste strategy in December that includes outlined requirements for consistency of collections by local authorities and mandatory free domestic organic collections for householders in line with the EU directive above.
- 8.4 The Government is currently consulting on these proposals and at this time it is not known what the outcome and final regulations will look like regarding food waste.
- 8.5 It should be noted that despite this EU legislation and strategy a number of local authorities are making the decision to discontinue food waste collection services on primarily cost grounds. This includes most recently Wolverhampton City Council and Barnet Council.

## **9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 9.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out by the service area for the proposals. No issues have been identified which impact on a particular group and therefore a full EIA is not required.

## **10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 Not applicable

## **11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 11.1 Not applicable

## **12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS**

- 12.1 No proposals made at this time.

## **13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)**

- 13.1 Not applicable.

## **14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND**

- 14.1 Not applicable.

**15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 15.1 It is recommended that a further report is brought to scrutiny panel upon further guidance being received from the Government. SMBC will continue to participate in consultations currently being held between Partner Members of the West Midlands Combined Authority, WRAP and Local Partnerships.

**16 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 16.1 [Waste Contract 12 July 2018](#)  
16.2 [Notes of Waste and Recycle site visits -7 February 2019](#)  
16.3 [Food waste report to Scrutiny Board - 7 March 2019](#)

**17 APPENDICES:**

Link to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england>

**Alan Caddick**  
**Director Housing and Communities**