

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 6 March 2019)

1. NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY - CONSULTATION (MINUTE NO 81)

The Cabinet received a presentation on the recently published National Waste Strategy consultation arrangements and themes for the consultation. The National Waste Strategy could, potentially, have significant implications for this District both directly and through Project Integra, which is the partnership for handling waste in Hampshire. There are 4 consultation strands, each supported by a separate document. The 4 consultation topics are:

- Consistency in household and business recycling
- Reforming packing responsibility in the UK
- Deposit Return Scheme
- Plastic Packaging Tax

The consultation on each of these documents closes at the end of May, with potential implementation dates up to 2023.

The first 3 of these documents potentially could have significant implications for this District, while the fourth may have some indirect effects, although it is mainly directed towards manufacturers. Members consider that it is essential that this Council's views are taken into account in the developing proposals. This area has additional requirements and constraints imposed by the special nature of the National Park and these must be properly taken into account.

In addition to improving the rates of recycling nationally, another key objective is to reduce littering problems. If food and drink containers have value when returned, they are less likely to be discarded as litter.

The developing proposals have the potential to achieve significant environmental benefits and the members at the meeting consequently welcomed the opportunity that this presents.

The Cabinet has agreed that a task and finish group should be appointed to advise the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services on this Council's response to the consultations. The Council's response will also be informed by joint working with the partners in Project Integra and by using the modelling tool that has been commissioned by Project Integra to assist.

2. NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL FINAL AIR QUALITY PLAN (MINUTE NO 82)

On 18 December 2018 (minute 65 refers) the Cabinet agreed the Council's Air Quality Final Plan for submission to Government. The Air Quality Plan sets out how compliance with the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive for nitrogen dioxide, as an annual mean, will be delivered for the New Forest District in the shortest possible time. This is part of the wider work for the Air Quality Management Zone for the City of Southampton.

Following extensive research and modelling, in collaboration with Southampton City Council, it had been concluded that this District would comply with the required air quality standards by 2020, but that no measures could be identified that would bring compliance forward in time. As a consequence, the Council's recommendation to the Government was that there should be a "business as usual" approach in this District. Confirmation has now been received from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,

Dr Theresa Coffey, that the Council's Plan has been approved. This is the first Final Plan to be approved nationally. In addition, the Portfolio Holder is very pleased to report that the close and productive relationship between this Council and Southampton City Council has been specifically recognised in the Under-Secretary of State's letter.

Members have welcomed the commitment that work will continue, throughout the District, to improve air quality and also that monitoring along the A35 and around Totton will continue to ensure that the expected air quality improvements are achieved. The Council will be developing an air quality strategy to ensure the best possible standards for residents across the District.

**COUNCILLOR B RICKMAN
CHAIRMAN**