

DRAFT WASTE STRATEGY

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- i. Approve the Draft Waste Strategy, so that the further work described in this report can be carried out to enable production of a Final Waste Strategy.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Since September 2019, a Member Working Group has been developing a new Waste Strategy for NFDC. A draft of this Strategy is now ready for review, in order that further work can be carried out before producing a final strategy.

2.2 The Draft Waste Strategy and engagement plan are included as appendices to this report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In December 2018 the UK Government released the 'Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England (known as the Resources and Waste Strategy, or RaWS). The strategy set out key objectives for dealing with waste nationally and suggests ways in which these objectives might be achieved.

3.2 New Forest District Council recycling rates are currently significantly below the national average, at 34% in 2019-20. Current national targets (for the UK as a whole) are set at 55% by 2025, rising to 65% by 2035. There is a clear need to review NFDC's current waste and recycling provision if we are to achieve those targets.

3.3 As a result of this, a Member's Working Group was set up to support the development of a new Waste Strategy for NFDC. The group has considered:

- The impact of the new RaWS for England, and how the Council's services may need to change to comply with forthcoming legislation;
- The impact of regional developments in relation to Hampshire County Council (HCC) as the waste disposal authority and Project Integra (PI), the waste partnership for Hampshire;
- Which waste and recycling collection methods can best deliver the Council's aims of minimising environmental impact by reducing waste and increasing recycling and achieving good value for money, based on the evidence the group will review; and
- The needs of all our community, including the public, businesses and or partner organisations

3.4 A Draft Strategy has been developed, included at appendix 1, which provides a vision of how NFDC will manage its waste and recycling collection service to meet local needs, whilst ensuring any environmental impact is minimised, and that the requirements of any wider policy drivers are met. It details service changes and initiatives that may be needed in order to meet the aims and objectives.

4. MAKING THE CASE FOR CHANGE

4.1 The Member Working Group has carried out a considerable amount of research which is detailed within the Draft Strategy document itself but which for example includes:

- i. Current and future legislative position (for example the implications of the Environment Bill 2020)
- ii. Performance levels at local, regional and national level
- iii. Case studies and benchmarking
- iv. Resident engagement
- v. Modelling of different collection options

4.2 This information has led the Working Group to conclude that there is a clear need for change in frontline service delivery.

5. AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

5.1 The Draft Strategy sets out the Council's overall aim as follows:

To provide the New forest with a cost and carbon efficient recycling and waste service, that maximises the recovery of valuable natural resources and meets the needs and expectations of our residents. We will ensure that this service is compliant with forthcoming national legislation and compatible with any new working arrangements with our Hampshire partners.

5.2 The objectives within the Draft Strategy are as follows:

- Objective 1 – Minimise carbon impact of waste/recycling service
- Objective 2 – Legislative compliance
- Objective 3 – Reduce overall levels of household waste
- Objective 4 - Increase quality and quantity of recycling

5.3 There are ten actions within section 6 of the Draft Strategy. The key action is no. 1, which is to carry out further work on collection Option 4 ("AWC, Twin Stream") which for clarity is as follows:

- **Food** – collected weekly, in a caddy
- **Dry Recycling** - twin stream – glass, cans, plastic bottles and PTT in one stream, and paper/card in another – collection every other week, alternating with residual waste collection
- **Residual waste** – collection every other week, alternating with dry recycling collection, wheeled bin
- **Garden waste** – fortnightly, wheeled bin (with option for customer to choose to remain on sack collection)

This "further work" would consist of developing a business case and carrying out engagement with stakeholders on this collection system and the Strategy as a whole.

6. NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 If approved, by Cabinet, there will be a period of stakeholder engagement and the development of the business case. The Engagement Plan is presented as Appendix 2 to this report. We know that our waste and recycling collections must change. The purpose of the engagement work is to gather opinions from stakeholders of how the collection system described in Action 1, and other parts of the strategy, may affect them. The feedback will enable us to develop a final strategy that considers the needs of these stakeholders alongside the other key drivers described in the Strategy.
- 6.2 The final Waste Strategy would be taken to a Cabinet meeting in early 2021.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The work carried out so far demonstrates the need for change in NFDC's waste and recycling services, and the Draft Strategy sets this out, as well as setting out the actions needed in order to meet the Council's aims and objectives.
- 7.2 Approval of this Draft Strategy will allow for the next phase of work to be carried out as we move towards a final Strategy in 2021.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are some significant financial implications of this draft Waste Strategy. However, there is still much uncertainty around this, which may not become clearer until:
- i. The business case has been developed as per Action 1 in the Draft Strategy
 - ii. The position is known regarding the financial arrangements with the Waste Disposal Authority, Hampshire County Council, relating to costs and income associated with infrastructure and materials processing
 - iii. Any proposed "new burden" funding from central government is known.
- 8.2 The actions within the Draft Waste Strategy therefore currently focus on the legislative compliance and measures to improve recycling performance, with more information on financial implications to follow in the final Waste Strategy.

9. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are none.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 A significant driving force behind development of this Draft Strategy is the desire to improve environmental performance relating to waste management. The Council aims to quantify the Carbon impact of NFDC's waste management as part of the business case development.

11. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Draft Strategy suggests there could be changes to containers used by residents, and this may have implications on accessibility to the service for residents who are elderly or disabled. This will be fully considered via an Equalities Impact Assessment which will be conducted prior to production of the Final Strategy.

12. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none.

13. COMMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

13.1 The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel reviewed this Draft Strategy on 15th October 2020. The Panel supported the Draft Strategy, with the following comments noted:

- That waste prevention should be put at the heart of this waste strategy
- That the Council should explore the ways in which residents would identify their own collection containers in areas where they are presented for collection immediately next to containers from neighbouring households

14. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

14.1 There is a strong case for making changes to the Council's frontline refuse collection service, to ensure we comply with future legislation, protect the environment, and to fulfil resident's wishes to recycle more. Carrying out the further work recommended in this report will enable a Final Strategy to be developed.

14.2 I support the recommendation within this report and would like to thank the Waste Strategy Working Group and officers Chris Noble and Nicola Plummer for their hard work, time and research.

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Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Draft Waste Strategy
Appendix 2 – Engagement Plan