

20th January 2015

Environment Committee

Waste Strategy

Report of: *Roy Ormsby – Head of Street Scene*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council is facing an unprecedented set of challenges. The cuts in funding and the need to reduce expenditure increases the need to review the way in which we deliver our services, and how these can be done more efficiently, but still meet customer expectations.
- 1.2 Waste services is one of the largest services delivered, both by Essex County Council (ECC) as the disposal Authority, and by the Borough Council with responsibility for collection of waste.
- 1.3 A review of waste has been taking place with ECC since September 2014, which is to Improve the Waste Management Partnership for Essex so that there is a shared understanding of the whole partnership (including the Waste Partnership Board) which:
 1. has a clear vision to reflect changing circumstances and risks
 2. has a financial framework and three year financial plan (including all partners)
 3. has a capital investment programme that enables innovative operational models of delivery to be developed
 4. has a new model for partnership working (including commissioning and procurement)
 5. explores a best practice collection model designed by housing type and/or urban/rural area, cost-effectiveness and customer feedback on ease of use and achieved performance
- 1.4 The Council's current Waste Plan was approved at the Environment Panel on 30th January 2013. This now needs to be reviewed in line with the work that is being undertaken with ECC, but it is felt that this needs to be

done to enable Members to consider the current financial challenges that this, and all other Council's now face.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Members establish a cross party working group to develop a Waste Strategy for the Council, in line with the work being undertaken through the Essex Waste Management Partnership.**
- 2.2 That Members approve the Terms of Reference as detailed in Appendix A.**
- 2.3 That the working group report back to the Environment Committee in June 2015 with key recommendations for the future of waste collection.**
- 2.4 That an interim report is brought to the Environment Committee on 18th March for discussion.**

3 Introduction and Background

- 3.4 The collection and disposal of waste across Essex will cost the tax payer around £104m in 2014/15, and the work being done with our waste partners is looking to reduce the whole system cost by developing a 10 year plan across the County.
- 3.5 The cost of collecting waste in Brentwood seems to be a small part of the overall cost to the tax payer, with an estimated net cost of £828,000 for 2014/15. This includes a significant contribution from ECC through recycling credits, and a grant for food waste. The net cost is expected to rise to around £1.1 million in 2016/17.
- 3.6 Brentwood, like other Borough's and Districts in Essex, have an agreement with ECC, which is the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA). This provides payments for all recycling in Brentwood for 28 years.
- 3.7 The responsibility for the disposal of recycling is with the Borough Council, and we are currently going through a tender process with Basildon, Rochford and Uttlesford to agree a contract for disposal. The current contract expires in June 2015, and has provided an income of £40.00 per tonne. This however, will not continue due to the reduction in the price of recycling material, but is expected to rise to around £1.1 million in 2016/17, and we are expecting to receive zero income for the next

contract. This will mean a significant loss in income for the Council of around £250,000 per annum.

3.8 There will need to be consideration given to the future of the IAA payments from ECC, and whether these are sustainable in future years. This would have a significant impact on the Council if in the longer-term the income from ECC was reduced.

3.9 The development of a long-term strategy for the Council will need to consider a wide range of options over the coming years. These could include collection methods, frequencies, shift patterns, joint working, shared facilities and the need to generate additional income.

3.10 Some options may be controversial, but through a Cross Party Working Group it is important that all are considered, with a long-term plan, in line with that of the Essex Waste Management Partnership, is developed to identify and deliver efficiencies for the tax payers of Essex.

4 Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

4.4 A wide range of options will be considered through a Cross Party Working Group, with a further report being presented to the Environment Committee in June 2015.

5 Reasons for Recommendation

5.4 To ensure that a robust review of waste can take place, with a wide range of options and considerations reported back for Members to make an informed decision.

6 Consultation

6.4 It is expected that the initial draft strategy will be the basis for a full consultation with residents of the Borough.

7 References to Corporate Plan

7.4 Any new Strategy would be developed in line with the Council's Corporate Priorities.

8 Implications

Financial Implications

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8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

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8.2 None.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

8.3 None

9 Background Papers (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

9.2 None

10 Appendices to this report

Appendix A - Terms of Reference

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