

Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee Waste Management Review

12 February 2020

1. Recommendation(s)

1. That the Committee note the report including the recommendations and actions in the action plan attached.
2. That the Committee agree the service area response and timetables as set out in the report.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 A strategic demand management review of Waste Management has been undertaken by an independent Subject Matter Expert (SME). This report summarises the key findings from this review, our response to this, and how we intend to take forward the key recommendations.
- 2.2 The scope of the review was wide ranging and extensive information was provided by Waste Management and Business Intelligence. The SME was given full access to inspect services and interview employees. In a number of cases specific information was developed and provided to support the review.
- 2.3 The SME was very supportive of the work of Waste Management. He found the service to be professional and business like with good commercial relationships and delivering very credible outcomes.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The financial implications of the recommendations and actions proposed will be addressed as part of the development and agreement of the strategies and plans detailed, using the Council's governance and decision making processes.

4. Environmental Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations and actions from this review will help the Council to reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling and manage residual waste more sustainably. This will reduce the Council's carbon emissions and help to protect the environment.

- 4.2 The environmental implications of specific recommendations and actions will be addressed as strategies and plans are brought forward.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 Appendix 1 details the action plan produced by the SME. The action plan is divided into 7 sections which relate to the area investigated and highlight where the SME wanted to recommend action. The actions are a mixture of short to long term and operational and strategic.
- 5.2 The service area accepts the recommendations and the actions put forward by the SME. Some of the actions have already been delivered and others are in the process of being completed. Other recommendations and actions will be delivered or considered as part of the strategies and plans being developed by Waste Management.
- 5.3 Government has consulted on the Resources and Waste Strategy for England. This is likely to radically change that way that waste is managed to ensure it is viewed as a valuable resource and that products are designed and manufactured with their end of life in mind. 'Extended producer responsibility' will make producers and manufacturers much more responsible for the packaging they produce when it becomes a waste material post consumption. A deposit return scheme for bottles will ensure that these items are returned to retailers and then producers, so they can be recycled.
- 5.4 The Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Warwickshire (JMWMS) is due for review and this work needs to be timed so it can be informed by the developing Resources and Waste Strategy for England. The second round of consultation is expected by Summer 2020 and it is expected that this will give enough detail for the JMWMS review to commence. The final Resources and Waste Strategy for England is expected to be published in 2021 to allow major strands of the strategy to start in 2023/24. The JMWMS for Warwickshire will be finalised and agreed after the publication of the national strategy.
- 5.5 A major focus of the SME was the household waste recycling centres (HWRCs). These facilities are the shop front of the Councils waste service and receive over 1.5 million visits every year. The current HWRC network has been in service for many years and requires investment. To plan and facilitate this we require a HWRC Strategy. This strategy could be part of the JMWMS for Warwickshire and developed on a similar time table. The larger more strategic recommendations and actions for the HWRCs will be considered as part of this strategy. Whilst we do not want to prejudice the outcome of the development of the HWRC Strategy it has already been flagged that if new or updated sites are required this will require significant investment.

- 5.6 There are a number of shorter-term more operational recommendations and actions for the HWRCs. Some of these have already been actioned and completed. The others will require some planning and to ensure they are addressed properly a HWRC Improvement Plan will be developed. This plan will also encompass other improvements and will be produced so it can begin to be implemented in 2020/21.
- 5.7 Recent investments have been made in the HWRC service. New compaction equipment has been purchased this financial year at a cost of about £600k. Also £280k has been allocated in 2020/21 for new containers.
- 5.8 Promoting behaviour change has been and continues to be a large part of work of Waste Management. Reducing, reusing, recycling and composting waste is better for the environment and financially. This will be considered as an integral part of the JMWMS review. However, in the short term, a Waste Education Commissioning Plan will be developed so we are clearer on the outcomes we are commissioning and that these are being delivered in the most cost-effective way. This plan will address the recommendations and action from the strategic review.
- 5.9 A summary of the developing Waste Management Strategies and Plans is given in Background Paper 2 attached.
- 5.10 In summary, the recommendations and actions from the strategic review are accepted and either have been addressed or will be addressed or considered through the strategies and plans detailed above. Decisions on these strategies and plans will be based on detailed business cases and consultation as appropriate.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Action Plan

Appendix 2 - Waste Management Strategies and Plans

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