
Waste Strategy

Committee considering report:	Scrutiny Commission
Date of Committee:	17 July 2024
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Stuart Gourley
Report Author:	Daniel Warne, Waste Manager
Forward Plan Ref:	

1 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to provide information to assist the Scrutiny Commission in reviewing the development of the Council’s new Waste Strategy (enclosed at Appendix C).

[Please note that the draft Waste Strategy has not yet been through the Council’s internal governance process. The final strategy will be considered by the Council’s Executive later this summer]

2 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Scrutiny Commission notes the steps currently being taken to develop a new waste strategy and to provide any relevant comments, as required.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	This report does not propose decisions with significant financial implications. The strategy does however contain potential service delivery options which could have significant financial implications as well as other proposals that will only be possible to implement with investment/efficiencies. If relevant projects progress as a result of the acceptance of the Waste Strategy, the Council’s Project Management Methodology (PMM) process will be used to seek the required additional funding through the budget-setting process.
Human Resource:	There are no direct HR implications as a result of the Waste Strategy development. The delivery of the Council’s waste collections and management has been outsourced under a

Waste Strategy

	<p>25-year PFI contract.</p> <p>Individual projects may identify HR implications, all of which will be dealt with through the PMM process and any appropriate bids for additional staff resource.</p>
Legal:	<p>There are no direct Legal implications as a result of this report. It is however worth noting that Legal input may be required if some of the proposals within the Waste Strategy are approved for implementation. This is because the Council may have to confirm compliance with emergency government requirements or undertake contract variation negotiations with the incumbent contractor. Individual projects may identify HR implications, all of which will be dealt with through the PMM process and any appropriate bids for additional staff resource.</p>
Risk Management:	<p>The main risks identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some initial public resistance if the option(s) selected for implementation involve significant changes which may be deemed to inconvenience householders. This risk is manageable through continued stakeholder engagement, effective communications and mitigation activity as required.• Funding availability could be a challenge for the implementation of significant changes. Separate business case justification will be completed if specific changes and projects are required.• Implementation of selected options within the emerging strategy will require suitable resource availability of Council and contractor staff.
Property:	<p>There are no direct property implications because of this report.</p>
Policy:	<p>The proposal relates to the Council's policy to be Net Zero by 2030.</p> <p>It also links to emerging national Waste and Resource Strategy measures including 'Simpler Recycling', extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging, and the deposit return scheme (DRS). It also links to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) which will see energy from waste facilities included within ETS from 2028.</p>

Waste Strategy

	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		This report does not propose decisions with significant equality implications. This will be dealt with on a project-by-project basis through the PMM process to ensure delivery does not have a negative impact on equalities. The upcoming public consultation on the Waste Strategy is expected to tease out any perceived inequalities that consultees may be aware of.
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		This report does not propose decisions with significant impact on people with protected characteristics. This will need to be dealt with on a project-by-project basis through the PMM process to ensure delivery does not have a negative impact on equalities. The upcoming public consultation on the Waste Strategy is expected to tease out any potential impacts on people with protected characteristics that consultees may be aware of.
Environmental Impact:	X			The Waste Strategy will have a significantly positive impact on the environment as it sets out how we can improve our recycling rate, reduce waste generation by householders, and can help reduce associated carbon emissions.

Waste Strategy

Health Impact:		X		This proposal is expected to have a neutral impact on health. This will be monitored on a project-by-project basis through the PMM process to ensure delivery does not have a negative impact.
ICT Impact:		X		This will need to be dealt with on a project-by-project basis through the PMM process to ensure delivery does not have a negative impact.
Digital Services Impact:		X		This will need to be dealt with on a project-by-project basis through the PMM process to ensure delivery does not have a negative impact.
Council Strategy Priorities:	X			<p>Implementation of the Waste Strategy will have a positive impact in supporting the Council priority of Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency by helping to achieve the Council's Net Zero ambitions.</p> <p>This will be supporting this priority by increasing recycling rates, encouraging waste minimisation and reducing carbon emissions.</p>
Core Business:		X		Not applicable.
Data Impact:		X		At this stage it is not envisaged that there will be any significant data impact associated with the implementation of the Waste Strategy.

Consultation and Engagement:	<p>A number of activities have been carried out focused on consultation and engagement, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Environment Advisory Group (EAG) Open Forum updates- Three workshops with members (held on 6 March 2023, 13 March 2023 and 3 July 2023) to gather feedback and foster dialogue.- A public workshop held with residents (on 23 May 2023) to gain valuable community perspectives.- Planned public consultation in autumn of 2024.
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4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The development of a new Waste Strategy is necessary as the previous one ended in 2022. This strategy will cover all aspects of waste management services, including household waste collection and management, litter clearance, street cleaning, and the management of abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping. Our goal is to balance continuity of services with enhancements and innovations through to 2032.
- 4.2 The new strategy aims to improve the Council's waste management performance by increasing recycling rates, reducing waste generation, and minimising carbon emissions. This involves making household waste collection more efficient and promoting public recycling initiatives. Ultimately, the Council will strive to create a more sustainable and environmentally responsible community.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 This report is intended to assist the Scrutiny Commission in reviewing the development of the Waste Strategy. It includes the latest draft (Appendix C) and an overview of the development process to date.
 - 5.2 The need for a new waste strategy is driven by the expiry of the previous strategy at the end of 2022 and upcoming changes in UK legislation, as outlined in the UK Government's Resource and Waste Strategy and the Environment Act 2021. These changes will significantly impact some of our waste management services, introducing new requirements for recycling, waste reduction, and handling specific waste types. Our strategy must comply with these evolving regulatory frameworks while also seeking opportunities for service improvement and innovation.
 - 5.3 The development of a new waste strategy offers numerous business benefits to the Council and its stakeholders, including:
 - Providing clear strategic framework for waste management practices and policies until 2032;
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Waste Strategy

- Increasing recycling rates and reducing waste production, leading to cost savings and potential revenue from recycled materials;
- Increasing opportunities for effective communications with residents to achieve greater resource efficiency, and to reduce littering and fly-tipping offences;
- Enhancing environmental credentials, improving public perception, and supporting broader sustainability targets; and
- Reducing carbon emissions from waste management activities, contributing to the Council's Net Zero goals.

5.4 The new waste strategy will focus on services provided under the Integrated Waste Management Contract (IWMC) such as:

- Household waste collections and treatment;
- Litter clearance and street cleaning; and
- Management of abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping removal.

5.5 Out of scope:

The following items are outside the scope of the emerging waste strategy:

- Provision of commercial waste collections;
- Waste processing by third parties outside the current contract;
- Waste management activities not controlled by the Council;
- Infrastructure projects not included in current contract specifications; and
- Service delivery post-2032.

5.6 To ensure alignment with community needs and expectations, we have actively engaged with members and the public. Key activities include:

- Three workshops with members (held on 6 March 2023, 13 March 2023, and 3 July 2023) to gather feedback about member priorities and foster dialogue;
- A public workshop (held on 23 May 2023) to better understand community perspectives; and
- Presentation at the Environment Advisory Group (EAG) meeting (on 27 November 2023).

Upcoming Public Consultation

5.7 To ensure that we capture a comprehensive range of insights and feedback regarding the project and its anticipated outcomes, we will run a public consultation exercise after initial consideration of the emerging draft waste strategy by Council's Executive.

Waste Strategy

Our goal is to engage as many stakeholders as possible and to carefully consider all feedback in the finalisation of our strategy.

- 5.8 During the public consultation we will utilise digital and print platforms to facilitate easy access for community members wishing to provide their input.
- 5.9 All feedback provided will be meticulously reviewed and analysed by our project team. We are committed to a transparent process and will categorise and summarise the feedback to identify common themes, concerns, and suggestions.
- 5.10 Based on this comprehensive review, we will adjust and refine our strategy where possible, taking on board constructive suggestions and addressing relevant concerns. The final strategy will not only reflect a detailed understanding of community feedback but also demonstrate our commitment to incorporating the public input into our decision-making process.
- 5.11 Timely finalisation of the waste strategy after the public consultation exercise will be dependent on availability of key personnel within the project team.

Proposals

- 5.12 We are proposing to submit a draft waste strategy for public consultation by autumn 2024 in line with the timeline set out under section 5.14. This draft will include options for increasing recycling rates, reducing waste production, and minimising carbon emissions.
- 5.13 A finalised waste strategy document, incorporating public feedback, to be officially adopted by the end of 2024/25. This document will serve as the guiding framework for waste management services up to 2032.

Strategy Development Timeline

5.14 The timeline for developing the strategy has been outlined below:

- Procurement of Consultants: (September 2022)
 - Workshops with Members and Residents: (March – July 2023)
 - Production of the First Draft: (July 2023 – June 2024)
 - Corporate, Operations and Executive: (July – September 2024)
 - Public Consultation: (September – November 2024)
 - Final Draft and Strategy Finalisation: (December 2024)
 - Approval by the Executive: February 2025 (estimated)
 - Completion and Review: The final strategy will be formally presented to stakeholders and published. A review mechanism will be established to monitor the implementation of the strategy and its effectiveness, setting the stage for continuous improvement and adaptation.
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6 Other options considered

- 6.1 No other options were considered because developing a new waste strategy is essential to meet legislative requirements and ensure continued service improvement. Without a new strategy, the Council could lack direction in waste management practices, potentially leading to non-compliance with upcoming regulations and missed opportunities for service enhancement and environmental benefits.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The development of a new waste strategy is crucial for ensuring that our waste management services remain effective, efficient, and compliant with upcoming legislative requirements. This strategy not only addresses the immediate need for continuity following the expiration of the previous strategy in 2022 but also sets the foundation for sustainable and innovative practices through 2032.
- 7.2 Through comprehensive engagement with members, the public, and external advisors, we have crafted a strategy that is both responsive to community needs and aligned with broader environmental goals. The forthcoming public consultation phase will help to further refine this strategy, ensuring that it benefits from a wide range of perspectives and insights.
- 7.3 Our commitment to increasing recycling rates, reducing waste production, and minimising carbon emissions will contribute to operational efficiencies, environmental sustainability, and improved public perception. The strategy's successful implementation will depend on the dedicated efforts of our team, supported by specialist consultants, and the active participation of the community.
- 7.4 As we move towards finalising and adopting the waste strategy, we are confident that it will provide a clear, actionable framework for waste management services up to 2032, fostering a more sustainable and environmentally responsible community.
- 7.5 In summary, this waste strategy represents a comprehensive, forward-thinking approach to waste management that prioritises environmental stewardship, community engagement, and continuous improvement within the confines of our current Integrated Waste Management Contract with Veolia. We look forward to the contributions of all stakeholders in shaping and implementing a strategy that will serve our community well into the future.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment – Not Used
- 8.2 Appendix B – Data Protection Impact Assessment – Not Used
- 8.3 Appendix C – Draft Waste Strategy – Attached as a separate document.

Background Papers:

None

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Wards affected: All wards

Officer details:

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Document Control

Document Ref:		Date Created:	
Version:		Date Modified:	
Author:			
Owning Service			

Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
1			
2			

Appendix A

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) - Stage One

What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Executive to make:	
Summary of relevant legislation:	
Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council’s priorities for improvement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure our vulnerable children and adults achieve better outcomes • Support everyone to reach their full potential • Support businesses to start develop and thrive in West Berkshire • Develop local infrastructure including housing to support and grow the local economy Maintain a green district • Ensure sustainable services through innovation and partnerships 	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
Name of Budget Holder:	Daniel Warne
Name of Service/Directorate:	Climate Change
Name of assessor:	Daniel Warne
Date of assessment:	21 June 2024
Version and release date (if applicable):	Not applicable

Is this a ?		Is this policy, strategy, function or service ... ?	
Policy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	New or proposed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Strategy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Already exists and is being reviewed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Function	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is changing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Service	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

(1) What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?	
Aims:	

Objectives:	
Outcomes:	
Benefits:	

(2) Which groups might be affected and how? Is it positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this?

(Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation)

Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Age		
Disability		
Gender Reassignment		
Marriage and Civil Partnership		
Pregnancy and Maternity		
Race		
Religion or Belief		
Sex		
Sexual Orientation		

Further Comments:

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(3) Result

Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?

Yes No

Please provide an explanation for your answer:

Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?

Yes No

Please provide an explanation for your answer:

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If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered 'yes' to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a EqIA 2.

If an EqIA 2 is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the EqIA guidance and template – <http://intranet/index.aspx?articleid=32255>.

(4) Identify next steps as appropriate:	
EqIA Stage 2 required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Owner of EqIA Stage Two:	
Timescale for EqIA Stage Two:	

Name:

Date:

Please now forward this completed form to Pamela Voss, Equality and Diversity Officer (pamela.voss@westberks.gov.uk), for publication on the WBC website.

Appendix B

Data Protection Impact Assessment – Stage One

The General Data Protection Regulations require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for certain projects that have a significant impact on the rights of data subjects.

Should you require additional guidance in completing this assessment, please refer to the Information Management Officer via dp@westberks.gov.uk

Directorate:	Place
Service:	Climate Change
Team:	Waste Management
Lead Officer:	Daniel Warne, Waste Manager
Title of Project/System:	Waste Strategy
Date of Assessment:	21 June 2024

Do you need to do a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)?

	Yes	No
<p>Will you be processing SENSITIVE or “special category” personal data?</p> <p><i>Note – sensitive personal data is described as “ data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person’s sex life or sexual orientation”</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will you be processing data on a large scale?</p> <p><i>Note – Large scale might apply to the number of individuals affected OR the volume of data you are processing OR both</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will your project or system have a “social media” dimension?</p> <p><i>Note – will it have an interactive element which allows users to communicate directly with one another?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will any decisions be automated?</p> <p><i>Note – does your system or process involve circumstances where an individual's input is “scored” or assessed without intervention/review/checking by a human being? Will there be any “profiling” of data subjects?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Waste Strategy

	Yes	No
Will your project/system involve CCTV or monitoring of an area accessible to the public?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will you be using the data you collect to match or cross-reference against another existing set of data?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will you be using any novel, or technologically advanced systems or processes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<small>Note – this could include biometrics, “internet of things” connectivity or anything that is currently not widely utilised</small>		

If you answer “Yes” to any of the above, you will probably need to complete [Data Protection Impact Assessment - Stage Two](#). If you are unsure, please consult with the Information Management Officer before proceeding.

Draft Waste Strategy