

## Cabinet

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**Date of Meeting:** 10 March 2020

**Report Title:** Municipal Waste Management Strategy review

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Jill Rhodes – Waste

**Senior Officer:** Frank Jordan – Executive Director of Place

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### 1 Report Summary

- 1.1 In 2014, the Waste Management Strategy for Cheshire East was approved. This established the key aims and objectives for the management of municipal waste within the Borough and identified the key actions required to deliver these aims and objectives.
- 1.2 Since 2014, in partnership with our service delivery company Ansa Environmental Services we have delivered on the key objectives of the strategy through the:
  - Creation of the environmental hub enabling the end of landfilling our waste
  - Procurement and construction of a new composting plant enabling the introduction of food waste recycling
  - Review of household waste recycling centres to deliver efficiencies and improvements.
- 1.3 During 2019, the Strategy has been reviewed. This paper presents the result of that review which has been undertaken in the context of changes to the legislative and policy framework affecting waste and streetscene services including the development of the Council's Environment Strategy.
- 1.4 Approval is sought from Cabinet to agree to the revised draft of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy to be used as a basis of consultation and to delegate authority to the Head of Environmental Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Waste and Highways to approve the final version following that consultation process.

## **2 Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approves the draft Waste Management Strategy as outlined at Appendix one.
- 2.2 Delegates authority to the Head of Environmental Services, to carry out a consultation exercise on the draft strategy
- 2.3 Delegates authority to the Head of Environmental Services to review the results of the consultation and to approve the final version of the document in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Waste and Highways.

## **3 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Waste Management Strategy has been reviewed to take account of changes in the national policy framework relating to waste and also to take account of the Council's Draft Environment Strategy.
- 3.2 Approval is now being sought to agree to the final draft of the strategy and to undertake consultation on it to inform the development of the final version of the strategy

## **4 Other Options Considered**

- 4.1 None.

## **5 Background**

- 5.1 Since the approval of the Waste Management strategy in 2014 there have been a number of important changes which have been reflected in the revised draft document.
- 5.2 In particular, the Paris Agreement of December 2015 saw a historic global commitment to reduce carbon emissions agreed by 195 countries and will be an important driver for worldwide change.
- 5.3 Moving towards a more 'circular economy', where goods and materials are constantly re-used and recycled rather than discarded as waste will help contribute to protecting both the economy and the environment and again this new emphasis is highlighted in the revised Strategy.
- 5.4 In addition to international agreements, at the Council meeting on 22 May 2019, the Elected Members of Cheshire East Council approved a Notice of Motion relating to Climate Change. In response to this an Environment Strategy has been agreed. This has a direct bearing on the waste strategy, namely:
  - Cheshire East will be a Carbon Neutral Council by 2025

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- Waste and pollution will be reduced
- 5.5 The review of the strategy takes account of proposed changes in national legislation and policy relating to waste which cover:
- Waste and recycling: making recycling collections consistent in England
  - Draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill 2018
  - Plastic packaging tax
  - Packaging waste: changing the UK producer responsibility system for packaging waste
  - Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers (bottles and cans)

## **6 Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1 Legal Implications**

6.1.1 There is no statutory requirement for Councils to have a waste strategy; however, it is considered good practice and there was agreement when the first strategy was introduced in 2014 that it would be reviewed on a 5 yearly basis

### **6.2 Finance Implications**

6.2.1 This revised strategy retains its aim of delivering a quality and value for money waste management service. The review including staff time and consultation has been funded from the existing budget within Environmental Services.

6.2.2 The financial benefits of managing our waste efficiently are extensive with over £500,000 savings from route and rota optimisation and our food waste being composted – a far more cost effective way than sending it to energy from waste. The wide ranging communications efforts continue to aim at encouraging residents to reduce the amount of waste they produce, thus reducing the waste that the service handles

### **6.3 Policy Implications**

6.3.1 The revised waste strategy does not change the Council's existing policies but it does warn of policy implications if central Government were to mandate actions that directly impact the way waste must be collected.

## **6.4 Equality Implications**

6.4.1 The way the authority manages its waste will be guided by best practice. Where access to our services is challenging, through a disability, we provide an assisted service. An Equality impact assessment has been carried out.

## **6.5 Human Resources Implications**

6.5.1 The strategy does not highlight any immediate HR implications.

## **6.6 Risk Management Implications**

6.6.1 The Government proposals, within its Environment Bill presented to Parliament in early 2020, which are fully discussed in the revised Municipal Waste Management Strategy, could have significant financial and operational impacts on service delivery. For example: if a weekly collection of food waste is mandated then the recently introduced food service, within the garden bin, would have to be adapted.

## **6.7 Rural Communities Implications**

6.7.1 The service provided covers all aspects of the rural community.

## **6.8 Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children**

6.8.1 Any changes will not adversely impact this group

## **6.9 Public Health Implications**

6.9.1 The strategy's emphasis on working with local industries, business and households in order to reduce the levels of waste produced will reduce the number of vehicles needed for collection. This should contribute to the Council's Air Quality Management by reducing congestion particularly in major towns within Cheshire East.

6.9.2 Improving Public Spaces:

- By reducing the amount of waste produced it should lessen the amount of litter blown from bins found in streets, thereby improving the environment and reducing accidents caused by slips and trips
- By reducing the amount of waste and litter in our communities there are also benefits to local wildlife that can be harmed by waste found in our green spaces.
- By reducing the amount of waste and litter in our streets there are benefits in creating a community where people are happy to live, work and visit.

6.9.3 Such measures will also contribute to the Cheshire East Partnership's Five Year Plan, Outcome One: Create a place that support health and wellbeing for everyone living in Cheshire East and Outcome Two: Improve the Mental Health and Wellbeing and working in Cheshire East

## **6.10 Climate Change Implications**

6.10.1 The revised strategy takes into account the authority's carbon reduction commitment and the extensive mitigation required to address the use of diesel in the refuse collection vehicles.

## **7 Ward Members Affected**

7.1 The project will affect all wards.

## **8 Consultation & Engagement**

8.1 To date in the production of the draft strategy we have engaged with over 500 residents with the following engagement activities.

- Members briefing discussing the key elements and what should be included – September 2019 (14 attendees)
- Three focus groups with members of the digital influence panel – October 2019 (22 attendees)
- Inviting the digital influence panel members to give their views October-November 2019 (483 responses) . Report available
- Presentation to Environment and Overview scrutiny committee November 2019, whose comments are included in the Research and Consultation engagement report

8.2 Subject to Cabinet approval of the draft revised strategy, a borough wide consultation will be undertaken. This will take place for 6 weeks and will be available as an online questionnaire, at our library service desks, and through liaison with adult social care and commissioning to ensure wide engagement with vulnerable people groups.

## **9 Access to Information**

9.1 Consultation Engagement report

9.2 Equality impact assessment

## **10 Contact Information**

10.1 Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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