

Notes of the Waste Strategy Task and Finish Group meeting held on Tuesday, 6 September 2016

Present: Councillors D McCall, D Hosking, V McPake, M Petchey and A Webb

Officers: S Heap (Committee Services and Scrutiny Manager)
D McKenzie (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)
T Blackburne-Maze (Service Director- Public Realm)
A Hudson (Head- Environment and Waste)
D Proctor (Waste Contracts Manager)

Apologies: Councillor D Hopkins

Election of Chair

Councillor D McCall was elected as Chair.

Disclosure of Interest

None

Background Information & Discussion of Waste Strategy in Milton Keynes

Waste Service officers gave Members of the Task and Finish Group background information about the Council's Waste Services and the new Waste Strategy being developed.

Work on a new Waste Strategy is in its early stages and is due to be considered by Cabinet in March 2017. The Strategy will have a particular focus on addressing the Council's financial position ensuring that waste services are cost effective and sustainable, and is being developed on behalf of the governing Council administration. All waste services are in scope for the new Waste Strategy. The new Waste Strategy will have a new vision and commitment relative to the current strategy.

A new Waste Strategy is needed as the old Waste Strategy is out of date and will soon lapse. The new Waste Strategy will have to be approved Cabinet, and not full Council as the strategy is not a framework document.

Serco has the existing contract for the Council's management of waste. This contract is also currently up for renewal, and the contractor's performance will be reviewed by the Service. This is however an operational matter and is separate from development of the new Waste Strategy.

Members recommended consultations as part of development of the new Strategy.

Scope/Terms of Reference

A draft Scoping document containing the Terms of Reference had been circulated and was discussed.

Members were disappointed at the late start of the Task and Finish Group, which limited the time within which the Group had to feedback into the Council's 2017/18 budget. It was noted that this budget will incorporate income projections from a new waste treatment plant.

Members decided the following for the Review:-

1. Quality of service in waste service provision will be included so as to avoid a narrow focus on the financial aspects as relates to provision.
2. Community views will be taken into account where possible including the views of Parish and Town Councils and Ward Councillors
3. Consultation as a part of the review is recommended.
4. Council capacity to sell services to other local authorities will be included
5. A site visit of the Council's waste treatment plants will be undertaken if required.

Members also decided that in undertaking the Review, a wide range of evidence sources will be utilised including:-

1. Evidence of demands upon the service such as litter and flytipping.
2. Evidence of what residents want (Serco satisfaction survey from 2009, call centre and website statistics).
3. Historical data as to amount and type of waste generated in the borough
4. Results of Waste Service pilots.
5. Contractual commitments.

The Terms of Reference set out in the Scoping was revised by Members (attached).

Future Work

The Group decided on the below Work Programme:-

- **1st Meeting-** What customers want and think of waste services (evidence of pilots and satisfaction survey information).
- **2nd Meeting-** Future trends/demand predictability (what will waste look like in 5 years), and what happens elsewhere in waste service management such as with other local authorities.
- **3rd Meeting-** November shortlist with the varied options/pilots considered in development of the new Waste Strategy broken down into costs, benefits, medium term financial plans/projections.
- **4th Meeting-** Strategy direction based on evidence gathered and particular option(s) chosen.

To assist the Review, Members decided on the following witnesses:-

- Councillor M Gowan (Cabinet Member- Public Realm)
- Waste and Resources Action Programme (to provide a national overview)
- Council partners possibly including Serco and Amey

Meetings

- Members decided by a majority that Review meetings would be held in public
- However where necessary review of confidential matters such as contractual and commercially sensitive information will be done in private.
- Meetings will be held every 3 - 4 weeks with a meeting at the end of September, in October, and November 2016. October's meeting will include a site visit to the Council's waste treatment plant.
- The need for Waste Service officers to give the Scrutiny Review officer support in organising meetings including data and information was underscored by Members, and committed to by officers.
- D. McKenzie will finalise meetings dates and make necessary arrangements for future Group meetings after consultation with the Councillor D. McCall.