

SELECT COMMITTEE REVIEW PLAN

Overview and Scrutiny



SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC

PLAN FOR WASTE

Raised by -

Place and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date -

27 July 2016

Purpose of Review

The sustainable management of waste underlies the health, wealth and well-being of the city. Recognising the opportunities and challenges this presents is critical to how the City Council is best able to meet its statutory obligations more effectively and efficiently.

The review will consider current targets and improvements for the future of recycling and waste services and the proposals under a Plan for Waste to meet the Council's public statement of intent to increase recycling levels which have dropped in the last year from 36% to 33%, a trend mirrored nationally.

A Plan for Waste has been in development over a period of around twelve months, the Committee can add value to the decision making process by reviewing proposals and providing findings into the Scrutiny process surrounding the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy and Efficiency Plan.

During this short review process members of the committee will need to be alert to the consequences and opportunities of regulatory frameworks and four key drivers in recycling and waste management –

- **The Waste Hierarchy**
 - Options for disposing of waste are set out within the Waste Hierarchy which is “both a guide to sustainable waste management and a legal requirement of the revised EU Waste Framework Directive, enshrined in law through the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.” Local authorities are encouraged to dispose of waste as high up the hierarchy as it is practically possible. (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-legislation-and-regulations>)
- **The Proximity Principle**
 - Recognising that within the revised Waste Framework Directive (WFD), there is the principle of ‘proximity’. This imposes on European Member States a requirement to establish a network of waste disposal installations for recovery of municipal waste. This network must: “...enable waste to be disposed of, or be recovered, in one of the nearest appropriate installations, by means of the most appropriate methods and technologies, in order to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and public health.” (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-legislation-and-regulations>)
- **The Circular Economy**
 - Supporting the EU Circular Economy Package 2015 and the development of a circular economy to gain the maximum value from materials and products by keeping resources in use for as long as possible and at the end of product life recovering material value (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publication/circular-economy-and-waste-markets-uk-government>)
- **The Current Recycling Level and Financial Context**
 - Recognising that recycling levels in the city have dropped between 2014 and 2015 and there is currently no sustainable large scale plan to redress this trend in order to present a transformed 21st century recycling and waste service
 - Recognising that at the forefront of all considerations of new policies and strategies has to be the reality of the scale and severity of cuts to local authority controllable budgets over the coming years (including the period during which key decisions about the future waste strategy

must be determined).

During the session members will consider -

- What are the options for Plymouth in respect of waste/recyclate collection, recovery, treatment and disposal?
- What are the environmental, planning, financial and social inclusion implications of these options?
- What does Plymouth need to do to ensure our waste is a resource for the city and gains the most economic value?
- What can we learn from elsewhere in the UK, Europe and internationally in terms of waste to resource, sustainability and recyclate recovery opportunities?

Select Committee Membership

Tbc

Process

Methodology/Approach	Single Select Committee Session to be held in the Council House with invited witnesses, presentation from officers and relevant paperwork.
Sources of Information/Evidence	Plymouth City Council – Waste Services Local Government Association Department of the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs The Environment Agency Waste Resources Action Programme Other local Authorities
Consultation Exercises	Initial feedback from summer consultation exercise.
Witness/Expert Participation	To be identified, will include portfolio holder and officers.
Site Visits	Officers and Leading Members to visit Launceston Recycling Site, Wiltshire and Kettering Councils, Dates TBA
Resource Requirements	Will be met through existing scrutiny resources.

Post Review

Reporting Process	The panel will report into the joint select committee on Policy and Budget decisions which will make recommendations to Cabinet
Anticipated Completion Date	Friday 2 nd September
Draft Report Deadline	Friday 16 th September
Meeting Frequency	Single Session
Dates of Meetings	TBC
Further Information	N/A