

To: City Executive Board

Date: 13th November 2013

Report of: Head of Environmental Development

Title of Report: WASTE AND RECYCLING STRATEGY

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To agree the adoption of the Waste and Recycling Strategy

Key decision? Yes

Executive lead member: Councillor John Tanner

Policy Framework: Cleaner Greener Oxford

Recommendation(s): To approve the Waste and Recycling Strategy for adoption.

Appendices to report –

Appendix 1: Waste and Recycling Strategy

Appendix 2: Risk Register

Appendix 3: Equalities Impacts Assessment

Introduction

1. In December 2011 CEB approved a Sustainability Strategy for Oxford. The Sustainability Strategy focuses on a number of core themes including climate change flooding, land quality and managing our waste. This report presents and recommends a policy linked to the Sustainability Strategy which is the Waste and Recycling Strategy for Oxford. The Sustainability Strategy was approved following public consultation. As the Waste and Recycling Strategy is subordinate it is not proposed to hold a public consultation on this strategy.
2. There is a significant challenge in managing our waste in a more sustainable way, reducing the reliance on disposing of waste in landfills with ever decreasing capacities and developing more productive ways of using our waste as a resource, and realising value from it wherever possible.

3. The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP), of which Oxford City Council is a partner, has been revising and developing its Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS). This was first adopted in 2007 and the latest version was signed off by all partners earlier this year.
4. The Waste and Recycling Strategy provides a framework for integrating all of the Council's activities to reduce waste production and increase re-use and recycling of materials across the City.

The Draft Waste and Recycling Strategy

5. The draft Waste and Recycling Strategy takes account of the national and European policy framework, the aspirations set out in the Corporate Plan and the Sustainability Strategy and the content of the recently refreshed OWP JMWMS.
6. The draft Strategy sets out four headline objectives which align with the waste hierarchy.
7. The objectives are to:
 - Reduce residual waste in Oxford;
 - Maximise the amount of resources re-used in Oxford;
 - Maximise the amount of waste recycled in Oxford; and
 - Reduce the carbon footprint of waste management in Oxford.
8. The approach of the draft Strategy is to highlight the progress that has been made to date and to consolidate and build on existing work streams and on-going projects as opposed to proposing new areas of work.
9. The draft Strategy highlights the unique issues that Oxford faces in decreasing the amount of residual waste sent to landfill and increasing the amount of recycling. These include unusual demographics, a very high annual population turnover (around 25%) and a high proportion of households living in flats and Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs), where the provision of recycling infrastructure can present a challenge.
10. The focus of the draft Strategy is on communication and education. However, if these approaches are unsuccessful then enforcement using fixed penalty notices will be used. Littering is an environmental crime which lowers the quality of life for people living in the areas affected and can lead to an increase in other types of crime.
11. The draft Strategy picks up on the recently revised corporate targets, as agreed at the City Executive Board meeting on 11th September 2013, that relate to waste and recycling. It should be noted that although these are the recycling targets set out in the Corporate Plan the strategy still retains an aspiration to reach the more stretching target of reusing or recycling at least 50% of the waste collected at some future point.

Corporate target	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Reduce the amount of residual household waste collected per household per annum and sent to landfill to 430kg in 2014/15	445kg	430kg	430kg	430kg
Increase the percentage of waste collected sent for reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion to 45%	44%	44%	45%	45%

12. There is recognition within the Council that the reuse and recycling target is challenging for a city. To increase the recycling rate significantly beyond the above figure would involve considerable investment, which may not be available in the current financial climate.
13. As an example, a recent paper to the Cleaner, Greener Board outlined the costs of extending weekly food waste collections to all flats across the city. The total cost over three years was just over £900,000. It is estimated that this investment has the potential to increase the recycling rate by 1.5–2%.
14. The draft Strategy takes cognisance of current budgets and can be delivered within present funding levels. Strategy implementation may be at risk if budgets are significantly reduced in the future.

Risk

15. The draft Waste and Recycling Strategy sits within the Council's Sustainability Strategy which has already been risk assessed. The risk assessment for the Sustainability Strategy has been updated within Appendix 2 to reflect the links to the Waste and Recycling Strategy.

Climate Change / Environmental Impact

16. The draft Waste and Recycling Strategy contains objectives and targets that are designed to reduce the impacts of waste management in line with the principles of the waste hierarchy.
17. The positive environmental impacts of waste prevention and increased recycling have long been realised. However, there is now a greater focus on (and growing understanding of) greenhouse gas emissions (such as carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gasses) associated with waste management activities.
18. Oxford City Council compiles an annual greenhouse gas report outlining our annual emissions. Reducing emissions from waste management helps reduce the impact of climate change and measuring the carbon impact of our activities remains important.

19. Landfills are large emitters of methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more polluting than carbon dioxide. By reducing the amount of waste that we send to landfill we are helping to reduce the carbon footprint of our activities.

Equalities Impact

20. There are no likely equality impacts and an equalities impact assessment is attached as Appendix 3.

Financial Implications

21. There are no immediate direct financial implications of the draft Waste and Recycling Strategy as it reflects programmes that are funded within existing budgets. However an extension of programmes to deliver further improvements in waste management may be required in future years. Any such extensions would be subject to individual approvals to extend or develop new programmes.

Legal Implications

22. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities have a statutory duty to collect all household waste and a statutory duty to collect wastes from commercial premises, if so requested by the occupier of the premises.

23. The Waste Framework Directive sets a target of recycling or preparing for reuse of 50% of member state household waste by 2020.

24. The Landfill Directive sets a target to be achieved by 2020 of reducing biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 35% of that produced in 1995.

25. There is no current statutory requirement for a Waste and Recycling Strategy.

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