

Summary Sheet

Improving Places Select Commission Meeting 22nd February 2017

Title

Waste Management Review

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Damien Wilson, Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment

Report author(s): Martin Raper Head of Service Street Scene

Ward(s) Affected: All

Summary:

An Improving Places Select Commission Task and Finish Group undertook a waste management review in December 2015 and requested that a progress report on the Task and Finish Group's recommendations be submitted to the Improving Places Select Commission in early 2017.

Recommendations

To note the content of this report and approve the direction of progress.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

Scrutiny Review: Waste Management
Review from the Improving Places Select Commission Task and Finish Group
December 2015.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Title

Waste Management Update

1. Recommendations

To note the content of this report and approve the direction of progress.

2. Background

An Improving Places Select Commission Task & Finish Group undertook a waste management review in December 2015 and requested that a progress report on the Task & Finish Group's recommendations be submitted to the Improving Places Select Commission in early 2017.

The review was one of a number undertaken within the then Environment and Development Services (Now Regeneration and Environment), identified by the Commissioner Sir Derek Myers for a scrutiny review to take place during 2015/2016.

The Group looked at options in relation to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs); re-use facilities, the collection of bulky items, green waste collections, kerbside collections textiles and small electricals and the collection of commercial waste.

The Group recognised that waste management is one of the most important front line services that the Council delivers to the people of Rotherham and is both a Waste Collection and Waste Disposal Authority.

The outcome of the review identified the following short and medium term actions

Short Term (within the 2015/16 financial year)

- Consider the ways in which home composting may be promoted in Rotherham, including the cost/benefit of offering free/subsidised compost bins to residents.
- Continue the discussions with the British Heart Foundation (BHF) with a view to offer a collection service to all householders in Rotherham which enables greater reuse of unwanted furniture.
- A joint approach to the provision of bulky waste collection services to all householders in Rotherham which enables greater reuse of unwanted furniture.
- The establishment of a textile/ bric-a-brac/ small electrical goods household collection service.
- Negotiate with FCC the Council's current HWRC contractor, and a third sector/not for profit organisation to introduce a small-scale re-use facility on one or more of the HWRCs as a means of encouraging re-use and

raising awareness of the opportunities for reuse of household bric a brac and other small items.

- Explore with FCC the scope for introducing a charge for non-household waste at HWRCs during 2016/17 for the remainder of the contract period at all Council HWRCs for all items of non-household waste that the Council may legitimately make a charge for. Evaluate the benefits to the Council as well as the likely impact on user satisfaction and any adverse consequences such as increases in fly tipping.

Medium Term (From 2016/17 onwards)

Given that Rotherham Council works collaboratively across a range of waste services with Barnsley and Doncaster and there is an effective governance arrangement already in place through the Joint Waste Partnership Board (BDR).

- Members would like to see the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) provision being considered as a whole across the partnership. This opens up potentially greater economies of scale and the ability to sustain acceptable levels of provision at lower cost. The joint contract is due for renewal in October 2018. In order that proper consideration can be given to transforming the way the service is provided. It is recommended that work begins early in 2016/17 with BDR partners to jointly review the most cost-effective way of commissioning HWRC services across the three boroughs and scope a service specification that will ensure income is maximised and costs are minimised, while maintaining a service level that will be acceptable to residents.

Careful consideration should be given to the establishment of re-use facilities at HWRCs either as part of a new joint contract through the BDR arrangements, or as a Council sole commissioned service.

- Members also recommend that BDR examines the opportunities and benefits of a combined contract for the collection of green waste across the three boroughs during the growing season, thus maintaining a valued service to residents, increasing recycling rates and potentially saving money. Members do not exclude the possibility that a charge may need to be made for this service.
- Produce a fully costed business plan for a substantial expansion of the commercial waste collection service throughout the Borough and potentially beyond the Borough boundaries. Include in the appraisal the option of a combined service through the BDR waste partnership to maximise scale and profitability.

3. Key Issues

During 2016, the structure in the Regeneration and Environment Directorate has seen significant change with new appointments to the positions of Strategic Director and Assistant Director of Community Safety and Street Scene. The Waste Service structure was strengthened in October 2016, with the

appointment of the Head of Service for Street Scene who is supported by a Waste Manager on an interim basis whilst the final structure is introduced during first quarter of 2017. The Waste Collections Team is working to a Waste Service Plan which, in the main will be completed by March 2017, including an improvement plan, new structure, health and safety, budget, waste strategy, and a review of the commodity arrangements.

As part of this work, the recommendation of the Improving Places Select Commission Task and Finish Group will be taken into account and included within the service development plans that will be presented during 2017.

3. Review

The Improving Places Select Commission Task and Finish Group review of December 2015 requested progress for each of the short term recommendations which are as follows:

- **Consider the ways in which home composting may be promoted in Rotherham, including the cost/benefit of offering free/subsidised compost bins to residents.**

Rotherham currently offers compost bins to all residents at a discounted rate and these can be ordered through our web site - http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/200084/bins_rubbish_and_recycling/552/order_a_compost_bin

A campaign through the Council's internal and external communications and local media will be delivered promoting composting and subsidised composting bins in early spring of 2017. This will be in conjunction with the promotion of the re-commencing of the kerbside garden waste collections and the need to minimise contamination.

- **Continue the discussions with the British Heart Foundation (BHF) with a view to offer a waste collection service to all householders in Rotherham which enables greater reuse of unwanted furniture.**
- **A joint approach to the provision of the bulky waste collection service to all households in Rotherham which enables greater reuse of unwanted furniture.**
- **The establishment of a textile/ bric-a-brac/ small electrical goods household collection service.**

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) proposal has been considered in detail with the financial implications of commissioning the service being further understood. BHF would require funding to deliver the model which would also lead to a reduction in income for the Council (specifically a reduction in income from the Bulky Items Collection Service). Whilst some operational savings would partially offset this loss, the net financial position may be adverse, especially taking into account the cost of disposing of items collected by BHF which are not suitable for reuse. It is considered that the proposal would not be in the best financial interests of the Council.

- **Negotiate with FCC and a third sector/not for profit organisation to introduce a small-scale re-use facility on one or more of the HWRCs as a means of encouraging re-use and raising awareness of the opportunities for reuse of household bric a brac and other small items.**

A partnership has now been established between our HWRC Operator (FCC Environment) and our Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Contractor (Advantage Waste Brokers), together with a Social Enterprise Organisation (Refurnish) to deliver a BDR Reuse Project for suitable electrical items received at HWRCs across the BDR Partnership area. During the first week in January 2017, the segregation of electrical items suitable for reuse has commenced (when customers agree). Alongside this arrangement for electrical items some bicycles are also being recycled.

- **Explore with FCC the scope for introducing a charge for non-household waste at HWRCs during 2016/17 for the remainder of the contract period at all Rotherham HWRCs for all items of non-household waste that the Council may legitimately make a charge for. Evaluate the benefits to the Council as well as the likely impact on user satisfaction and any perverse consequences such as increases in fly tipping.**

Introducing a charge for non-household waste at HWRCs represents a major variation from the current contract specification for managing our HWRCs. Such a change can only be made with the full agreement of our current contractor and would require a review of the management arrangements and associated contract pricing structure. The optimum time to consider such an arrangement is when determining the specification for the new HWRC Management Contract due to commence in October 2018. The requirements for the new contract are currently being considered by the Council's Officers and the BDR Partnership.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

Not applicable with regards to this report

5. Consultation

Not applicable with regards to this report

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

Not applicable with regards to this report

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

Not applicable with regards to this report

8. Legal Implications

Not applicable with regards to this report

9. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable with regards to this report.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

Not applicable with regards to this report

11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

Not Applicable with regards to this report.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

None Identified

13. Risks and Mitigation

Not applicable with regards to this report

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Damien Wilson, Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment

Approvals Obtained from:-

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