

Report of	Head of Operational Services	Author	Chris Dowsing
Title	Update on the Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal Task and Finish Group		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

This report concerns an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group.

1. Decision(s) Required

- 1.1 To note the good work undertaken by the Task and Finish group and request the development of a new waste strategy that identifies the outcomes desired by Cabinet in terms of the management of waste for the future.
- 1.2 To place on hold the activity of the Task and Finish group until the development of a new waste strategy is completed which could be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 27th January 2016. At this point Cabinet could also consider whether it wants to give a new term of reference to the Task and Finish Group.

2. Reasons for Decision(s)

- 2.1 The current Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group (Appendix 1) agreed by Cabinet in October 2014 have been met in terms of the four major items set out. The group has asked for and received wide ranging information on the management of waste and the group should be thanked for the commitment and effort put into understanding the subject. As a result of this work it has been identified that the Council needs to identify its desired outcomes for the management of waste and recycling by the development of a new waste strategy.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 The Council last reviewed its waste strategy in 2008 and as such it requires updating. The alternative to this is to not review the Councils objectives for the management of waste and recycling through a revised strategy, which is not a desirable position in which to consider future options for the management of waste and recycling.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 Following new terms of reference for the group being agreed by Cabinet the Task and Finish group met on six occasions. At its first meeting the members of the group agreed that they needed to be given detailed background information to assist them in formulating their approach, the issues they wished to be clarified, the priorities which were important to them and the kind of information they would wish to see presented to them. The group requested that a report be prepared and were provided with one that included the following information:

- The recycling and waste service currently provided
 - Details of the best performing Local Authorities
 - The collection methods adopted by the best performers
 - Statistics to illustrate the average yield from each method of collection
 - Details of behaviour changes implemented elsewhere
 - The barriers to implementing changes in collection arrangements
 - Details of an Essex wide residual waste composition study
 - An explanation as to what happens to co-mingled recycled material
 - Details of the incentives and their use by other authorities
 - Patterns of consumption and its impact on recycling rates
 - Options for a public consultation
 - Tonnage information over the last eight years for recycling and residual waste
 - Case studies, changes to collections being made and considered elsewhere
 - Information on the 'TEEP Test'
- 4.2 The Group were provided with details of options for public consultation and an approach to Doorstep Collection research. A proposal was recommended for approval submitted by Qa Research.
- 4.3 At the meeting of the Task and Finish group on the 23rd July 2015 the Group agreed that:
- (i) The opportunity be taken for a pause in the work of the Task and Finish Group;
 - (ii) Cabinet be recommended to consider, at its meeting on 2 September 2015, revising the Group's Terms of Reference to provide for more detailed research into alternative options for the waste and recycling service
 - (iii) Arrangements be made for the Task and Finish Group to meet promptly following the Cabinet consideration in order to agree a revised approach for the Group.
- 4.4 Due to pressure of work, the Cabinet was unable to consider the Groups terms of reference at its meeting on the 2nd September and this will now be considered when the Strategy is presented at Cabinet's January meeting.
- 4.5 The timetable for the progression of the waste strategy is set out below:

Date	Meeting
8 th December 2015	Scrutiny Panel
27 th January 2016	Cabinet
17 th February 2016	Council

5. Proposals

- 5.1 It is proposed the Cabinet takes the opportunity to produce a new waste strategy that enables it to give a clear direction about the outcomes it is seeking to achieve for the management of waste and recycling. This strategy can then be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on the 27th January 2016.
- 5.2 Cabinet at this point can then review its position in terms of the work of the Task and Finish group and what Terms of Reference it may give the group going forward. As the Waste Strategy forms part of the Council's policy framework, it will require adoption by Full Council.

6. Strategic Plan References

- 6.1 These decisions contribute to the strategic plan theme of Welcoming by seeking to - Improve sustainability, cleanliness and health of the place by supporting events that promote fun and wellbeing.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 Cabinet considers that further consultation with the public will be useful following the development of the waste strategy. This will be considered when the strategy is presented and could form part of a revised terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group.

8. Publicity Considerations

- 8.1 The decisions at present will not affect any particular groups.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of the decisions in this report. Any financial implications arising as a result of any future work streams would be provided in future reports.

10. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 10.1 An updated Equality Impact Assessment for the Recycling and Waste service is available here <http://www.colchester.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=7734&p=0>

The decisions will not impact on the promotion of equality or discriminate in relation to gender, gender reassignment, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age and race/ethnicity.

11. Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 There are no community safety implications as a result of these decisions

12. Health and Safety Implications

- 12.1 There are no Health and Safety implications as a result of these decisions

13. Risk Management Implications

- 13.1 There are no risk management implications as a result of this decision

Background Papers

N/A

Appendix 1

RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICE

TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Chair: Councillor Rosalind Scott

Deputy Chair: Councillor Nick Cope

Terms of Reference:

This Task and Finish Group has been set up to assist the Cabinet in considering the future of the recycling and waste collection service with a particular focus on reducing the amount of residual waste going to landfill and increasing the amount and quality of the materials sent for recycling

The group will also consider the types of waste collection services being offered elsewhere in other waste collection authority areas and the levels of recycling performance being achieved.

The group will need to have particular regard to the types and frequency of materials collected and the methods used.

Consider and develop an appropriate consultation plan to understand the preferences of the people of the Borough as to what the Council's target should be for recycling performance and what collection methods to use to achieve it.

Desired Outcomes:

Full understanding of the potential benefits, risks and costs associated with the various systems used for recycling and waste collection

Full understanding of the best methods to maximise participation in kerbside recycling schemes, the changes required to achieve increased recycling performance and the achievement of decreased amounts of waste to landfill in line with the highest performing authorities.

Improved understanding of customer behaviour issues in relation to recycling and waste management through research and public consultation

Recommendation/s to Cabinet on the options for the Recycling & Waste collection service to enable it to achieve its strategic aims of reducing waste to landfill and increasing recycling.

