

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhood and Community Services Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 19 June 2013

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WARD(S): ALL

PORTFOLIO: Commissioner for environment and open spaces
Cllr Satpal Parmar

PART I **FOR COMMENT**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: WASTE STRATEGY 2013 – 2028

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Neighbourhood and Community Services Scrutiny Panel of the development of the Slough Borough Council 'Waste Strategy 2013 – 2028' and the requirement for a full public consultation to gauge residents preferences for the future of waste and recycling services within the borough. The consultation questions will be requesting the views of residents on waste and recycling collection services, garden waste and composting, and possible future recycling schemes.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

- 2.1 The Panel is requested to consider the proposals and provide comment to Cabinet regarding:
- a) the commencement of a public consultation in August 2013 on 'your views the future of waste and recycling services' to inform the development of the Waste Strategy 2013 – 2028; and
 - b) the development of the Waste Strategy 2013 – 2028 in accordance with the information as presented in Section 5.

3 The Sustainable Community Strategy, the JSNA and the Corporate Plan

3a. Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

Environment and Regeneration

Slough Borough Council will pursue:

- steps to move up the waste hierarchy and increase the amount of waste recycled;
- reduce the overall amount of waste produced; and
- reduce dependency on landfill for final waste disposal.

Furthermore the council will:

- encourage home composting;
- continue to provide a dedicated scheme to collect green garden waste.

The primary environmental commitment and statement made by the Council through the Strategy is that the council has set itself the target of recycling 60% of its waste by 2028. This is a core driver behind the Waste Strategy 2013 – 2028 and defines the strategic horizon period.

The commencement of the public consultation is being requested to provide information on public support for certain waste management initiatives which can be implemented to assist in meeting the needs of the priorities as listed above.

3b. **Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy: Cross-Cutting themes**

Residents play an important part in the sustainable management of the borough's waste and the council relies on residents to sort their recycling and residual waste for collection, and to dispose of their waste considerately, especially larger items. Furthermore residents waste disposal habits have implications for the council's budget, and influences the amount of waste sent to landfill, recycled or composted. Therefore, all residents have a civic responsibility to contribute to a cleaner, greener Slough.

The public consultation will garner public support for certain waste management initiatives which can assist in meeting the needs of the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities whilst reinforcing to residents their role in achieving this. Hence demonstrating the cross-cutting theme of **Civic responsibility**.

Successful waste management processes will ensure the town is kept tidy and clean, while unsuccessful processes may have inadvertent consequences such as a rise in fly tipping or littering, which damages the image of the town. Where and how collected waste is managed also impacts on the environment of the town. Public consultation will enable feedback to be provided as to how residents want their waste managed. Therefore, the public consultation will inform the theme of **Improving the image of the town**.

3c. **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

There are no references within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for waste management and recycling.

3d. **Corporate Plan 2012/13**

The Slough Borough Council Corporate Plan states that one of the key supporting plans and strategies is the Waste Strategy 2013 – 2028.

The Corporate Plan sets out the council's political and managerial objectives for the year, and complements the priorities contained within the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy. Objectives are grouped into a number of themes, with the Waste Strategy 2013 – 2028 contributing especially to those below.

Improve the customer experience

Service users expect an efficient and reliable bin collection, which the service will strive to improve.

Deliver high quality services and facilities to meet local needs

In designing waste management provision, local circumstances will be taken into account, to deliver the most appropriate service for users. The service will aim to be consistently high.

Develop new ways of working

The service will make the most of new technology and best practice to increase efficiency, improve levels of service and deliver improved environmental, economic and social outcomes.

Deliver local and national change and improvement

The council has set itself ambitious targets for the management of waste, and will constantly review services to ensure they meet changing needs, resources and opportunities.

Achieve value for money

Through efficiencies and harnessing new technology and ways of working, the strategy will generate savings while consistently delivering a high level of service.

The recommendation for the commencement for the public consultation will mean that public response will help to refine the approaches as to how the above objectives of the Corporate Plan above are met by the council through the Waste Strategy 2013 – 2028.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

The costs of the consultation exercise are projected at £2,000. These costs can be met from within the current approved revenue budget provision.

(b) Risk Management

None.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

Guidance on Municipal Waste Management Strategies as provided by DEFRA states that “Engagement with the local community and key stakeholders should be an important and integral part of the decision making process”;

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for the completion of an EIA.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 As a unitary council Slough Borough Council is responsible for collection, management and disposal of all municipal waste generated within the borough.

- 5.2 The Waste Strategy 2013 – 2028 is a document that will outline how the council will manage all of the household waste generated over the next 15 years. It will supersede the Waste Strategy 2002– 2012.
- 5.3. The Waste Strategy 2013 – 2028 is currently being developed by the Waste & Environment Team and will outline the preferred waste management options for the future of waste collection, waste management and waste disposal in Slough. It will outline how the council will meet the targets outlined within the Local Context policy documents in Section 3 and all the National Context policy documents as outlined by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Waste Resources Action programme (WRAP) and associated central Government departments;
- 5.4 The previous public consultation in October 2007 consulted the residents on their views regarding the potential implementation of a red bin recycling service. The 2013 public consultation will inform draft future waste management options which will be presented to NCS Scrutiny Panel when the recommendation to approve the Waste Strategy 2013 – 2028 document is sought accordingly.

6 **Conclusion**

The Panel is requested to consider the proposals and provide comment to Cabinet regarding:

- a) The commencement of a public consultation in August 2013 on 'your views the future of waste and recycling services' to inform the development of the Waste Strategy 2013 – 2028;
- b) The development of the Waste Strategy 2013 – 2028 in accordance with the information as presented in Section 5.

7 **Background Papers**

'1' - Guidance on Municipal Waste Management Strategies. DEFRA. July 2005.