

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING SERVICE STRATEGY 2014 - 2019

To: **Cabinet**

Date: **15th April 2014**

From: **Executive Director: Economy, Transport and Environment**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **2014/023** *Key decision:* **Yes**

Purpose: **To present the County Council's Household Recycling Service Strategy to redesign the way we deliver the household recycling service, taking into consideration customer needs, local priorities and best use of available resources.**

Recommendation: **That Cabinet considers and approves the Household Recycling Service Strategy set out in Appendix A.**

Appendix A is available alongside this report on the County Council's website and in the bundle of supporting documents for this meeting, sent separately to Cabinet members and placed in all Group rooms.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report is to seek Cabinet approval on the Household Recycling Service Strategy 2014 – 2019 (Appendix A).
- 1.2 The Household Recycling Service Strategy (HRSS) document updates the existing Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy (December 2006) to align with the Council's adopted Business Plan and to redesign the way in which the County Council will deliver its household recycling service going forward.
- 1.3 The Strategy will develop a number of options which will assist the Council on deciding on any future investments required for Household Recycling Centre (HRC) infrastructure provision across the County to meet the demands of population and any associated growth in waste. It also allows the consideration for the rationalisation of the existing service within Cambridgeshire, as well as providing scope for the review of HRC operating regimes, given the economic climate, and savings required by the Business Plan in 2015 / 2016.

2. THE SCOPE OF THE HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING SERVICE STRATEGY

- 2.1 The HRSS has been updated with the following main objectives:
 - How we will provide an efficient and cost effective Household Recycling Service that supports the present and future growth needs of the residents and communities of Cambridgeshire
 - To consider the options that will need to be assessed (which will include how the service is delivered and opportunities to streamline services jointly with our City and District partners, alongside the rationalisation of the existing service within Cambridgeshire). Such options will need to deliver the savings required by the County Council's Business Plan of £440,000 in 2015/2016
 - To set out how the options will be communicated as a result of the HRSS and how we will work with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP – 'Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough') and other key stakeholders will inform the process
 - To clearly identify the short, medium and long term requirements, which help to identify priorities.
- 2.2 The Strategy provides the framework for delivering its objectives within a short (12 months), medium (over next 3 years) and long term (activity beyond 4 years) timeframe.
- 2.3 The identified savings of £440,000 in 2015/2016 of the Business Plan highlight the need to consider alternative ways of delivering the service through various options for further consultation. In order to help realise the overall savings, other factors such as charging and reduced opening hours have also been identified as possible items for consideration within the Strategy. These options will be developed to help assess whether savings / income can be provided to reduce the impact on possible site closures and deliver the service in a more joined up way with our City and District partners, stakeholders and PFI Contractor. The HRSS acknowledges these savings requirements, alongside the funding for future facilities outlined within the Business Plan (shown in Appendix 4B of the HRSS) and the money already secured through Section 106 legal agreements (shown in Appendix 4C of the HRSS) that could be lost if not spent within the required timeframe.
- 2.4 In respect of waste infrastructure provision, the County Council, as a Statutory Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), has a duty to provide places for residents in its

area to dispose of their household waste¹ which are reasonably accessible, which will help contribute to the UK meeting its landfill diversion targets. Using guidance produced by Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) the Strategy has produced maps showing the geographical coverage of all existing nine HRCs, based on a maximum drive time of 20 minutes. WRAP identifies this level as a best practice indicator for drive times², albeit this is not a statutory requirement. Going forward, a balance needs to be struck between meeting this best practice indicator produced by WRAP and ensuring that we deliver a service that is designed for the residents of Cambridgeshire that meets our statutory requirements; with the best value to the public purse.

- 2.5 The HRSS provides the overarching strategy to allow a review of the household recycling service we provide for Cambridgeshire residents. The more detailed work that will come as a result of the Strategy will allow engagement with key partners, our PFI Contractor, stakeholders and the local communities going forward, and will ensure that we use our resources in the most efficient way that will benefit residents, communities and the County as a whole. The HRSS also acknowledges the importance of ensuring that residents have the right community infrastructure to enable them to access essential services. These assessments will take into account growth identified in the emerging Local Plans being produced by the City / District Councils across Cambridgeshire, to ensure that the growing population of the County and relevant drive times are taken into consideration.
- 2.6 Whilst it is not appropriate for the overarching strategy to look at the detail of such matters, it does acknowledge that detailed work will need to come out of this Strategy and that a number of options will need to be considered. No decisions have been made at this stage. However, once options have been formulated, which will take into account any lessons learned from neighbouring and further afield authorities, further consultation will take place where any service implications have been highlighted. Going forward the Strategy identifies the need to ensure that we have the right service in the right place to meet the needs of Cambridgeshire's growing population, whilst also ensuring the best value to the public purse.

3 ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

The HRSS provides the overarching strategy to allow a review of the household recycling service we provide for Cambridgeshire residents. The more detailed work that will come as a result of the Strategy will allow engagement with key partners, stakeholders and the local communities going forward, and will ensure that we use our resources in a way that will benefit individuals, communities and the County as a whole.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

The adoption of an effective HRSS will ensure an effective recycling system that helps facilitate a high quality of life, by meeting the needs of the individual, whilst remaining responsive to the changing waste needs of businesses and the local economy. This approach will ensure that the assessment of services will be monitored; savings are met in line with the Business Plan; and facilities are delivered in the right place at the right time to serve the needs of Cambridgeshire's residents.

¹ Environment Protection Act 1990 Section 51

² Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Guide, WRAP, 2012

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

A robust HRSS will ensure that we continue to use our resources / services to support the new communities evolving within Cambridgeshire and in particular those people in most need of access to such facilities.

3.4 Ways of working

The HRSS acknowledges the importance of investing in growth and ensuring that people have the right community infrastructure to enable them to access essential services.

4 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource and Performance Implications

The HRSS will need to consider the redesigning of the service as well as meet the financial savings outlined within the Business Plan in 2015/2016 and onwards.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

There is a statutory requirement for the County Council to deliver a household recycling service, albeit there are no explicit rules on how this needs to be delivered. It will be for the more detailed work to develop the options using the overarching principles of the Strategy. However, should the identified savings within the Business Plan result in the closure of up to 3 sites across Cambridgeshire their will be potential reputational implications.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

The review work as a result of the Strategy may impact on the household recycling service available to local residents. However, further consultation will take place on the more detailed options before they are implemented to ensure that fairness, equality and diversity issues have been taken into account, which the strategy has signed up to.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

The review work as a result of the Strategy will be subject to public consultation. This is likely to be achieved through various forms of communication methods including working closely with our PFI Contractor and City/District partners, use of local websites including such as the County and City / District Councils (including 'Shape your Place'), the RECAP website, local District and Village magazines, and through the Education Centre at Waterbeach.

4.5 Public Health Implications

No implications have been identified for this section. However, the detailed work that will follow as a result of the Strategy may have an impact on service delivery and impacts under this section will need to be reviewed at that point.

Source Documents	Location
None	