

**TITLE: Strategic Service Review (Waste and Recycling)**

Committee: Operational Services Committee

Date: 13 November 2023

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Report No: Y89

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## **1.0 ISSUE**

1.1. Strategic review of the Councils future waste and recycling service.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1. Members are requested to:

2.2. Approve a Strategic Service Review of the Waste and Recycling Service, including potential delivery models.

2.3. Approve a member working group as set out in section 4.3 and nominate 3 members to act on behalf of the committee.

2.4. To note the timeline of the review and subsequent implementation

## **3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

3.1. The Council currently delivers all statutory waste collection and street cleansing services through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with East Cambs Street Scene. A wholly owned company of the Council.

3.2. Following a review by the Chief Executive relating to the Corporate Risk Register, a number of recommendations were considered by Audit Committee relating to the existing MOA and the Councils waste service beyond the expiry of the MOA in 2025. The Audit Committee approved the recommendations set out in the report to request Operational Services Committee to undertake a review of the Waste and Recycling service and prepare a project plan for implementation by 2025.

3.3. Many Local Authorities have had to postpone decisions relating to domestic waste collection services due to delays in guidance being issued by Central Government relating to the implementation of the Environment Act 2021.

3.4. Changes imposed by the implementation of the Act are expected to bring new burdens funding to support Councils to comply with the new requirements. At the time of writing, DEFRA are now briefing Councils on the new 'Simpler Recycling' regime to be implemented over the next 3 years.

3.5. The MOA expires in March 2025 and therefore the Council needs to review its service requirements to ensure that it is still fit for purpose.

#### **4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSION(S)**

- 4.1. The scope of the Strategic Service review will need to be fully worked up, however in summary the Review needs to consider the requirements of the emerging Environment Act 2021 and options around improving the refuse collection service and enhancing the recycling service (dry mixed recycling, garden waste and food waste). The review should also consider Street Cleansing options and the delivery of model of the overall Street Scene service (e.g in-house, contract out to third party etc).
- 4.2. When the above is understood, then resources, vehicles, and rounds/schedules can be overlaid to understand the best value and environmentally sustainable service. Other opportunities can then be considered such as, closer working between streets and open spaces, policies, fees and charges etc.
- 4.3. Given the high profile nature of the Waste and Recycling Service a cross party member working group is proposed and be made up of 3 Members to help shape and inform the options for consideration by the Operational Services Committee. The terms of reference for the working party are set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.4. Any changes to the Service will require a significant lead in time for mobilisation prior to March 2025. Therefore the following project timeline will enable options to be considered in a timely manner:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Options Appraisal Development	November 2023 to January 2024
Options Short List	January 2024 (Ops Services Committee)
Option Recommendation	March 2024 (Ops Services Committee)
Final Service Option Adoption	April (Full Council)
Mobilisation	April 2024 – March 2025

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT / CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1. A budget of up to £30,000 has been estimated to undertake the Strategic Service Review. This fund will be used to secure specialist advice and modelling on different waste collection methodologies to inform the Review.
- 5.2. This budget will be drawn from the Major Projects reserve allocation for 23/24.
- 5.3. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) this will be required when options for the Waste and recycling service considered by the Operational Services Committee
- 5.4. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) this will be required when options for the Waste and Recycling service are considered by the Operational Services Committee

#### **6.0 APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Waste Service Review Members Working Party Terms of Reference.

Background Documents: [Audit Committee Report](#)