

SCRUTINY BOARD (SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES)

INTEGRATED WASTE STRAETGY REVIEW DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds outlines the context for and principles of the Council's strategic vision for waste management. The Strategy focuses primarily on municipal waste, which is waste collected by the Council and consists mostly of waste from households. However, municipal waste is only a part of the overall waste generated in the City and therefore the Strategy also recognises that the Council has a key role in encouraging businesses and communities to manage waste more sustainably.
- 1.2 The existing Strategy, adopted in 2005, takes a long term view of waste management and sets out key principles and themes for delivering integrated solutions for waste over a 30 year period.
- 1.3 The Strategy also sets a vision of 'a zero waste city, whereby we reduce, re-use, recycle and recover value from all waste, waste becomes a resource and no waste is sent to landfill'. This vision reflects the Council's commitment to using the nationally recognised Waste Hierarchy (i.e. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover and Dispose) as the framework for waste management in Leeds.
- 1.4 In December 2011, the Executive Board reaffirmed the vision and key principles of the Integrated Waste Strategy. Linked to this, the Executive Board also revised the Council's Recycling Strategy to incorporate a range of agreed medium to long-term improvements to kerbside recycling collections and increased the Council's household waste recycling target to 55% by 2016, with a long-term target to exceed 60%.
- 1.5 Acknowledging that there are many uncertainties in projecting as far as 30 years ahead, in particular the growth in waste and the markets for materials, the Integrated Waste Strategy remains flexible and responsive enough to adjust and change in the light of developments.
- 1.6 This year, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board agreed to review the city's Integrated Waste Strategy to ensure that it remains fit for purpose as the framework for waste management in Leeds and actively promotes the Waste Hierarchy.
- 1.7 Acknowledging that waste collection authorities must ensure compliance with the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 (the "Regulations"), the Scrutiny Board learned that Regulation 13 in particular states that from 1st January 2015, all waste collection

authorities will be required to collect paper, metals, plastics and glass separately, where doing so is:

- “necessary to ensure that waste undergoes recovery operations in accordance with Articles 4 and 13 of the Waste Framework Directive and to facilitate or improve recovery” (the ‘Necessity Test’); and
- “technically, environmentally and economically practicable” (the ‘Practicability’ or ‘TEEP Test’)

1.8 In line with the Directive, the Regulations state that co-mingled collection with subsequent separation is viewed as a form of separate collection for the purpose of Regulation 13, provided that it can achieve high quality recycling similar to that achieved with separate collection.

1.9 Separate collection must meet all three elements of the Practicability Test to be required. If it fails any one of them, co-mingled collection of the material(s) is permissible. As part of this review, the Scrutiny Board will therefore also be assisting the service to carry out a robust assessment of the Council’s collection systems in accordance with the Regulations.

2.0 Scope of the inquiry

2.1 The purpose of the inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:

- National and local waste management drivers and their potential impact on the city’s Integrated Waste Strategy.
- The Council’s collection systems in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012.
- The effectiveness of the local waste management infrastructure in accordance with the nationally recognised Waste Hierarchy.
- The future governance and monitoring of the Integrated Waste Strategy.

3.0 Desired Outcomes and Measures of Success

3.1 It is important to consider how the Scrutiny Board will deem if their inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious and others may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.

3.2 Dealing effectively with the city’s waste is one of the key objectives set out with the Best Council Plan 2013-17. Linked to this, the key priorities are ensuring a safe, efficient and reliable waste collection service; providing a long-term solution for disposing of our waste; and increasing recycling and reducing the use of landfill.

3.3 The Scrutiny Board therefore aims to ensure that the Integrated Waste Strategy remains fit for purpose in delivering the priorities set out within the Best Council Plan.

4.0 Comments of the relevant Director and Executive Member

4.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.1 where a Scrutiny Board undertakes an Inquiry the Scrutiny Board shall consult with any relevant Director and Executive Member on the terms of reference.

5.0 Timetable for the inquiry

5.1 The Inquiry will take place over a number of sessions. These sessions will involve smaller working group meetings with stakeholders, which will provide flexibility for the Board to gather and consider evidence.

5.2 The length of the Inquiry is subject to change. However it is anticipated that a final report will be produced in April 2015.

6.0 Submission of evidence

6.1 Session one – November 2014

To consider the national and local waste management drivers and their potential impact on the city's Integrated Waste Strategy.

To consider the Council's collection systems in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012.

To visit and observe operations at the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) linked to the co-mingling of dry recyclables in the SORT bins.

6.2 Session two – December 2014

To consider the Council's response to Regulation 13 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012.

6.3 Session three – January 2015

To consider the effectiveness of the local waste management infrastructure in accordance with the nationally recognised Waste Hierarchy. In particular, the Council's approach to encourage waste minimisation and the reuse agenda.

6.4 Session four – February 2015

To consider the future governance and monitoring arrangements linked to the Integrated Waste Strategy.

6.5 **Session five – March 2015**

To consider the findings and potential recommendations arising from this review.

7.0 **Witnesses**

7.1 The following have been identified as possible contributors to the inquiry, however others may be identified during the course of the inquiry:

- Director of Environment and Housing
- Executive Member for Cleaner, Stronger and Safer Communities
- Chief Officer Waste Management
- Head of Strategy & Infrastructure, Waste Management
- Head of Waste Operations
- Representation from WRAP
- Representation from the Material Recycling Facility Operator

8.0 **Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

8.1 The Equality Improvement Priorities 2011 to 2015 have been developed to ensure our legal duties are met under the Equality Act 2010. The priorities will help the council to achieve its ambition to be the best City in the UK and ensure that as a city work takes place to reduce disadvantage, discrimination and inequalities of opportunity.

8.2 Equality and diversity will be a consideration throughout the Scrutiny Inquiry and due regard will be given to equality through the use of evidence, written and verbal, outcomes from consultation and engagement activities.

8.3 The Scrutiny Board may engage and involve interested groups and individuals (both internal and external to the council) to inform recommendations.

8.4 Where an impact has been identified this will be reflected in the final inquiry report, post inquiry. Where a Scrutiny Board recommendation is agreed the individual, organisation or group responsible for implementation or delivery should give due regard to equality and diversity, conducting impact assessments where it is deemed appropriate.

9.0 **Post inquiry report monitoring arrangements**

9.1 Following the completion of the Scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored.

- 9.2 The final inquiry report will include information on the detailed arrangements for how the implementation of recommendations will be monitored.

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