

Future Waste Strategy Inquiry – Summary of Evidence

Date: 28 March 2022

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report presents a summary of evidence received by the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board as part of the joint scrutiny inquiry (working in partnership with Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board) into future waste strategy at Leeds City Council. The summary of evidence document can be found at Appendix 1.
- The specific remit of Strategy and Resources involvement in this issue is linked to finance and contractual matters. This delegation, agreed by the Environment, Housing and Communities Board (EHC), fits with the remit of Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board in that it has a number of financial delegations within its scrutiny remit. A central area of focus for the Board has been the need to consider additional costs and contractual matters linked to increasing recycling volumes and where additional resource might come from to provide that set against the ongoing financial challenge faced by the Council.
- The Board has held two evidence gathering sessions during the current municipal year in October and November 2021. This report presents a summary of the evidence heard and the issues raised and also looks to signpost future work on this issue over the coming months and into the new municipal year.
- Development of waste strategy in Leeds is to some extent dependent upon on development of Government policy on this issue and confirmation of future funding linked to it. The National Resources and Waste Strategy sets out the direction of travel on this but to date progress on this has been slower than expected and as a result it will be necessary to continue this work in the 2022/23 municipal year. A similar approach will be taken by the partner Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) who will also receive an update as part of their meeting on 31 March 2022.

Recommendations

- a) To note the content of this report and Appendix 1 and provide feedback on the summary of evidence and suggest how future scrutiny work on the Future Waste Strategy can be shaped in 2022/23.
- b) To agree that this work item will continue into the next municipal year as part of the 2022/23 work programme.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 This item provides a summary position of work undertaken by Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board in municipal year 2021/22 in relation to the future waste strategy of Leeds City Council. This work forms part of a joint and ongoing scrutiny inquiry working in partnership with Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 2 The proposals contained in this report are designed to inform future scrutiny work in the next municipal year on the Council's waste strategy with a view to ultimately developing some pre-decision scrutiny recommendations on how waste strategy develops in the city and what key considerations decision makers should consider as the strategy evolves and as the Government's approach becomes clearer.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 3 Consultation on the Terms of Reference for the inquiry has taken place with the Chairs of the two scrutiny boards, along with the Executive Board Member for Environment and Housing, the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment and the Chief Officer for Environmental Services, in addition the Board itself at the October 2021 meeting.

What are the resource implications?

- 4 There are no direct resource implications linked to this report however, a key aim of the inquiry in relation to the Strategy and Resources Board's involvement is the cost of improving waste services in the city and how value for money can be delivered as the Council develops its strategy.
- 5 Resources to support the Scrutiny function are, like all other Council functions, under considerable pressure and constructive consultation should therefore take place between the Executive and Scrutiny about the availability of resources prior to any work being undertaken.

What are the legal implications?

- 6 None

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 7 None

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 8 This Scrutiny inquiry touches on all of the above but in particular the development of enhanced waste services to potentially include more recycling will contribute to the Council's net zero ambition by 2030 and the wider ambitions set out when declaring the Climate Emergency in 2019.

Appendices

- 9 Appendix 1 – Summary of Evidence – Future Waste Strategy

Background papers

- 10 None