

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities)

Date: 12th November 2012

Subject: Recycling review - draft terms of reference

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Scrutiny has continued to monitor the Council's progress in implementing the Leeds Integrated Waste Strategy 2005-2035, which sets out its aims to reduce the impact of waste management on the environment and significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
2. Scrutiny also remains committed to assisting the Council achieve its long term recycling targets. In September 2012, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board agreed to undertake a review to explore how recycling participation rates can be greater improved.
3. The draft terms of reference for the Board's forthcoming review is attached to this report for Members' consideration and approval.
4. The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules require that, before embarking on an inquiry/review, the Board seeks and considers the views of the relevant Director and Executive Member. These views will need to be taken into account when agreeing the terms of reference for this review.

Recommendations

5. Members are asked to consider and agree terms of reference for its forthcoming recycling review.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report presents draft terms of reference in relation to the Scrutiny Board's forthcoming recycling review. This review is aimed at improving recycling through effective communication and education.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Recycling remains a key priority for the Council and Scrutiny has continued to monitor the Council's progress in implementing the Leeds Integrated Waste Strategy 2005-2035, which sets out its aims to reduce the impact of waste management on the environment and significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
- 2.2 In December 2011, the Executive Board reaffirmed the vision and key principles of the Integrated Waste Strategy. Linked to this, it agreed to revise the Council's household waste recycling targets to achieve a combined recycling and composting rate of greater than 55% of household waste by 2016 with a long term target to exceed 60%.
- 2.3 The Council continues to make good progress as the recycling performance at July 2012 was 48%. This was the highest individual months performance ever achieved in Leeds, indicating a year to date performance of 44% against the 2012/13 overall target of 44%.
- 2.4 Scrutiny remains committed to assisting the Council achieve its long term recycling targets. In September 2012, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board therefore agreed to undertake further work to explore how recycling participation rates can be greater improved.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 A working group of the Scrutiny Board met on 15th October 2012 to discuss the potential scope of the Board's review. To encourage greater participation in the recycling options already available, it was recognised that further work is needed to deliver more effective communication and education. It was therefore proposed that the Scrutiny Board explores which communication methods would be more fruitful within different areas of the city and particularly for those areas in need of a more targeted education campaign. It was also recognised that effective communication is paramount in successfully delivering any planned operational changes and the introduction of new schemes.
- 3.2 The draft terms of reference for the Board's forthcoming review is attached for Members' consideration and approval.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules require that, before embarking on an inquiry/review, the Board seeks and considers the views of the relevant Director and Executive Member. These views will need to be taken into account in finalising the terms of reference for this review.
- 4.1.2 Any comments received on the draft terms of reference will be reported to the Board at the meeting.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

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

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The Implementation of the Council's recycling strategy supports wider aspirations for Leeds set out in the new Leeds Vision, City Priority Plans, Directorate Priorities and Cross Council Priorities.

4.3.2 The five new City Priority Plans developed by the Partnership Boards cover the period 2011 to 2015 with the most relevant in relation to the Waste Strategy being:

- Safer and Stronger Communities - including city-wide cleanliness;
- Regeneration - including sustainable growth;
- Sustainable Economy - including low carbon economy.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 Scrutiny remains committed to assisting the Council in reducing the impact of waste management on the environment and significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and the costs associated with this method of disposal.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 This section is not relevant to this report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 In September 2012, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board agreed to undertake a review to explore how recycling participation rates can be greater improved. The draft terms of reference for the Board's forthcoming review is therefore attached for Members' consideration and approval.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to consider and agree terms of reference for its forthcoming recycling review.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.