

Name of meeting: Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel

Date: 30th August 2023

Title of report: Re-Profile of Kirklees Resource & Waste Strategy 2021-2030

Purpose of report: To inform Cabinet of the re-profile of the Kirklees Resource & Waste Strategy 2021-30 and seek approval for the revision.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £500k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes The strategy required significant investment to implement however the re-profiling has sought to reduce this cost.
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	Key Decision – Yes Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Graham West – 16th August 2023
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	N/A
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Cllr Naheed Mather – Cleaner & Greener Kirklees & Cllr Masood Ahmed – Environment

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: All – presented to Members Reference Group 17th August 2023

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? N/A

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Kirklees Resource & Waste Strategy 2021-30 was approved and adopted at full Council in September 2021.
- 1.2 The strategy assumed that promised reforms and funding streams from central Government would materialise on time and allow the development and investment noted in the strategy. Due to delays and uncertainty from central Government, there are some elements that now need to be reprofiled to meet the new timeframes provided and to allow time to understand what funding will be available.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Resources & Waste Strategy 2021-2030 is included alongside this report (Appendix One) which sets out how we aim to achieve our vision of “a clean, green, sustainable future for Kirklees with zero waste to landfill and where waste is valued as a resource through re-use, recycling, and recovery.”
- 2.2 The strategy’s key aims are:
 - To work with residents, businesses and communities in a way that works for them, using a Place based approach which is engaging, straightforward and visible.
 - Achieve a recycling rate of at least 70% at our Household Waste & Recycling Centres by 2025.
 - Double our recycling rate and recycle at least 55% of municipal waste by 2025.
 - Reuse or recycle as much of the resources collected via our bulky waste collections as possible.
 - Ensure that the environment across the district delivers our vision of a clean, green, sustainable future for Kirklees.
 - Lead by example and set a precedent of good practice to reduce waste, reuse materials, and increase recycling.
 - Achieve a 90% diversion from landfill rate.
- 2.3 There have been many positive initiatives delivered as part of the strategy including but not limited to: introducing a recycling service to schools and businesses via our trade waste service, adding plastic pots, tubs and trays (PTTs) to our kerbside recycling collection service, offering a composting subsidy scheme to residents, offering a new bookable bulky waste collection service and launching a Reuse Shop in Huddersfield town centre.

3. Forthcoming Legislation

- 3.1 The Government announced in 2018 a new waste strategy with significant reforms across all industry. Some of the main impacts on Local Authorities were coming from:
 - Collection Consistency: the statutory requirement to collect specific recyclable items from residents, specifically including tetrapak, glass and food waste.
 - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): the requirement for those who produce packaging waste to pay towards the collection and recycling / disposal of it.
 - Deposit Return Scheme (DRS): a scheme that places a cash deposit on some containers that can be redeemed when recycled.
 - Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS): the requirement to reduce carbon emissions from energy generation and use a 'cap and trade' scheme for trading emissions allowances which will have major implications on increasing the cost of operating our Energy from Waste facility.
- 3.2 Alongside these proposals the Government promised that funding would be available for food waste, both in revenue and capital, to ensure there were no new burdens placed on local authorities. In addition, the EPR scheme would see new revenue flowing into local authorities that could offset some of the additional costs of complying with Collection Consistency. To date no detail has been provided on any of these initiatives, and more recently the Infrastructure and

Project Authority (IPA), an audit arms of Government, had deemed the successful delivery appears to be unachievable in the timeframes originally published. This has prompted DEFRA to announce a delay until at least 2025, and that the Collection Consistency element would not follow until after EPR had been introduced. This leaves Local Authorities in the position of being unable to plan and investment or timeframes until more information is forthcoming on what funding will be available.

3.3 DEFRA has also announced the delay of the DRS which when implemented, creates the risk that the more valuable materials will be lost from our waste streams. This will result in the council being left with the more expensive to treat materials. The ETS has also been announced as moving ahead, with monitoring of emissions from 2026 and implementation from 2028. The cost to the authority of this based on the current proposal would see a revenue burden of c. £5m per annum.

3.4 Without the ability to implement the larger scale changes due to the lack of funding and clarity, the targets and initiatives set out in the strategy require re-profiling, whilst still keeping the level of ambition.

4. Revised Targets

4.1 It is proposed to revise the strategy's key targets as follows:

- Achieve a recycling rate of at least 70% at our Household Waste & Recycling Centres by 2030.
- Recycle at least 65% of municipal waste by 2035.
- Achieve a 95% diversion from landfill rate by 2030.

5. 12 Month Pledge

5.1 Due to the level of uncertainty faced, the Resources & Waste strategy will now commit to initiatives on an annual basis, outlined in a 12 month pledge, with key aspirations for the following 5 years. The first 12 month pledge for 2023-24 can be found at Appendix Two.

5.2 The forecasted spend for this period under the original action plan was £2.9m capital spend and the revised initiatives will decrease this spend at an estimated cost of around £800k (£580k capital and £220k revenue).

6. Contamination

6.1 The contamination of our green bins has shown some modest improvement with the work that the recycling advisors have undertaken, but there are still areas of very high contamination that are causing concern for our contractor, our recycling performance and in the cost of double handling the material. If an acceleration of the improvement is not seen soon then we will have to review more stringent measures of management.

7. Information required to take a decision

7.1 Enclosed with this report is a copy of the Kirklees Resources & Waste Strategy 2021-30 and the 2023 update.

8. Implications for the Council

- **Working with People**

A public consultation exercise was conducted in Autumn 2020 and the Resources & Waste Strategy incorporates the findings of this exercise. We will continue to place citizens at the heart of our decisions and will continue to conduct further public engagement as the initiatives from this strategy are implemented, as well as utilising trials.

- **Working with Partners**

The strategy encapsulates how we will provide better waste management services for our residents and our businesses and the engagement we will undertake with partners to achieve our

ambitions. The current waste disposal contract offers very good value for money but does not deliver all the environmental ambitions, particularly regarding recycling, that we might expect from a more modern contract. The co-engagement process will include Suez and other waste disposal operators in the market to gain a full understanding of opportunities available to provide the best service possible for Kirklees residents.

- **Place Based Working**

Our public engagement utilised a Place-based approach using a digital street whereby physical engagement was not possible. The strategy details how we intend to take a bold Place-based approach to deliver our services and also takes into account equality versus equity, where some communities may need additional resources and support. We will continue to work with communities and through a Place Partnership engagement approach we can prioritise local needs and Councillors, using the insight they have about the communities they represent, will be central to this activity.

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

The strategy plays a key role in tackling climate change and improving air quality and the measures within this strategy will have a reduction upon both. Although the strategy will involve the expansion of our fleet, we will be seeking to ensure this is a green fleet wherever possible and a Strategic Environmental Assessment shows the impact of introducing the strategy provides a positive impact on the environment.

- **Improving outcomes for children**

The strategy details how we will continue to provide an extensive engagement programme within schools and deliver meaningful educational resources to empower children to make a difference both now and in the future. We will also work with colleges and universities to support entrepreneurship and skills development in relation to waste management / circular economy; encouraging and enabling young people to explore, innovate and set up new sustainable businesses within the district.

- **Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

The revised strategy has been presented to Strategic Leadership Teams across the relevant Council departments as well as Executive Team and Member's Reference Group. Feedback from these sessions has been incorporated into the strategy and will be carried forward into implementation of the initiatives contained within.

9. Next steps and timelines

- 9.1 Included within the presentation is a timeline for the revised strategy approval and initial delivery milestones. This is scheduled to be presented to Cabinet on 17th October 2023.

10. Officer recommendations and reasons

- Officers recommend that the 2023 Resources & Waste Strategy update is agreed and published.

11. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

- 11.1 The Cabinet Portfolio Holders have been consulted with regards to the contents of the revised strategy and support the officers' recommendations.

12. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Collection Consistency Framework – 2018-2020

Party Briefings – November-December 2020

Scrutiny Panel – December 2020

Public Engagement – Autumn/Winter 2020/21

Full Council – September 2021

Resources & Waste Strategy Published – September 2021

13. Contact officer(s)

Natalie Clark, Programme Manager, Resources & Waste Strategy
Will Acornley, Head of Operational Services, Highways & Streetscene

14. Service Director responsible

Graham West – Service Director, Highways and Streetscene