

SCRUTINY COMMISSION - MONDAY, 3 JULY 2023

Report of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment) Lead Member: Cllr Anne Gray – Lead member for Waste, Open Spaces and Leisure Facilities

WASTE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY PANEL - UPDATE

Purpose of Report

To enable the Commission to consider the implementation of the decisions taken by the Cabinet following its consideration of the report of the Waste Management Scrutiny Panel and what, if any, further action may be required.

Recommendation

That the Commission consider the information provided in respect of the implementation of the decisions taken by the Cabinet following its consideration of the report of the Waste Management Scrutiny Panel and for each decision determine whether:

- the implementation is complete, or sufficiently complete and no further monitoring is required;
- the implementation is not complete and a further update for the Commission is required, or
- the implementation is not complete or other issues with the implementation are identified and a recommendation or advice to the Cabinet is required.

Reason

To enable the Commission to be satisfied that decisions taken following scrutiny recommendations are being implemented satisfactorily, take or recommend any further action that is necessary and ensure the effectiveness of the scrutiny function.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

As part of the process for ensuring the effectiveness of the scrutiny function, the Commission receives a report setting out the Cabinet's responses to scrutiny recommendations and a later report on the implementation of the decisions taken by the Cabinet. These later reports are usually considered by the Commission 6 months after the Cabinet decisions are made.

On 15th December 2022, the Cabinet considered the findings and recommendations of the Waste Management Scrutiny Panel. The decisions taken by the Cabinet are set out in the Appendix to this report, and include the current status of the actions undertaken following those decisions, set out in the form of a table.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The Commission usually receives only one report on the implementation of decisions taken following scrutiny recommendations. There would, therefore, not normally be a further report following this one. The Commission may however decide that further updates are necessary or may choose to make further recommendations to the Cabinet.

Report Implications

There are no implications; this is an update.

Background Papers

1. Cabinet, 15th December 2022 – agenda item 6, Waste Management Scrutiny Panel report, and minute 44.
2. Scrutiny Commission, 14th November 2022 – agenda item 11, and minute 52.
3. Waste Management Scrutiny Panel agendas and notes of meetings held on:

Meeting 1 – 9th November 2021

Meeting 2 – 2nd February 2022

Meeting 3 – 31st March 2022

Meeting 4 – 11th May 2022

Meeting 5 – 27th July 2022

Meeting 6 – 1st November 2022

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Cabinet Decisions Following Consideration of Panel Report	Actions Taken to Implement Decisions (including estimated completion date if appropriate)	Status
<p>Panel Recommendation 1</p> <p><u>Representation to MPs</u></p> <p>A written submission be sent to Jane Hunt and Ed Argar, MPs setting out the Panel’s concerns regarding the Environment Bill, particularly the cost implications for the Council, and also that the way the Government is asking the Council to present its waste collection data (i.e. not including brown bins) skews its figures negatively. Considered by the Panel on 9th November 2021, Minute 6.</p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>Initial concerns regarding the implications of the Environment Bill were raised in letters to the MPs in October 2021.</p> <p>Officers are in the process of writing a further letter to local MPs following discussions with the Local Government Assoc.</p>	<p>A further letter to be sent by the end of June 2023.</p>

Cabinet Decisions Following Consideration of Panel Report	Actions Taken to Implement Decisions (including estimated completion date if appropriate)	Status
<p>Panel Recommendation 2</p> <p><u>Charnwood Sustainability Fair</u></p> <p>Charnwood Borough Council establish a 'Charnwood Sustainability Fair'. This would be an annual event, possibly in the marketplace or the Town Hall, that pulls together local organisations working in the areas of sustainability under one roof, allowing them the opportunity to raise awareness around their activities, services or products. Examples of groups who could participate include Transitions Loughborough (Repair Cafes), Exaireo Paint Reuse scheme, the Zero Waste Refill Shop, LCC Master Composters, etc.</p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved.</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>This is a community led initiative. Officers are in contact with an organisation who are planning to hold an event later in the year (September). An appropriate amount of support will be provided to ensure that the event is a success.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Cabinet Decisions Following Consideration of Panel Report	Actions Taken to Implement Decisions (including estimated completion date if appropriate)	Status
<p>Panel Recommendation 3</p> <p><u>Bin Labelling</u></p> <p>Charnwood Borough Council consider labels for bins (domestic and street bins), listing the materials that can be recycled – using visual symbols and braille, so that residents with visual impairments, with limited literacy or with English as a second language are also able to clearly understand. This is something that residents are consistently unclear on and could help reduce the number of contaminate loads.</p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved.</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>Costings to be obtained over the Summer with a view to having the stickers installed over the autumn period.</p>	<p>Outstanding</p>

Cabinet Decisions Following Consideration of Panel Report	Actions Taken to Implement Decisions (including estimated completion date if appropriate)	Status
<p>Panel Recommendation 4</p> <p><u>Targeted Education Campaigns</u></p> <p>Charnwood Borough Council target education campaigns, starting with those collection round areas that SERCO has identified as being the poorest performers in terms of contaminated loads, etc. (Rounds 1,5,6). Messaging needs to be continuous, not sporadic. Also, consider what happens with the bins of 'repeat' offenders. Is there any kind of greater level of enforcement that can take place? Could we secure communal bin stores or install CCTV, to discourage fly-tipping in these areas?</p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>On hold. This action is on hold due to resource issues and long-term absence within the team. To be revisited in 2024.</p>	<p>Outstanding</p>

Cabinet Decisions Following Consideration of Panel Report	Actions Taken to Implement Decisions (including estimated completion date if appropriate)	Status
<p>Panel Recommendation 5</p> <p><u>Promote partner agencies/local groups, business and organisations working to reduce waste</u></p> <p>There are lots of initiatives in and around the Borough of Charnwood working to reduce or eliminate waste (Repair Cafés, Zero Waste and Refill Shops, Exaireo Paint Reuse, SOFA, Leicestershire Master Composters, Too Good To Go, Freegle, Freecycle, etc.). Charnwood could play a key role in helping to raise awareness of their existence and of their activities.</p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved.</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>The team to work with Comms to undertake a digital communications campaign. Campaign to be drafted and approved by Sept 23.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Cabinet Decisions Following Consideration of Panel Report	Actions Taken to Implement Decisions (including estimated completion date if appropriate)	Status
<p>Panel Recommendation 6</p> <p><u>Comms campaign – Charnwood waste champion challenge, what can go in your recycling bin, etc.</u></p> <p>Set up a challenge for residents and schools (and councillors and council staff!) to reduce their waste, have a stall on the market to show people what can and can't go in the recycling bin, videos of councillors going through their own recycling bin to check, talks in schools, etc.</p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved.</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>See last action</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Cabinet Decisions Following Consideration of Panel Report	Actions Taken to Implement Decisions (including estimated completion date if appropriate)	Status
<p>Panel Recommendation 7</p> <p><u>Liase with LCC over introducing terracycle collection points at refuse sites for harder to recycle items, tip opening times, and offering the opportunity to buy items that are still in good working order</u></p> <p>The Panel also discussed reintroducing the collection of other items to the recycling collection, such as batteries, some electrical items, textiles, etc., but these items are now collected either in most shops (batteries), at the waste site (electrical items) or via textiles banks.</p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved.</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>Officers to liase with LCC on this matter. To be completed by end of July 2023</p>	<p>Outstanding</p>
<p>Panel Recommendation 8</p> <p><u>Use decals on the side of bin lorries to promote reusable nappies, home composting schemes, garden waste scheme, etc</u></p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved.</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>Garden waste collections are already promoted. Graphics to be altered as and when the budget becomes available.</p> <p>Officers are working on the implementation of a countywide Fly-Tipping initiative next. This will involve changing some of the decals on the vehicles.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Cabinet Decisions Following Consideration of Panel Report	Actions Taken to Implement Decisions (including estimated completion date if appropriate)	Status
<p>Panel Recommendation 9</p> <p><u>Support the establishment of a scrapstore/library of things/other similar initiatives</u></p> <p>A Scrapstore would repurpose for craft projects, etc. scrap materials otherwise destined for the residual waste stream, both from domestic properties but also donated by local businesses. A library of things would allow residents to borrow tools and equipment without having to purchase them.</p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved.</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>This is a community led project and not something that the council can deliver directly. The council will provide an appropriate level of assistance to any group that wants to start this initiative.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Panel Recommendation 10</p> <p><u>Discuss creating a paint collection point at one of the Charnwood waste sites with LCC</u></p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved.</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>Officers to liaise with LCC on this matter. To be completed by end of July 2023</p>	Outstanding

Cabinet Decisions Following Consideration of Panel Report	Actions Taken to Implement Decisions (including estimated completion date if appropriate)	Status
<p>Panel Recommendation 11</p> <p><u>Introduce recycling collections for interested local businesses</u></p> <p>The Panel was informed that some investigatory work around this had already begun, and that Charnwood already collects recycling from businesses in the BID area. Whilst the waste collected may not contribute towards the Council's recycling figures, it would still potentially make a positive impact on the amount of waste diverted from the residual waste stream.</p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved.</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>This was introduced from 1st April 2023. Take up has been steady over the first few months of operation. Further promotion of the service will take place when resources allow.</p>	<p>Completed</p>

Cabinet Decisions Following Consideration of Panel Report	Actions Taken to Implement Decisions (including estimated completion date if appropriate)	Status
<p>Panel Recommendation 12</p> <p><u>Work closely with lboro university partners on end of term clear outs</u></p> <p>The Panel was informed that this has started happening this year and panel members noted that the end of term clear outs seemed better than in previous years, but that greater collaboration was needed between the Council and the University to make sure the dates chosen for the collections were appropriate, etc.</p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved.</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>Officer continue to work closely with the university in order to minimise the impact of the impact of increased waste at end of the academic year.</p> <p>The university and the Council will again be working with voluntary organisations to make sure that valuable items can be reused.</p> <p>Timing of the student clear up can be difficult as this needs to be completed over 1 weekend. Courses finish on different dates, so the date chosen does not always suit everyone.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Cabinet Decisions Following Consideration of Panel Report	Actions Taken to Implement Decisions (including estimated completion date if appropriate)	Status
<p>Panel Recommendation 13</p> <p><u>Introduce food waste collections, possibly alongside a food waste reduction campaign</u></p> <p>Panel members understand that it is potentially a financially onerous undertaking, and that it would be preferable to await the detail of the Environment Bill around whether or not mandatory food waste collections are to be introduced, but it was felt that this is inevitable and also the action most likely to increase our recycling rates and reduce residual waste. Final Panel meeting clarified that this recommendation was intended to apply at the point food waste collection becomes mandatory and Government funded.</p> <p>Cabinet Resolution Approved.</p>	<p>Response of the Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)</p> <p>Officers are waiting for secondary legislation from Government to confirm the date that mandatory weekly food waste collections will start.</p> <p>Officers are preparing for the announcement.</p> <p>The announcement will cause an increasing in demand for collection vehicles and food waste receptacles. Manufacturing delays and higher prices for items may occur.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>