

## REPORT TO CABINET

17 July 2019

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Recommendations arising from Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board</b>
<b>Presenting Scrutiny Chair:</b>	<b>Councillor Laura Rollins</b>
<b>Director:</b>	<b>Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer - Surjit Tour</b>
<b>Contribution towards Vision 2030:</b>	 
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Director Approval:</b>	19 June 2019
<b>Reason for Urgency:</b>	Urgency provisions do not apply
<b>Exempt Information Ref:</b>	Exemption provisions do not apply
<b>Ward Councillor (s) Consulted (if applicable):</b>	Ward members have not been consulted
<b>Scrutiny Consultation Considered?</b>	Recommendations are from: Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board.
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	Deborah_Breedon, Scrutiny Officer <a href="mailto:Deborah_breedon@sandwell.gov.uk">Deborah_breedon@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

1. That the Cabinet be requested to consider:
  - a. an options appraisal relating to the future for food waste recycling in Sandwell;
  - b. the requirements of the EU amending Directive 2008/98/EC (Circular Economy) in relation to food waste;
  - c. options on how to encourage residents to reduce food waste;
  - d. the focus for future food waste campaigns in Sandwell to 'reduce first and recycle last';
2. That in connection with (1) above, a further report be submitted to the Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board;

3. That a further report be submitted to the Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 relating to how Sandwell is responding to 'Our Waste Our Resources – A Strategy for England'.

## 1 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of scrutiny recommendations for the attention of Cabinet made in the period December 2018 – April 2019:

Food Waste Recycling - Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board (7<sup>th</sup> March 2019).

## 2 **IMPLICATION FOR VISION 2030**

- 2.1 The recommendations proposed by the Scrutiny Board contribute to the following ambitions within Vision 2030:-

Ambition 8 – Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.

Ambition 10 – Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.

## 3 **BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Scrutiny is a statutory process, independent of the Council's Executive, which reviews existing policy, develops new options for improving services, holds the executive and partner agencies to account, and monitors the delivery and performance of Council services in line with the 2030 ambitions.

- 3.2 During 2018-19 the Economy Transport Skills and Environment Scrutiny Board considered waste and recycling matters including:

- 2017/18 performance on the waste management contract with Serco;
- A briefing and visit to the waste recycling and transfer sites;
- the Governments Draft Resources and Waste Strategy;
- a report on food waste recycling, participation and statistics;

- the EU amending Directive 2008/98/EC which requires separate bio-waste collections or recycled at source by 31st December 2023.

3.3 The visit to the waste recycling and transfer site highlighted the need to raise public awareness of how to separate waste and plastics to reduce the amount of contaminated waste and the need to scrutinise the future of the organic food waste recycling.

3.4 Statistics indicated that food waste recycling participation rates have declined by 39% since its introduction in 2012. Anecdotal evidence indicates that when people became more aware of food waste their behaviour changed and measures taken to reduce the waste.

## 4 THE CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Sandwell must provide a recycling collection to householders but there is currently no specific requirement to provide a food waste collection service.

4.2 Sandwell Council spent £640,000 per annum on food waste collections in 2018 – 2019, but the amount of actual food waste collected in Sandwell was only 18% across the Borough.

4.3 The Board has indicated that there is a need to further investigate the demand for the food waste service and suggested a range of variations and savings to consider in an options appraisal at a future meeting.

4.4 The Governments Draft Resources and Waste Strategy was published in December 2018 and Sandwell Council has fed comments back to the Cabinet Select Committee, as part of the consultation process, about food collections, EU legislation and strategy. Some local authorities are making the decision to discontinue food waste collection services primarily on cost grounds.

4.5 The Board highlighted the need for the Cabinet to consider the findings of the Select Committee on the new waste strategy, an options appraisal for the future of food waste in Sandwell and to raise awareness and encourage residents to reduce food waste.

4.6 The Board support the focus for future food waste campaigns in Sandwell to be to 'reduce first and recycle last'.

## **5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)**

- 5.1 When considering the recommendations and potential options, directors and Cabinet Members will determine if further consultation will be required.

## **6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 If Cabinet does not consider the recommendations proposed by the Scrutiny Board then any improvements, savings and income generation possibilities identified by the Board may be missed.

## **7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 An options appraisal will identify resource implications with a range of variations to the service, service reductions and potential savings. These will be explored by the relevant directors and will be the subject of a further report where appropriate
- 7.2 The cost of providing the food waste service in 2018-19 was £640,000.

## **8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 Sandwell Council is a Waste Collection Authority (WCA), under the Environmental Protection Act 1992 and is required to provide a collection of household waste in its area, it has provided this since 2010 in an Integrated Waste and Cleansing Partnership with Serco Limited.
- 8.2 The EU amending Directive 2008/98/EC requires separate bio-waste collections or recycle, by 31st December 2023.
- 8.3 Any legal implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report will be explored by the relevant directors and will be the subject of a further report where appropriate.

## **9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 9.1 No equality impact assessment has been carried out at this stage.

## **10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 As the recommendations do not relate to personal data, no data protection impact assessment is deemed necessary at this stage.

## **11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

11.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## **12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS**

12.1 There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

## **13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)**

13.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications from food waste recycling and reduction of food waste.

## **14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND**

14.1 There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

## **15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

15.1 The Cabinet is requested to consider the recommendations and determine what action it wishes to take.

15.2 In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the Cabinet is requested to respond to the recommendations of the scrutiny board within two months, setting out any approved recommendations, and how they will be implemented.

15.3 Progress against these recommendations will be monitored by the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board.

## **16 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

16.1 Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 of the [Economy Skills Transport Environment Scrutiny Board](#).

## **17 APPENDICES:**

None

**Surjit Tour**

**Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer**