

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	14 April 2005
Subject:	Waste Management Review – reference from Environment and Economy Scrutiny sub-committee
Responsible Officer:	Area Director (Urban Living)
Contact Officer:	Alicia Weiderman
Portfolio Holder:	Environment and Transport
Key Decision:	Yes
Status:	Part I

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

That Cabinet:

- Note the recommendations of the scrutiny review into Household Waste Management;
- Note the response from the Service Area contained in the Waste Services report; and
- Officers authorised to advise appropriate bodies of their views.

Reason for report

The scrutiny review of Waste Management review was commenced in July 2004. The review had the following objectives:

1. To examine the progress of initiatives to meet/surpass the Council's 2005/2006 BVPI 82 and BVPI 91 recycling targets.
2. To investigate and recommend to the Executive new initiatives to further expand recycling and composting beyond 2005-06.

This report presents findings from this review.

Benefits

This report provides recommendations on how Harrow Council can increase

recycling and improve waste management services. It draws on the opinions of local residents, policy officers and experts the area. It also takes into account best practice from other local Councils in an attempt to improve Harrow's services. It also recognises the efforts and successes of the Council to date in this complex area.

The timing of this report means that its recommendations can be considered in conjunction with the Waste Management services report.

Cost of Proposals

Costs of the proposals would need to be considered by the service area in assessing the feasibility of particular recommendations. All costs will need to be identified and fully quantified with details of how the costs will be funded. The costs should be contained within current approved revenue and capital budgets.

Risks

Some recommendations in this report may result in increases in spending.

Implications if recommendations rejected

Council will not be able to benefit from the research and experiences of this review group. It may miss opportunities to increase recycling rates in the local area.

Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

The scrutiny review of Household Waste Management was commenced in July 2004. The objectives of the review were to:

- a. To examine the progress of initiatives to meet/surpass the Council's 2005/2006 BVPI 82 and BVPI 91 recycling targets; and
- b. To investigate and recommend to the Executive new initiatives to further expand recycling and composting beyond 2005-06.

The review considered information from a variety of sources. Considerable research into waste management was conducted. Visits to the local authorities of Bexley, Daventry and Barnet provided the review with information with which to benchmark Harrow's current system.

Analysis of the current waste management system was also conducted. This included reviewing its success and the perception of local residents in Harrow Council's services.

Based on this research, recommendations have been made in the attached report. This report was endorsed at Environment and Economy Scrutiny sub-committee on 10 March 2005.

The Waste Management service area has responded to these recommendations as part of the Waste Management Service report being discussed at Cabinet at this meeting.

2.3 Consultation

Consultations were done in a variety of methods. A survey of residents was conducted at the Harrow Show in 2004. This survey was designed to elicit responses from residents about their perceptions of recycling in the borough.

The Waste Manager was regularly involved in the review offering his valuable input to the review. Discussions were also held with Recycling Officers and Collection Workers to obtain their perspectives on the issue

2.4 Financial Implications

A number of the recommendations will have financial consequences that have not been fully quantified at this time. The potential costs and savings arising from implementing the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Group will need to be considered further in the context of their affordability within the existing budget for the service and the Council's medium term budget strategy. These costs will be identified in separate reports to Cabinet detailing proposals. Indeed the Waste Management Service report, by Andrew Baker, picks up on many of the recommendations. All costs should be contained within current approved revenue and capital budgets.

2.5 Legal Implications

None

2.6 Equalities Impact

This review has taken into consideration equality issues. In particular, it reviews the opportunity to provide recycling services to areas that currently are not serviced (e.g. flats).

Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents

Appendix 1a: Report to Environment and Economy sub-committee meeting on 10 March 2005

Appendix 1b: Scrutiny Review Report

Appendix 2: Reference from the Environment and Economy sub-committee meeting on 10 March 2005

The appendices are circulated in the Cabinet Supporting Documents Pack