

Appendix 4 (Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

09 January 2023

Cabinet – 23rd January 2023

Re: Consultation response of Service Review of Waste Management Strategy

I have been instructed by this Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee to convey the comments and observations of Members in relation to the **Service Review of Waste Management Strategy**.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee gave feedback and comments on the proposals for revisions to the Council's Waste Management Strategy at its meeting on the 14 December 2022. The following points were raised:

- Members note the need to act now to ensure the Council meets future Welsh Government recycling targets and recognised the need to avoid financial penalties which would add to the financial challenges facing the Council over the medium term. Some members expressed concern that the proposals could initiate more fly tipping issues around the Borough and asked that if the proposals are taken forward that fly tipping is monitored and scrutinised. A majority of members however noted from the presentation received, that when RCTCBC went from weekly to fortnightly collections there was no direct correlation between the changes and an increase in fly tipping in the locality. Should any issues with fly tipping occur, officers stated that where they are able to evidence who was responsible the Council will also prosecute the offenders.
- All Members encouraged the Council to proactively communicate any changes in waste collections which may be implemented by the Council following the consultation, particularly to address public questions around how they are able to dispose of certain items such as animal waste, cat litter and clinical waste to ensure residents are aware of all the options available to them.
- The Committee commented that the current success in recycling rates in RCTCBC has been achieved through the process being a simple and easy one for residents to follow and they asked that this continued should any changes be taken forward. The Committee recommended more communication and education to support the process. They emphasised the significance of making the public aware of the importance of recycling and disposing of their waste correctly including potential fines for not reaching Welsh Government set targets for recycling in Wales. A majority of members noted that much of the public concern in respect of the changes related to a misunderstanding of the proposals and what can or cannot currently be recycled.

- As part of any future changes, a majority of members encouraged engagement with local supermarkets to encourage each retailer to take responsibility for soft plastics and other “returnable” items for recycling, to facilitate a reusing of items culture.
- Members recommended that the Council promote all recycling facilities, particular where residents have raised concerns around capacity issues through the consultation process, to reassure residents as part of any future decision upon these proposals.

At the conclusion of Committee’s discussions in respect of the proposals, members noted a wish to scrutinise the delivery of any changes to this service over the short to medium term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Hanagan', with a large, stylized initial 'C' and 'H'.

Christian Hanagan
Service Director Democratic Services and Communication