

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Place Scrutiny Panel
Date:	8 th September 2022
Subject:	Waste and Recycling (Task and Finish)
Chief Officer:	Richard West – Executive Director of Place and Community
Contact Officer:	Savio DeCruz – Associate Director, Place Operations
Ward(s):	All
Exempt:	No
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Draft Task and Finish Terms of Reference for increasing recycling rates2 Draft Cabinet Report - Waste Collection and Disposal Savings3 Performance Indicators for Waste and Recycling

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 This report proposes that the Place Scrutiny Panel sets up a 'Waste and Recycling Task and Finish Group' to look at options for reducing the cost of our waste and recycling service while increasing the uptake of recycling within our communities. Draft terms of reference for a task and finish group are appended for Councillors' consideration, along with the draft Cabinet report on the topic of Waste Collections and Disposal Savings and the council's current performance on recycling.

Recommendations:

- 1) That a Task and Finish Group be established based on the terms of reference at appendix 1, made up of around 3-5 volunteers from the Place Scrutiny Panel for a period of up to four months, to
 - (a) consider the issue of waste collection and recycling in light of the cabinet's forthcoming decision on the matter (see draft report at appendix 2) and
 - (b) to make recommendations to the Cabinet Member, within this context, regarding the improvement of recycling rates (Appendix 3) and/or reduction of the Council's costs for the service.
- 2) That the Panel delegate authority to the Statutory Scrutiny Officer to summarise the committee's comments on the cabinet report in appendix 2 following this meeting, in consultation with the Place Scrutiny Panel Chair, and to provide this summary to Cabinet Members in advance of their meeting on this topic.

Reason:

- 1.3 Slough Borough Council (SBC) is committed to ensuring the public money we spend and the resources available, are used in the most efficient and effective way to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people within our community. The proposed Task and Finish Group and associated Appendices aim to contribute to reducing the costs in providing waste services, improving recycling and contributing to the Recovery Plan and Corporate Plan.

2. Report

Introductory paragraph

- 2.1.1 The Council currently has one of the lowest recycling rates in the country. The Place scrutiny panel has an opportunity to undertake a review on the contributing factors and options to increase the recycling rate. Based on experiences in other local authorities, by adopting fortnightly collection of general waste and fortnightly collection of recyclables from most street level properties and some flats we may be able to save approximately **£700k/annum** as well as **increase our recycling rate from about 28% to 35-40%**. Making these changes would be a significant first step towards adopting the proposed changes set out in the Environment Act 2021.
- 2.1.2 The proposed new charges for “DIY” waste at the Chalvey Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) are proposed within the same draft Cabinet report and are intended to change the way our residents buy and dispose of their goods. This proposal is where members can review how different authorities work with their residents to change behaviours and in so doing reduce the household costs but also the Council’s disposal costs.
- 2.1.3 Officers have worked with Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to review best practice and learn from authorities who have succeeded in the increase of recycling rates. It is recommended that the Task and Finish group connect with WRAP and “Good” authorities to see what interventions can be introduced to increase specifically recycling in our larger households (Flats, House of Multiple Occupancy [HMO] and other households with larger families).
- 2.1.4 The recycling rates in Slough are similar to some other authorities with the same demographics, however this should not be seen as a reason not to try and improve rates. This is an opportunity to support our residents to maintain the environment they live in, reduce their costs and contribute to the Council’s Recovery and Corporate Plan

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

- 3.1.1 The proposed Task and Finish Group has no financial implication outside of the opportunity cost of officer support to the process.
- 3.1.2 It is possible that the Task and Finish group will make specific recommendations to Cabinet that lead to further savings and improvements however this will be reported on separately when the group conclude their assessment.
- 3.1.3 Financial implications associated with Appendix 2 are identified within the report.

3.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications associated with the Task and Finish group. All legal implications associated with Appendix 2 are identified in the report.

3.3 Risk management implications

- 3.3.1 There are no material risk implications associated with the Task and Finish group. All risks associated with Appendix 2 are identified in the report.

3.4 Environmental implications

- 3.4.1 There are no Environmental implications associated with the Task and Finish group. All environmental implications associated with Appendix 2 are identified in the report.
- 3.4.2 Subject to recommendations from the Task and Finish group it is expected that there could be significant positive outcomes in terms of the environment with regard to increased recycling rates.

3.5 Equality implications

- 3.5.1 There are no Equality implications associated with the Task and Finish group. A full Equalities Impact Assessment is included within the draft Cabinet Report.

3.6 Procurement implications

No procurement implications have been identified as part of this proposal

3.7 Workforce implications

- 3.7.1 No workforce implications have bene identified as part of this report.

3.8 Property implications

- 3.8.1 No property implications have been identified as part of this report.

4. Background Papers

None