

PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL

WASTE & RECYCLING TASK AND FINISH GROUP: DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

- To examine the issue of low levels of Recycling in Slough and how Communications and changes to policies and procedures might be undertaken to help increase the Council's recycling rate and positioning across the country as well as reducing the Council's cost for disposal.
- To make recommendations to the Place Scrutiny Panel on proposed changes to such policies and procedures identified by the group, for their endorsement to the Cabinet Member.

Background

Local authorities have a responsibility to lead in protecting the environment for future generations by using resources efficiently and by reducing the amount of waste that society creates. Where waste is created then we need to keep resources in use for as long as possible through recycling. At 26-28% Slough has one of the lowest recycling rates in the UK. The Council needs to deliver increase its recycling in line with the objectives contained in the Environment Act '21

Scope

1. To review the existing policies and procedures on Waste and Recycling as a basis to the group's ongoing work.
2. To review available data and information relating to Recycling of materials and to agree what issues are specifically in-scope for this work.
3. To review existing policies and procedures in place at Chalvey HWRC with a view to increasing recycling at the CA site.
4. To identify and review other areas of the UK where there have been successful alterations to policies and procedures which have increased recycling such as local neighbours and the RE3 contract.
6. To identify and meet with industry, local authority and other sector specialists to help inform discussions and recommendations.
7. To investigate best practice from other local authorities across the country and WRAP are pursuing in relation to recycling.
8. To engage with all Councillors to try and obtain as much evidence as possible.
9. To consider the Council's plans for public engagement and consultation on this topic, and whether there is a role for the Scrutiny Panel in this.

Reporting

The Task and Finish group will report to the Place Scrutiny Panel.

Membership

To be defined by the Place Scrutiny Panel (3-5 Councillors is the recommended size)

Meetings of the panel and use of resources

Members are encouraged to be proactive in their investigation and to own the work as far as possible rather than officers completing it for them. However, the Waste and Recycling Service will make a certain amount of resource available to support this process, with advice and guidance provided by Democratic Services.

Duration and T&F meetings

To run for up to four months, with meetings taking place informally and online as much as possible. The final report to the Panel will be public and discussed in public at the Place Scrutiny Panel.

Methodology

- Desktop research
- Local knowledge / information obtained by the Task and Finish Group members.
- Data, evidence and financial information provided by the following officers:
 - Senior Waste & Environment Technical Officer
 - Waste & Street Scene Services Manager
 - Business Improvement Manager

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