

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY PANEL A</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>6 OCTOBER 2022</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY REVIEW: WASTE AND RECYCLING</b>
<b>Executive Lead Member:</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>NO</b>

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to introduce the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling to Scrutiny Panel A. Members agreed at the previous meeting of the Panel held in July 2022 that Waste and Recycling should be added to the agenda for this meeting as an introductory report.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Members of Scrutiny Panel A are recommended to:

- a. Note the information contained within this report.
- b. Discuss and set review terms of reference.
- c. Identify next steps needed to progress the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling.

### **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

Waste and Recycling was added to the scrutiny work programme in June 2022 by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was requested by Members of Scrutiny Panel A that the review be commenced in October 2022.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

No alternative options have been considered at this introductory stage of the review.

## **Detailed Information**

### **BACKGROUND**

Local authorities have a duty to arrange for the collection of household waste, and if requested, of commercial and industrial waste. A 'waste collection authority' has a duty to collect 'household waste' under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

#### **Household Waste**

The term 'household waste' is defined within the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as being waste from:

- Domestic property, a building or self-contained part of a building which is used wholly for the purposes of living accommodation
- A caravan
- A residential home
- Premises forming part of a university or school or other educational establishment
- Premises forming part of a hospital or nursing home which are used to provide a care home service

The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 extend the circumstances in which waste should be treated as household waste to further sources, including places of worship, among others.

There can be exceptions to this duty, including where the premises are "so isolated or inaccessible that the cost of collecting it would be unreasonably high".

Local authorities can charge for the collection of household waste but only in specific circumstances. These can include:

- Household waste that is generated from certain non-domestic properties, such as universities, hospitals, and prisons
- Waste that weighs more than 25kg and cannot fit into the bin provided
- Asbestos
- Garden waste

#### **Recycled Materials**

Regulation 13 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 requires a waste collection authority which collects waste paper, metal, plastic, or glass to collect them separately. This duty only applies where it is both:

- Necessary to ensure that waste undergoes recovery operations in accordance with Articles 4 and 13 of the Waste Framework Directive (the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management, including definitions of waste, recycling, and recovery) and to facilitate and improve recovery
- Technically, environmentally, and economically practicable

## **ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL POLICY DOCUMENTS**

### **Waste Strategy**

A Waste Strategy, published in 2013, is featured on the 'Bins, Waste & Recycling' section of the Council's website. The Waste Strategy is appended to this report as **Appendix A**.

### Waste Collection Policy

A 'Waste Collection Policy' revised in 2022 is included the 'Bins, Waste & Recycling' section of the Council's website. The Waste Collection Policy is appended to this report as **Appendix B**.

### Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023

The Council's Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023 sets out 'Cleaner and Greener' as one of the six key priorities.

The vision for the Cleaner and Greener priority is set out as:

*'By 2023 we will create a cleaner and greener Ashfield, enabling communities and businesses to thrive in a clean and tidy District, minimising waste and recycling more.'*

*Ashfield is pro-active in encouraging more recycling, tackling environmental crime and finding innovative ways of delivering services that are responsive to the needs of our residents, visitors, and businesses.*

*By working with our communities and businesses, the Council is better able to understand what matters and to shape services to help people enjoy living, visiting, and working in Ashfield'.*

Key projects, programmes, and initiatives are included as part of the Cleaner and Greener priority. These include, among others:

#### **Street Cleanliness**

- Deliver one Big Ashfield Spring Clean initiative annually
- Combat fly tipping through joint working and educational campaigns, enforcement, and sting operations

#### **Environment**

- Launch our Environmental Charter
- Work with and influence community volunteers and local businesses to help with the environment to encourage an increase in ownership of community open spaces

#### **Waste and Recycling**

- Respond to the government waste strategy and refine the Council's approach
- Deliver a programme of waste and recycling education in schools

Desired outcomes are also identified as part of the Cleaner and Greener priority. These include, among others:

- Improved public perception that Ashfield is a cleaner and more attractive place
- Improved recycling rates

## GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION

Residents in Ashfield can sign up to have garden waste collected for £28 a year. Upon signing up, residents are given an extra bin with a brown or black lid. These bins are collected fortnightly between March and December. Residents can request extra garden waste bins at £14 each per year.

The following can be put in the garden waste bin:

- Grass cuttings
- Hedge trimmings
- Leaves
- Twigs
- Plants and weeds
- Cut flowers

The following should not be put in the garden waste bin:

- Soil, turf, stones, or rubble
- Garden ornaments or plant pots
- Food or animal waste
- Vacuum cleaner waste or ash
- DIY rubbish
- Timber or sawdust

In the Government's 2019 Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England, it asked for views on whether households generating garden waste should be provided with access to a free collection service with a minimum fortnightly collection of 240 litre capacity. The July 2019 Executive summary and Government response stated that the Government would give further consideration to the costs and benefits of these measures before making a final decision.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE AND NEXT STEPS

Below is a blank terms of reference template that is used for all scrutiny reviews. Scrutiny Panel A Members are asked to consider each heading within the template and set terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling.

Broadly, Panel Members are asked to identify the specific areas within the Waste and Recycling topic to focus on as part of the review process. Furthermore, Members should ascertain what steps need to be taken to progress the review. This could include identifying any key witnesses to be invited to a future meeting, relevant information and evidence needed, and setting up additional meetings such as a task and finish group.

<b>Review Topic</b>	Waste and Recycling
<b>Review Group</b>	Scrutiny Panel A
<b>Officer Support</b>	Scrutiny Research Officer, Service Manager – Scrutiny and Democratic Services, Democratic Services Officer

<b>Rationale</b>	
<b>Purpose/Objectives</b>	
<b>Indicators of Success</b>	
<b>Methodology/Approach</b>	
<b>Witnesses/Experts</b>	
<b>Sources of Evidence</b>	
<b>Site Visits</b>	
<b>Evidence Sources for Views of Stakeholders</b>	
<b>Resources Requirements</b>	
<b>Barriers/Risks</b>	

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

Panel Members will examine the Council's Corporate Plan to understand the set priorities relating to the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling.

### **Legal:**

There are no direct legal implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

### **Finance:**

There are no direct financial implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

**Risk:**

No risks have been identified at this introductory stage of the review process.

Risk	Mitigation

**Human Resources:**

There are no direct HR implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

**Environmental/Sustainability**

There are no direct environmental or sustainability implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

**Equalities:**

There are no direct equalities implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

**Other Implications:**

There are no other implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

**Reason(s) for Urgency**

None.

**Reason(s) for Exemption**

None.

**Background Papers**

None.

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