

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY PANEL A</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>9 FEBRUARY 2023</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 present further information regarding the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling to Members of Scrutiny Panel A.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Members of Scrutiny Panel A are recommended to:

- a. Note the information contained within this report.
- b. Decide the next steps for 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.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

No alternative options have been considered at this stage of the review process. Any alternative options considered by Members will be outlined in a final report to Cabinet.

## **Detailed Information**

### **REFRESHER – SCRUTINY PANEL A OCTOBER 2022**

Scrutiny Panel A Members have held one previous meeting on this topic in October 2022. The following introductory information was considered by Panel Members.

#### **Local Authority Responsibilities**

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.

### Waste Collection Policy

A 'Waste Collection Policy' revised in 2022 is included the 'Bins, Waste & Recycling' section of the Council's website.

### 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 consider the costs and benefits of these measures before making a final decision.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

#### **Terms of Reference**

At the previous meeting of the Panel, Members discussed and approved terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling.

<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>	Cleaner and Greener is one of the Council's key corporate priorities, with many different initiatives and projects underpinning the wider priority. Scrutiny Panel A Members are looking to understand the progress and success of these initiatives and identify any areas for improvement.
<b>Purpose/Objectives</b>	To understand the key projects and initiatives being undertaken by the Council as part of the Cleaner and Greener corporate priority. To identify any areas of improvement within the Council's waste and recycling services.
<b>Indicators of Success</b>	Panel Members will focus on the following key areas to achieve success through the review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal policy development</li> <li>• Information sharing with residents</li> </ul>
<b>Methodology/Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examining relevant Council policy documents such as the Corporate Plan and Waste Strategy</li> <li>• Understanding national policies and emerging legislation that could have implications for the Council</li> <li>• Site visits (where appropriate)</li> </ul>
<b>Witnesses/Experts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Officers/Teams working to deliver against the Cleaner and Greener corporate priority</li> <li>• Executive Lead Members</li> </ul>
<b>Sources of Evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy documents (local and national)/Statistics/Site Visits/Emerging legislation/Resident feedback</li> </ul>
<b>Site Visits</b>	To be determined.
<b>Barriers/Risks</b>	Uncertainty regarding emerging national legislation and policy relating to waste and recycling that may have significant implications for the Council's service delivery.

## Volunteering

At the previous meeting of the Panel, Members discussed the importance of the Council offering quality volunteering opportunities for those interested in Ashfield, and how this can often overlap with tackling waste and recycling related issues. Members wished to understand the Council's established procedure for volunteering, and if any data was held regarding the number of volunteer enquiries.

The Council's Place and Wellbeing Team have been contacted regarding the above and have provided the following information:

### Volunteer Enquiries

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Number of Enquiries</b>
1 April 2022 – 16 January 2023	66
2021 – 2022	114
2020 – 2021	55
2019 – 2020	55

### Volunteering Case Studies

The Place and Wellbeing Team have numerous case study examples of volunteers working in Ashfield. These case studies will be shared with Panel Members during the meeting.

### Volunteers Registered

The Council currently has 19 volunteers registered after following up all known volunteers post-COVID.

### Expanding Volunteering Opportunities

Members were interested in knowing if any consideration had been given to expanding the volunteering opportunities currently available at the Council.

The Council did used to offer a wider variety of different volunteering opportunities. However, a comprehensive support programme is required in management teams, and capacity is limited in this regard, meaning that Teams will often signpost to the voluntary sector and community organisations who can offer a wider range of opportunities as well as providing regular support and supervision.

### Volunteering Policy

Members were looking to understand how often the Volunteering Policy is refreshed.

The Volunteering Policy is reviewed annually, and if no updates are required, the Policy is rolled over. The Place and Wellbeing Team are currently in the process of revising the approach to the Volunteering Policy and the related procedures to simplify the Council's offer with enquiries, inductions, and offering an online service following benchmarking with other local authorities.

### **Waste Strategy**

Members requested an update on the appropriateness of the Council's Waste Strategy document for 2013 and how the Council is responding to the Government's Waste Strategy and refining the local approach accordingly.

It is understood that it is the intention for the Council's Waste Strategy to be refreshed, however, due to numerous delays in the Government publishing/implementing key policies such as the Environmental Bill 2021, the refresh of the Council's own Waste Strategy has been delayed.

### **Guidance for Disposal of Different Waste Types**

Members previously questioned if the Council provides information to residents regarding the disposal of other waste types, such as asbestos and paint.

The Council does not currently provide this information to residents but relies on Nottinghamshire County Council to do so who have numerous resources available to residents.

These include a web page where an asbestos disposal appointment can be booked, accessible through the following link:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/recycling-and-disposing-of-waste/asbestos-disposal-booking>

The webpage has the following guidance included:

### Eligibility

To use this service, you must:

- be a Nottinghamshire resident
- have dismantled and removed the cement bonded asbestos yourself from your own home, garage or shed
- use a car, car with trailer, minibus, motorhome or hire van up to 3.5t GVW to visit the site to dispose of the cement bonded asbestos in one load
- be able to place the cement bonded asbestos into the skips provided yourself as no assistance will be available due to social distancing measures at this time

You cannot use this service if:

- you have already used the service before to dispose of asbestos from your property
- the asbestos has not come from your property or has been fly-tipped on your land
- the asbestos originates from other outbuildings, farm buildings or forms part of conversion works
- the asbestos is not cement bonded
- you are a business or trader
- you are a landlord, and the asbestos has come from a rental property
- a trader has dismantled the structure and left you with the asbestos

### You will need

- details of the vehicle you will be using to dispose of the cement bonded asbestos including registration number. If you will be using a hire van, you will need to provide details of the hire company including address and contact details
- the date and time you wish to book your appointment for
- your payment details

### What will happen next

Before starting the registration form you will be asked to create an online account with us, or to log in if you already have one. Once you have created and logged in to your online account you will need to complete the form to book an asbestos disposal appointment.

Once you have completed the form, we will notify you with a booking number to confirm your appointment.

The County Council have numerous other pages providing guidance on waste disposal, such as this one for paint, accessible through the following link:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/recycling-and-disposing-of-waste/how-to-recycle-or-dispose-of-common-waste-items/paint>

The page provides guidance on the dangers of putting paint tins into household bins and where residents can donate surplus tins of paint to throughout Nottinghamshire.

Additionally, the page provides a list of paint that is suitable for reuse, such as gloss paint, primer, and masonry paint, and the types of paint that cannot be reused through paint reuse schemes, such as paint not in the original container, paint tins with hazardous symbols, and any paint containing lead.

Nottinghamshire County Council also have a page dedicated to Frequently Asked Questions relating to Recycling in Nottinghamshire. This page can be used by residents to find the nearest recycling centre, learn how to recycle common waste items such as plastics, paper/card, metal, and glass, and learn about the partnership with Veolia.

Ashfield District Council is currently working towards developing a new guide for residents on how to use the waste bins in Ashfield.

## **REVIEW NEXT STEPS**

Due to 2023 being District Elections year in Ashfield, the February meeting of Scrutiny Panel A is the last scheduled meeting for the municipal year. Furthermore, this also means that the deadline for recommendations to be submitted to Cabinet before the District Elections will be missed.

In light of this, Panel Members are asked to consider the next steps for the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling. If Members feel that there is still evidence and information that needs to be gathered and considered before the review is concluded, current Panel Members could recommend that the review carry over into the new municipal year to achieve this.

If Members feel that recommendations can be formulated now, these recommendations could be made to the first meeting of Cabinet in the new municipal year.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

Details of how the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan are included within the body of the report.

### **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.

### **Risk:**

No risks have been identified at this stage of the review process. Any risks identified by Scrutiny Panel A Members will be presented to Cabinet as part of a final report.



## **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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