

Resource and Waste Management Strategy Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board



Report to the Cabinet – 15 December 2020

Background

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 11 November 2020 to consider the draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy.
2. The Board supported the overall aims of the Strategy to reduce waste and increase recycling to help tackle climate change. Members discussed and asked questions in relation to the following areas:
 - what other options for saving money and increasing recycling had been considered;
 - what happened to the green waste;
 - issues in connection with the proposed trial of three weekly collections and increasing recycling in town centre and Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs);
 - the difference in the budget shown in the Resource and Waste Management Strategy - £475k in two to three years and £600k in 2021/2022 in the draft budget proposals;
 - trends for percentages for recycling targets and some of the reasons for the decline;
 - impact on climate change of positive action being taken to reduce the amount of waste going to the energy from waste plant and the increase in recycling;
 - waste fleet and staffing resources, including the appointment of new recycling officers;
 - the role of education and role of planning to ensure that adequate bin storage provision is included within developments;
 - role of large supermarkets and local organisations in helping to reduce waste, especially plastic and making more use of easily recycled materials.
3. That Board agreed that the Cabinet be recommended:
 - (i) that when the Christmas bin collection notices go out to households this includes information on recycling and the financial and environmental benefit of increasing recycling;
 - (ii) that consideration be given to other areas to improve recycling in addition to improving kerbside recycling;
 - (iii) that the Resource and Waste Strategy should include a glossary of abbreviations and an appendix with the planning advice to developers;

- (vi) that a detailed written response be provided to the Board on the breakdown of the £500k savings for 2021/2022 from SWISCo identified within the budget consultation proposals; and
- (vii) to request officers to liaise with the five major waste producers in Torbay to see if they can work together to help reduce waste and increase recycling (unanimous).