

To: Cabinet

Date: 25 January 2023

Report/Comments of: Scrutiny Committee

Title: Scrutiny Feedback to Cabinet – Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy

SUMMARY OF REPORT CONSIDERED	
Report Title:	Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy (2022-2050)
Purpose/Description of Report:	The report updates Members on the details of the final draft of the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy 2022-2050.
Key Decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Cllr R Child, Scrutiny Committee Chairman
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Cllr A Freer, Portfolio Holder for Climate, Access and Engagement

1. Introduction and Overview

The Scrutiny Committee met on 11 January 2023 to consider a report on the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy (LRWS) 2022-2050.

The report outlines the final draft of the LRWS and it was explained that this will replace the previous Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy adopted in 2002.

The LRWS has been developed through the Leicestershire Waste Partnership and contains a range of pledges. The LRWS will be considered for adoption by all Councils that form the Leicestershire Waste Partnership.

2. Summary of Feedback/Recommendations for Cabinet Consideration

- Members commented that the report was well written and structured and were positive about the level of response to the countywide consultation exercise.

- Members were pleased with the service provided by the existing waste collection contractor and noted that the service has improved greatly over the years.
- A Member was keen to know whether garden waste contributed to recycling statistics. Officers have since confirmed that it does.
- The Committee were pleased that action against fly tipping had been added as a specific pledge. The importance of understanding reasons for fly tipping was noted. Scrutiny Committee members were keen to see greater clarity of expectation for timescales for collecting fly tipped waste and reiterated the importance of taking robust enforcement action against fly tipping where possible.
- The addition of 'what three words' to help pinpoint the location of fly tipping when reporting was noted by Members.
- Members noted the important role that the wombles and other community groups play in local communities in collecting litter.
- Members noted the recent legislative change relating to collection and disposal of items containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) such as sofas, kitchen and dining chairs, home office chairs and sofa cushions. The importance of reflecting this legislative change in the strategy was discussed, and a member raised a concern that the legislative changes could result in increased fly tipping which would negatively impact the environment.
- Members noted that some of the strategy pledges had been caveated, as they are subject to total and ongoing Government funding. The financial implications associated with some of the pledges if not funded by Government were noted.

Written by: Scrutiny Committee Chairman in consultation with Members of the Scrutiny Committee