

Report to: Cabinet 15 May 2023

Lead Cabinet Members: Councillor Henry Batchelor, Lead Cabinet Member for Environment

From: Councillor Stephen Drew, Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee
Councillor Graham Cone, Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee

Update from Scrutiny and Overview Committee

Purpose

1. This report is to inform Cabinet about relevant discussion among members of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at their meeting on 25 April 2023 and ask it to endorse suggestions contained in paragraph 5.

Collection Changes - The future of waste collections

2. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee considered this topic in the context of
 - a. round optimisation;
 - b. past and future housing development;
 - c. legislative changes; and
 - d. the trial of a four-day-week waste collection service subject to receiving approval from Cambridge City Council as this Council's partner in the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS).
3. Having explored various aspects of the report with officers and the Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment, Committee members noted with approval
 - the engagement of consultants ISL and industry-recognised software called Routesmart for analyses and modelling
 - data mapping including an in-cab system that collects local data such as vehicle stops, driving behaviour, and vehicle miles per gallon
 - the ability to identify the ranges of distinct types of vehicles so that they can be deployed in the most effective way given the length of routes
 - the focus on waste reduction and home composting
 - support from refuse crews and from Trades Unions for the trial
4. Committee members emphasised the need

- to make sure that the options for introducing a four-day-week for the GCSWS were fully assessed so that the one adopted would best suit the type of work undertaken by staff
- for the Council to continue to support behavioural change among its residents so that GCSWS was well-placed to begin the separate collection of food waste once mandated by central government to do so
- to monitor the new arrangements in terms of both health and wellbeing.

Suggested action for Cabinet to endorse

5. **The Scrutiny and Overview Committee notes that long-term injury is most common among waste collection operatives and recognises how difficult it is to monitor what people do on non-working days but urges Cabinet and officers to do their best to identify whether injuries result from activities during the four GCSWS working days, especially in light of possible increased workloads.**

Report Author:

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