

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda  
Item No.

Report of Executive Director  
(Legal & Democratic Services)

to

Place Scrutiny Committee

on

8 July 2021

Report prepared by: Tim Row  
(Principal Democratic Services Officer)

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**In-Depth Scrutiny Project –  
‘To improve and increase domestic waste recycling in the Borough.’**

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee(s): Place Scrutiny Committee  
Cabinet Member(s): Councillors Mulronev and Terry  
Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)**

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## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the draft report of the In-Depth Scrutiny Project undertaken on behalf of the Committee.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the report and recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project, detailed at Section 5 of the report, be agreed.**
- 2.2 **That, in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10 (Part 4 (e) of the Constitution), the Chair of the Committee present the report and recommendations of the in-depth scrutiny project to a future meeting of the Cabinet.**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Place Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 approved a suggestion for an in-depth study to be undertaken “To review the level of domestic waste recycling in the Borough, in order to examine what influences residents in terms of their recycling habits and the barriers to achieving a higher rate of recycling and to consider ways of working with residents to improve domestic waste recycling” (Minute 153 refers).
- 3.2 In the context of the Southend 2050 Vision, the proposed outcomes from the project were to:
  - (a) To review current strategies, initiatives and methods of waste recycling/collection and their effectiveness
  - (b) To consider best practice from exemplar Local Authorities (e.g. Tendring, Rochford) including incentive schemes

- (c) To examine operational and cultural barriers to domestic waste recycling and how these may be overcome
  - (d) To identify and consider recycling measures and initiatives to increase the amount and type of domestic waste recycling in the Borough
  - (e) To investigate how the community be educated and encouraged to increase domestic waste recycling levels reduce the level of waste sent to landfill
  - (f) To investigate the potential alternative uses of suitable residual waste after recycling as an alternative to landfill.
- 3.3 Progress with regard to the review was achieved in the first half of the 2019/20 municipal year, including the development of an action plan and the receipt of relevant presentations. However, the completion of the project was subsequently delayed from late-2019 as a result of a number of issues including reduced officer capacity in key service areas.
- 3.4 From March 2020, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic also further delayed activity with regard to the completion of the review, reflecting the Council's approach to the handling of the pandemic, including the necessary focus on the delivery of key services and priority activities. As a result, it was not possible for the in-depth review to be completed by the end of the municipal year and the Committee agreed that it be carried forward into the current municipal year.
- 3.5 The Project Team comprised the following members: A Bright, K Buck, L Burton, A Chalk, S George, D Jarvis, S Wakefield and P Wexham. Councillor Bright was appointed Chair of the Project Team in September 2019.
- 3.6 Officer support for the project was provided by Carl Robinson (Director Public Protection), Imran Kazalbash (Head of Waste, Environmental Care and Street Cleansing) and Tim Row (Project Co-ordinator).
- 3.7 An overview of the evidence considered by the Project Team is set out in the report.
- 3.8 The report of the in-depth scrutiny project will be presented by a member of the Project Team.

#### **4. Scrutiny Review – Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 4.1 The recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project are set out in Section 5 of the final report. These have been agreed by the Project Team.
- 4.2 There are no specific recommendations arising from the project that have budget implications that require consideration as part of future years' budget processes prior to implementation.
- 4.3 The Committee is recommended to endorse the recommendations of the in-depth scrutiny project, for approval by Cabinet.

#### **5. Other Options**

- 5.1 Not applicable

## **6. Reasons for Recommendations**

6.1 Not applicable

## **7. Corporate Implications**

7.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

As described in the report

7.2 Financial Implications

Any recommendations with major financial implications will need to go through the annual budgetary process before implementation.

7.3 Legal Implications

None

7.4 People Implications

None

7.5 Property Implications

None

7.6 Consultation

As described in the report

7.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

None

7.8 Risk Assessment

None

7.9 Value for Money

None

7.10 Community Safety Implications

None

7.11 Environmental Impact

None

**8. Background Papers**

Notes of meetings of the Project Team.

**9. Appendices**

Draft Final Report – ‘To improve and increase domestic waste recycling in the Borough.’