



Report of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)

Cabinet – 18 July 2024

Draft Waste Strategy 2025-2030

Purpose:	The report seeks the approval of Cabinet to seek residents' views on Swansea's Draft Waste Strategy 2025-2030 through a public consultation process
Policy Framework:	Swansea's Waste Strategy 2022-2025 Welsh Government's "Beyond Recycling: A strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality" – 2021 Swansea Council's Transformation Programme – Future Waste Strategy
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1) Approves a public consultation exercise to seek residents' views on Swansea's Draft Waste Strategy 2025-2030 and approves the documents attached at Appendix A and B.
Report Author:	Matthew Perkins
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Any waste strategy must be aligned with the relevant, current UK and Welsh Government policies and legislative acts, and Swansea's Corporate Plan 2023-28.

- 1.2 The Corporate Plan clearly states its commitment to the environment through its Corporate Priority Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change, also recognises the importance of sustainable services through Transformation and Financial Resilience.

2 Overview of Swansea's Proposed Waste Strategy

- 2.1 The proposed Strategy is attached as Appendix A and outlines Swansea's progression from 45% recycling in 2011/12, to early attainment of the 2024/25 Statutory 70% Recycling Target.
- 2.2 The Strategy details our current service provision and the Action Plan to improve financial resilience and measures which would help achieve the likely future increases in the statutory recycling targets.
- 2.3 The document also highlights a range of potential future challenges and options which may need to be considered to meet those challenges. These challenges include numerous upcoming changes to UK legislation which will also impact how waste serviced are financed.
- 2.4 It is proposed to undertake a public consultation on the key areas of the recommended Draft Strategy. A draft Public Consultation document is included as Appendix B.
- 2.5 The consultation will run for 4 weeks and be made available on our website. Hard copies will be made available at key council locations such as Libraries, Contact Centre and District Housing offices. The consultation will be widely promoted externally. We will also promote within our existing groups such as Disability Network, Ageing Well forum, Poverty Forum etc.

3. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 3.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 3.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 3.4 Adaption of existing mitigation measures should ensure the draft waste strategy has negligible impact. At this stage, seeking public views on the draft waste strategy prior to further screening is a low-risk proposal.
- 3.5 A copy of the IIA screening confirms that a full IIA is not required for this report and can be found as an appendix to this report. The screening will be updated following the consultation.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The purpose of this report, to seek approval to consult, has no financial implications.
- 4.2 Any potential future challenges and options which may need to be considered, would have their financial implications assessed as part of that process.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 This strategy will ensure that we meet the 70% Statutory Recycling Target set by Welsh Government for 2024/25. It is expected that Welsh Government will legislate for future statutory recycling targets.

Background Papers:

Swansea's Waste Strategy 2022-2025

Welsh Government's Beyond Recycling: A strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality – 2021

<https://www.gov.wales/beyond-recycling>

Appendices:

Appendix A	Swansea's Draft Waste Strategy 2025-2030
Appendix B	Proposed Public Consultation document
Appendix C	Integrated Impact Assessment Screening