

Committee: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 7 February 2018

Title of Report: Scrutiny Review – Waste and Third Sector Task and Finish Group

Report by: Dawn Roberts, Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

Cabinet Member: Celia Tibble, Cabinet Member for Environment

What is the Report About? (Executive Summary)

1. This report invites Cabinet Members to consider the witness statements, findings and recommendations arising from the Waste and Third Sector Task and Finish Group.

Recommendation of the Executive Director

2. To agree the recommendations arising from the Task and Finish Group.

Background to the Proposals

3. On 27 November 2017, Communities and Place Scrutiny Advisory Board commissioned a Task and Finish Group to focus on the role of the third sector in waste reduction. A key element of the commission was to explore the opportunities to effectively collaborate with partners to ensure a countywide approach to the waste hierarchy that maximises the benefits of resources to Cumbrian households before they enter the waste stream.
4. The Scrutiny Management Board agreed that the aims and objectives of the Task and Finish Group would be to:
 - To better understand the local composition of waste initiatives to prioritise targeted reduction of specific waste streams;
 - To understand the scale, nature and history of community and voluntary activity in Cumbria in respect of reuse;
 - To understand where it might be appropriate to build capacity within the sector and explore mechanisms for doing so;
 - To provide information and suggestions that could increase the impact on reuse activity in Cumbria. To suggest mechanism for further engagement with local members around third sector and community based reuse and maximising use of local resources.

5. In October and November 2018, the Task and Finish Group held three sessions throughout the county where it engaged with the following witnesses:

- Impact Furniture Services
- FREEGLE
- Cumbria Action for Sustainability
- South Lakeland District Council
- Barrow Domestic Appliances
- Tools for Self-Reliance
- Right 2 Work
- Cllr Celia Tibble, Cabinet Member, Environment
- Angela Jones, Acting Executive Director, Economy and Infrastructure

6. There were six recommendations in total:

- **Recommendation 1:** Explore the approach towards reuse at HWRCs or periphery within contractual obligations and/or, capacity implications.
- **Recommendation 2:** The Council should reintroduce the Waste Prevention Fund on the same level that it was previously available.
- **Recommendation 3:** To consider the role of the Waste Prevention Team in taking a more proactive co-ordination role in bringing together and strengthening the reuse activity across the voluntary sector and waste partners across the county.
- **Recommendation 4:** Local Committees take a more proactive area-based approach towards the promotion of waste reuse benefits and opportunities in their locality.
- **Recommendation 5:** The Council should work in partnership with Cumbria Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) and district councils to encourage the establishment of a reuse forum for third sector organisations in Cumbria.
- **Recommendation 6:** The Council should develop an internal engagement programme to explore opportunities to maximise the benefits of waste re-use across its strategies and plans.

Conclusion

The Waste Task and Finish Group welcomed the opportunity to engage with third sector organisations across the county. The sessions provided a strong evidence base around which the recommendations in this report were formed.

Options Considered and Risks Identified

7. Within the context of the Executive Director response to the Task and Finish Group report, Cabinet may wish to approve, reject or suggest amendments to the proposed Task and Finish Group's recommendations.

Council Plan Priority – How do the Proposals Contribute to the Delivery of the Council’s Stated Outcomes? (Outcomes - People in Cumbria are Healthy and Safe, Places in Cumbria are well connected and thriving, the Economy in Cumbria is growing and benefits everyone)

8. The recommendations proposed by Scrutiny relate to several actions the Council can take to contribute to the delivery of its outcomes, such as ensuring more waste is diverted away from landfill and encouraging sustainable social enterprises.

What is the Impact of the Decision on Health Inequalities and Equality and Diversity Issues?

9. The decision to agree the recommendations has no direct impact on health inequalities and equality and diversity issues.

Appendices and Background Documents

Appendix 1 – Waste and Third Sector Task and Finish Group report

Key Facts

Electoral Division(s): All

| Executive Decision | Key Decision Included in Forward Plan | Exempt from call-in | Exemption agreed by scrutiny chair | Considered by scrutiny, if so detail below | Environmental or sustainability assessment undertaken? | Equality impact assessment undertaken? |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Yes | No | N/A | N/A | | No | No |

Approved by the relevant Cabinet Member/s on 17 January 2019

Previous relevant Council or Executive decisions

None

Consideration by Overview & Scrutiny

Considered by the Chair and Vice Chair of Scrutiny Management Board, December 2018.

Background Papers

None

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