

Matters referred to Scrutiny from Cabinet or Council

Exempt Information

None.

Executive Summary

The following Committee has referred the following matter to Cabinet:

| Committee | Matter referred | Scrutiny Committee |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Council (28.02.23) | Ending Plastic Pollution with Tamworth | Infrastructure, safety and Growth |

Background

The following petition was discussed at Full Council on the 28th February –

Tamworth Borough Council is concerned by the scourge of plastic pollution.

It recognises the large impact that plastic pollution has on the environment with between 4.8 and 12.7 million tonnes of plastic entering the ocean each year. The authority believes it is the responsibility of all to combat plastic pollution.

We welcome the talks between the government, businesses, environmental groups, scientists and civil society on shaping a legally-binding global treaty that aims to end plastic pollution by 2040.

The motion recommends that this authority:

- Work towards the elimination of the use of landfill for waste disposal
- Ensure that in public spaces are clean and free of plastic waste.
- Support education initiatives to better inform the public on how to use recycling facilities and the importance of eliminating plastic waste.
- Facilitate the cooperation of local businesses, residents and local authorities to work together on the elimination of plastic pollution and reduce the use of plastic in Tamworth.

It was resolved at the meeting that the Council would:

RESOLVED That Council

1. Work towards the elimination of the use of landfill for waste disposal
2. Ensure that in public spaces are clean and free of plastic waste
3. Support education initiatives to better inform the public on how to use recycling facilities and the importance of eliminating plastic waste

4. Facilitate the cooperation of local businesses, residents and local authorities to work together on the elimination of plastic pollution and reduce the use of plastic in Tamworth.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor M Cook)

It was agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs that this matter would be looked at by the InfraStructure, Safety and Growth Committee

The Following Information has been provided by Steve Gee,

Information Provided by Steve Gee, Operations Manager, Operations Services

Work towards the elimination of the use of landfill for waste disposal
All Tamworth Borough Council (TBC) waste from your black bins is sent to an Energy from Waste plant, located in Four Ashes, where it is converted into energy. It does not go to a landfill site where it can take years to decompose. By disposing of waste in this way, the contents of black bins across Staffordshire could generate 23 megawatts of energy - enough to power 30,000 homes for a year.

Ensure that in public spaces are clean and free of plastic waste
This is the remit of TBC's Streetscene function, not the Joint Waste Service.

Support education initiatives to better inform the public on how to use recycling facilities and the importance of eliminating plastic waste
The Joint Waste Service (JWS) is ideally positioned to help support this message in partnership with TBC's communication teams. The JWS supports the Waste Hierarchy (prevention, Re-use, Recycling, Recovery, Disposal). There is information on the TBC website covering areas such as promoting recycling, what happens to our recycling – this includes plastic. The JWS employ two recycling officers who support the service to help improve recycling for residents and business, they do attend community and educational activities at schools to promote recycling, amongst other activities. The Household Waste Recycling Centres are run by Staffordshire County Council (Lower House Farm is run by Warwickshire County Council). TBC could consider how County Council resource could help support the plastic pollution message.

The JWS is a partnership with Lichfield District Council (LDC). LDC are about to launch a new Recycling Campaign, with residents being an important voice of the message. This could be used to promote campaigns around eliminating plastic, but currently TBC have not committed to the campaign. LDC are pursuing the use of an App, which can be used to reach residents, which would be an excellent App to support awareness around plastic. This could be rolled out jointly, but TBC have not currently pursued the option.

Facilitate the cooperation of local businesses, residents and local authorities to work together on the elimination of plastic pollution and reduce the use of plastic in Tamworth

Please see reply to Q3, as elements of the response overlap into Q4. Please note TBC do not offer a trade recycling service. TBC sold this function, with a 10 year waiver to not obtain new business (this period has

passed). LDC do operate a trade recycling service, which does have a number of Tamworth businesses as customers.

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