

**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 26 JANUARY 2022**

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23 - 2025/26

MINUTE EXTRACT

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2025/26

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Environment and Transport and the Director of Corporate Resources which provided information on the proposed 2022/23 to 2025/26 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as it related to waste, the environment and the green agenda. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item '10' is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. N. Rushton CC, Leader of the Council, to the meeting for this item.

The Committee was advised that there was an error in the numbering of some of the savings items within the report and the appendix, but that the references within the table to the title of each saving were correct and comparable.

Arising from the discussion the following points were noted:

Growth

- i. Conversion of the County Council's diesel fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil would significantly reduce carbon emissions from the fleet. The Committee was assured that the change would be done in a managed way to ensure resilience against any unforeseen circumstance, in the new financial year, subject to approval of the MTFS by Full Council.
- ii. Following the increase in kerbside collected waste as a result of the pandemic, it was queried whether there was a corresponding decrease in commercial waste. In response the Director informed the Committee that while the County Council was not responsible for commercial waste, it did handle a low level through its waste transfer stations. It was noted that commercial waste in that regard had recovered. The Department would look to capitalise on any opportunities available to it.

Savings

- iii. Through a contract renewal the existing contract for disposal of wood had been renegotiated which delivered £0.4million of savings.

- iv. The Authority had struggled for a number of years with its waste disposal resilience following the closure of the Cotesbach Mechanical Biological Treatment facility, that left it without a local all-weather solution to dispose of its waste, i.e. if a landfill site was closed due to high winds. This meant the distance needed to travel to redirect its residual waste could be greater. This would be managed through the reletting of contracts and Bardon Waste Transfer Station which would provide further resilience and increased holding capacity additional to Whetstone and Loughborough Transfer Stations.
- v. The Director assured Members that the Department remained committed to progressing reuse initiatives as part of its Recycling and Household Waste sites service approach. It was noted progress had stalled as a result of staffing and market issues related to the pandemic, but that infrastructure had been put in place at some sites to facilitate it. Prior to the pandemic the item had been profiled over six years to achieve £200,000 income, however the business case would need to be refreshed and the savings reprofiled as the market recovered.

Capital Programme

- vi. It was clarified that, in relation to the Kibworth site redevelopment, the total scheme cost was £5.5million, a portion of which had already been funded, with the remaining £2 million set out within the Capital Programme for 2022/23. The Site was expected to open Autumn 2022.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report and information now provided be noted;
- (b) That the comments now made be forwarded to the Scrutiny Commission for consideration at its meeting on 31 January 2022.