

## **Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Revision 2 (2015)**

### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the adoption of the revised joint waste management strategy as set out in Annex A of this report.

### **Portfolio - Community**

**Date Portfolio Holder signed off report 13 March 2015**

### **Wards Affected - All**

### **Recommendation**

The Executive is advised to resolve

- (i) to approve the adoption of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Revision (2015) as set out in Annex A of this report.
- (ii) that the Executive Head of Community, after consultation with the Community Portfolio Holder and the Leader, be authorised to make any minor amendments to the Strategy that may arise as a result of such Strategy being considered and adopted by all Surrey Waste Partner authorities.

## **1. Resource Implications**

- 1.1 Waste and recycling is extremely expensive to manage. The net cost of managing Surrey's waste and recycling in 2013/14 was estimated to be £76 million. However, despite a rise in population and increases in the cost of waste disposal (e.g. landfill tax and haulage cost increases) the net cost has been contained at 2010 levels.
- 1.2 With increasing pressures on local authority funding it is important to reduce waste disposal and collection costs and maximise the value of the materials reused and recycled.

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 The authorities in two-tier counties such as Surrey have different responsibilities for managing waste and recycling. The districts and boroughs are responsible for its collection and the county council is responsible for its treatment and disposal.
- 2.2 To ensure that the authorities work together to manage the waste in a coherent way, the law requires two-tier areas to produce a joint strategy for the management of municipal waste, and keep this under review.

- 2.3 In 2006, the Waste Members' Group of the Surrey Local Government Association (SLGA) produced the first Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Surrey, which was adopted by the Council at the Executive Committee meeting of 26th September 2006, item 095/E.
- 2.4 The SLGA Waste Members' Group then became Surrey Waste Partnership (SWP). This includes all of Surrey's authorities and is the main forum through which waste management matters are discussed and improvement actions are agreed. To reflect the dynamic nature of waste management in Surrey, SWP produced a revision of the joint strategy in 2010.
- 2.5 Again, much change has occurred since the 2010 revision and a second revision has now been prepared in order to ensure that our joint actions for the next ten years reflect the needs of our current times and aspirations for the future. This comprehensive revision includes a new aim, objectives and targets which are supported by a new set of specific and measurable actions.
- 2.6 The revised strategy was developed by combining the input of:
- a. Officers and Members of Surrey Waste Partnership via a project steering group and scrutiny at Partnership meetings.
  - b. Best practice examples of other joint waste strategies.
  - c. A consultation of residents and other key stakeholders
- 2.7 Past Performance
- a. Much has been achieved since 2006, and the Council has actively participated in partnership working, making it responsible for many of the successes. Collection arrangements have largely been aligned, the range of recycling materials able to be collected has greatly increased and waste food collection from houses is now universal.
  - b. Fig 2 in the strategy illustrates that the quantity of household waste generated in Surrey has decreased by around 50,000 tonnes since its peak in 2007/8 despite population increases during this time. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the partnerships actions and messages on waste reduction.
  - c. Surrey's recycling rate has increased from 31% to 52% in 2013/14 and waste to landfill has decreased from 67% to only 11%. Surrey Heath is the best performing authority in the County with a current combined reuse, composting and recycling rate of 58%. Surrey Heath has the highest dry recycling rate (includes. paper, cans, card, plastics, textiles etc) in the Country at 38%.
  - d. The amount of waste sent to landfill has declined dramatically from 67% in 2006/07 to 11% today (see Figure 3 in the strategy) making us

one of the leading authorities in the country. Reducing waste to landfill even further remains a key priority.

- e. Despite the significant progress that has been made we are now seeing recycling rates in most authorities levelling off. This is due to changes in legislation which means that some waste disposal processes e.g. the composting of street swept leaf fall cannot be counted towards recycling targets.

## 2.8 Current Challenges

Whilst progress has been made over the last few years, we are now facing a number of serious challenges:

- a. Stalling performance.
- b. Changing legislation and regulation.
- c. Increasing population.
- d. Budget pressures

## 2.9 Targets and Aims

- a. Surrey's authorities can and must continue to improve in order to succeed against the challenges described above; therefore the strategy has an ambitious aim - to be the leading county area in England for waste management. It is proposed that performance against the aim is measured periodically using the following indicators:
  - Household waste and recycling per person (kg)
  - Recycling and recovery rate (%)
  - Municipal waste sent to landfill (%)
  - Cost per household (£)
- b. Targets against each of these indicators are presented in the revised strategy document (Annexe A).

## 2.10 Objectives and Actions

- a. To achieve the strategy's challenging aim and meet the targets, the following high level objectives set out what should be done:
  - Provide a high quality service
  - Work with others
  - Maximise value from waste materials
- b. These objectives are broken down into work areas containing specific actions within Annexe A. The successful delivery of these will help to achieve this revised strategy's targets.

## 2.11 Plan for Delivery

- a. To deliver the strategy successfully, each partner is required to develop an operational plan which delivers the actions. Delivery will be monitored annually, and the annual review will be considered by the Partnership. Being able to hold one another to account is key to realising the collective and individual benefits, whilst maintaining local responsibility for locally agreed operational plans is key to local governance.
- b. Targets and actions will be revised periodically during the life of the strategy, and a further revision of the whole document is anticipated as being necessary in 2019/20.

### **3. Options**

3.1 The Executive has the following options:

- a. To approve the adoption of the revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy
- b. To not approve the adoption of the revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.
- c. To approve the adoption of the revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy subject to amendments proposed by the Executive.

### **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 It is proposed that the revised Joint Municipal Waste Strategy as set out in Annex A to this report be approved.
- 4.2 Adoption is concurrently being considered by all 12 partner authorities. It should be noted that minor revisions to this version of the strategy document may be required as a result of partners' approvals processes.

### **5. Corporate Objectives And Key Priorities**

5.1 Objective 1 state that we want to make Surrey Heath an even better place where people are happy to live. We will do this by:

“Keeping the Borough clean by delivering good; recycling and refuse collection and street cleansing services”

5.2 Key Priority 3 is to secure the future of public services in Surrey Heath by a variety of strategies. The aims of the joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy is to reduce collection and disposal of waste and maximise the value of the material recycled or reused.

### **6. Governance Issues**

6.1 The Surrey Waste Partnership (SWP) is made up of elected members representing Surrey County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority

and the 11 Borough/District Council's (Waste Collection Authorities). The partnership is advised by a Waste Officers Group representing the same authorities and a number of Project Groups. Where Policy decisions are required such as adoption of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy the decision is taken by individual authorities.

## **7. Sustainability**

- 7.1 The revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy applies the principles of sustainable development. This takes into account three 'pillars' – our environment, society and the economy. The development of our waste services will seek to protect our environment, support the wellbeing of Surrey's residents and benefit our economy, both now and in the future.

## **8. Equalities Impact**

- 8.1 An equalities impact assessment was carried out when the existing contract was awarded. This identified a positive impact on older people due to the method of collection and the assisted collection scheme. The adoption of the revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy will not change this impact.

## **9. Consultation**

- 9.1 A consultation exercise took place between July and October 2014 and focused on identifying residents' barriers to reducing, reusing and recycling more of their waste. Other stakeholders included the waste management industry, businesses, environment and conservation groups and other local authorities.
- 9.2 The feedback from the consultation was incorporated into the final draft of the strategy

## **10. PR And Marketing**

- 10.1 PR and Marketing will be an important aspect of promoting our waste service throughout the life of the strategy.

## **11. Officer Comments**

- 11.1 This is an important revision of the strategy. The waste service is the only service which is delivered to every household in the borough every week and residents often judge the Council on the quality of its waste service. It is an expensive service but with the potential to make significant savings due to a reduction in waste sent to landfill (practically zero in Surrey Heath) and the value of the material recycled.
- 11.2 This strategy has an ambitious aim to be the leading county area in England for waste management. Surrey Heath is the best performing

authority in the County so has the potential to be the best performing collection authority in England for waste management.

<b>Annexes A</b>	<b>Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Revision 2 (2015) – Surrey Waste Partnership</b>
<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>None</b>
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#### **Consultations, Implications and Issues Addressed**

<b>Resources</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Consulted</b>
Revenue	✓	
Capital		
Human Resources		
Asset Management		
IT		
<b>Other Issues</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Consulted</b>
Corporate Objectives & Key Priorities	✓	
Policy Framework		
Legal		
Governance	✓	
Sustainability		
Risk Management		
Equalities Impact Assessment	✓	
Community Safety		
Human Rights		
Consultation		
P R & Marketing	✓	

**Review Date:**