

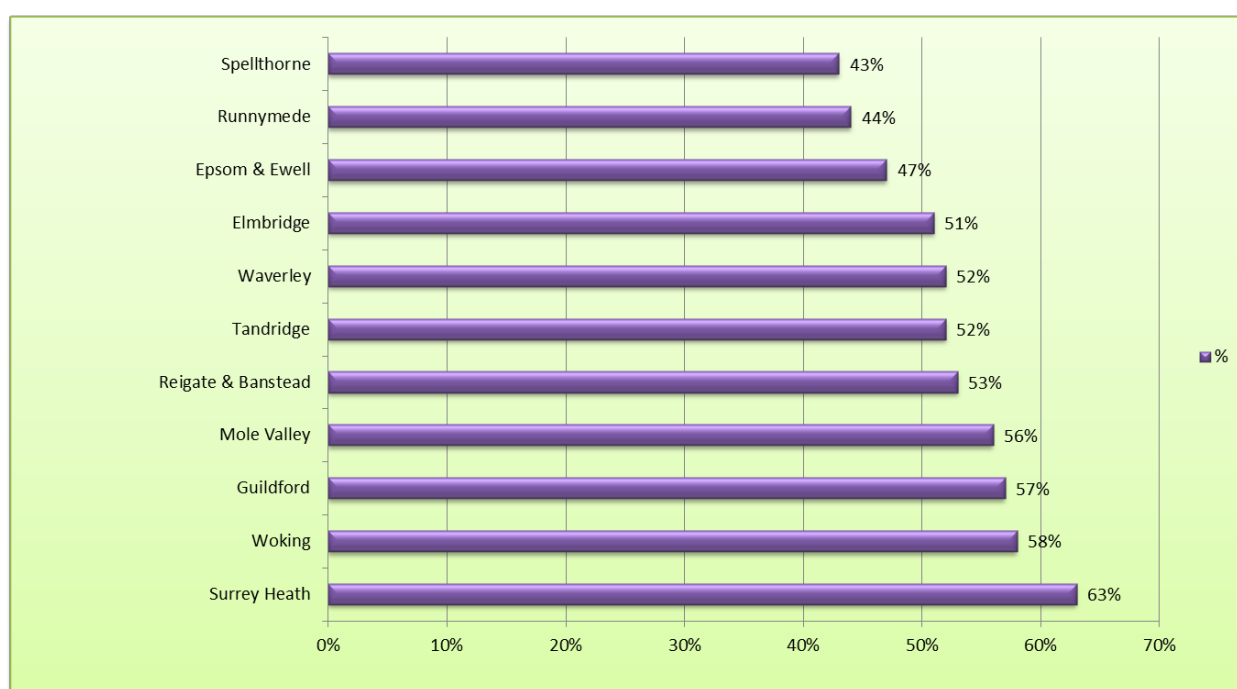
**Purpose****To provide a report on the Surrey Heath Waste Action Plan 2015-2020.****Background or Current Position**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Executive on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Members resolved to approve the Surrey Heath Waste action plan for 2015 to 2020. This detailed how the Council would contribute to the delivery of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Revision 2 (2015) produced by the Surrey Waste Partnership. The strategy which was adopted by the Council on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015 has an ambitious aim “To be the leading county area in England for waste management”.
- 1.2 A copy of the action plan is attached at Annex A and shows the progress which has been made so far in meeting the targets set out in the plan.

**Performance**

- 2.1 The total household waste generated per person in Surrey Heath has reduced from 342 kg/person in 2013/2014 to 337 kg/person in 2014/2015. We will continue to work with residents to reduce the amount of waste produced.
- 2.2 The recycling and recovery rate for 2014/2015 was 63.6% which is an increase in the previous year of 63.1%. As can be seen from table 1, Surrey Heath continues to be the best performing authority in Surrey and the 4<sup>th</sup> highest performing authority in the country.

Table 1 – Recycling Rates by Surrey Districts and Borough's 2014/2015



- 2.3 The Council received a Performance Incentive Award of £65,000 from the Surrey Waste Partnership (SWP) for exceeding the target rate of £52%. This is being re-invested back into recycling initiatives.

### Communications

- 3.1 The Council participated in local and county wide communication initiatives. This included working with the revenue team to ensure relevant information on waste and recycling was sent with council tax bills; participating in a county wide textile collection campaign; participating in a county wide waste food campaign; and placing bin hangers on bins in poor participation areas reminding residents of the scheme.
- 3.2 The textile campaign was very successful and resulted in the SWP receiving a national award as well as increasing the amount of textiles collected.
- 3.3 The food waste campaign, which included putting stickers on wheelie bins telling residents to place food waste in their food waste caddy, resulted in a 9% increase in the amount of food waste collected.

### Service and Operations

- 4.1 The biggest challenge this year has been to work with residents to reduce the amount of contaminated material in the recycling bins. A reduction in the amount paid for recycling material has meant that recycling re-processors only want good quality recycling material. In November and December 2015, around 90 – tonnes of recycling was rejected due to contamination. The contamination included food waste; textiles; soiled tissues; soiled nappies; and dust from vacuum cleaners placed in recycling bins.
- 4.2 The performance incentive award was used to pay for the appointment of an additional member of staff to check the bins for contamination before they were emptied and check the material taken to the waste transfer station in the Doman Road Depot. Where contamination was light the bin was emptied but advisory notice placed on the bin. Where contamination was heavy the bin was emptied the following week as refuse and a notice placed on the bin to that effect. This initiative led to a significant reduction of contamination with no rejected loads rejected since January 2016.
- 4.3 We have reviewed the types of bins in our bring sites to increase capacity for textiles and waste electrical and electronic equipment; and to prevent contamination of mixed dry recycling material.

### Policy

- 5.1 In order to increase the amount of garden waste collected we have frozen for another year the cost of an annual subscription for the garden waste club. To do this we had to make a subsidy of £23,000 towards the cost of the service. This was paid for from the recycling incentive award. The membership increased by 630 taking the total membership to 8629 and increasing the amount of garden waste collected by 169 tonnes. However, this is less than half of the target we set of 400

tonnes. Further work will take place in 2016/2017 to increase the amount of garden waste collected.

- 5.2 Through the SWP we continued to lobby the Environment Agency to lift their ban on the composting of highway leaves. Although, we have demonstrated that any contamination on the leaves is within acceptable limits the Environment Agency is reluctant to move away from this policy. We estimate that if we were able to compost highways leaves as we did previously it would increase our recycling rate by 3-4%.
- 5.3 We are participating in the SWP joint selling of garden waste initiative. This is expected to achieve savings across the partnership of £100,000.
- 5.4. We are continuing to participate in the joint procurement of a waste and recycling contract in conjunction with Elmbridge, Mole Valley and Woking Borough Council's. We are at the final stages of the procurement with final tenders expected on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016. We will then go through a detailed evaluation stage with approval of a preferred bidder in November 2016. The contract will be rolled out into the partner authorities in phases. In Surrey Heath this will be in February 2018.

#### Recommendation

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Finance and Performance Scrutiny notes the performance achieved in meeting the targets and milestones set out in the Surrey Heath Waste Action plan 2016 – 2020.

Background Papers: Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Revision 2 (2015)

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