

Title Surrey Heath Waste Action Plan 2015 - 2020

Portfolio:	Community
Ward(s) Affected:	All

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 10th 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 7th 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 337 kg/person in 2014/2015 to 336 kg/person in 2015/2016. We will continue to work with residents to reduce the amount of waste produced.
- 2.2 Surrey Heath continues to be the best performing authority in Surrey and the 4th highest performing authority in the country for recycling and composting with a combined rate of 62.4%. There was a reduction of 1.3% compared to 2014/2015. This is why it is marked as red on the action sheet but it is still a very high rate compared to other authorities in the country. The fall in performance is largely due to contamination and an increase in the number of flatted properties in the Borough.
- 2.3 Officers and waste crews are working with residents to reduce contamination. There probably has always been a certain amount of contamination in the bins but due to the fall in prices of materials re processors are expecting a higher quality of material going through their plants and are rejecting loads which do not meet their higher standards.
- 2.4 Flat dwellers generally present less recycling than house dwellers. This is due to the physical difficulty in getting the full range of collection schemes in blocks of flats. A team of officers from the Surrey Waste Partnership is working hard with our officers to improve schemes in blocks of flats.
- 2.5 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.

Policy

- 4.1 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. We have met our target of increasing the number of garden waste subscribers by 1000. At the end of 2016/2017 we failed to increase the amount of garden waste collected by 400 tonnes but since then garden waste tonnages have increased significantly and we are confident in achieving this target by the end of 2017/2018.
- 4.2 We are disappointed that our current contractor Biffa has decided to operate a garden waste collection service in competition to the Council when the contract expires on 4th February 2018. We are reviewing the legalities of this. The move has caused considerable confusion. We are reassuring residents that we will continue to operate a garden waste service when the current contract expires which will be competitively priced.
- 4.3 We are participating in the SWP joint selling of garden waste initiative. This is expected to achieve savings across the partnership of £100,000.

Joint Waste

- 5.1. The joint waste work has marked some very important milestones. After a 3 year procurement period and many long meetings the contract with our new supplier Amey was signed on 25 May 2017. At the same time an Inter-Authority Agreement was signed between Surrey Heath BC; Elmbridge BC; Mole Valley DC; Woking BC; and Surrey County Council.
- 5.2 Surrey Heath is the administering authority for the contract and we have formed a centralised team to manage the contract across the four authorities. After considerable debate we have selected a logo and name for the entity which is Joint Waste Solutions
- 5.3 Matt Smyth has been seconded from Surrey County Council to become the first Director of Joint Waste Solutions and is supported by Ismina Harvey who has been appointed as Contract Mobilisation Manager. The client teams for waste and street cleansing across the partnership were transferred to Surrey Heath on 2 May 2017. This involved a considerable amount of work for our HR Team and we are very appreciative of their efforts which resulted in a smooth transfer.
- 5.4 The service went live in Elmbridge BC on 5 June 2017. There were some teething problems which are only to be expected with a new contractor brought in to collect waste from 55,000 households. Everyone has worked incredibly hard and we are confident that the contract will be running smoothly with near 100% successful

collections by the end of week three. The service goes live in Surrey Heath on 4 February 2018.

- 5.5 The joint waste contract has delivered savings in excess of £2 Million across the partnership. Surrey Heath's share of the savings is £331,000 per year with an additional £110,000 income per year by allocating parts of the Doman Road Depot for use by the partnership.

Recommendation

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Performance Scrutiny and Finance scrutiny committee 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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