



Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Interim Review and Public Consultation

Surrey County Council Local Committee (Guildford)

23 June 2010

Key issue

To contribute to the current review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Summary

The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy is a statutory document that was produced in 2006 and was adopted by all authorities in Surrey by early 2007. Setting out a 20 year plan for the management of household waste in Surrey, it is currently about half-way through its first period leading up to a full review. The Surrey Waste Partnership agreed an interim review. This report sets out the circumstances of the review and the main changes to the original strategy.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) agree any comments it would wish to submit as part of the current consultation.

Background

1. In 2006 all Surrey authorities, adopted the current Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS). It sets out a plan for managing household waste in Surrey until 2026. Defra proposed five yearly reviews of JMWMS in its guidance. The EU waste Directive suggests six yearly. Surrey's JMWMS is about half-way through its first term, and Surrey Waste Partnership (SWP), representing all the Surrey authorities, has agreed to an interim review because of refocusing of targets locally and new legislation about to be put in place. The JMWMS was subject to public consultation in 2006 and

this interim revision will also be carried out with a public consultation exercise.

Review and analysis - changes to the original strategy

2. Changes have been made to the original Strategy because of new legislation (both English law and EU Directives), new national targets (such as the National Waste Strategy 2007), and new local targets (such as the agreed Surrey target of 70% recycling by 2013/14), and because of areas in the original JMWMS which have been achieved or are now out of date. The Local Committee need to be aware of the major changes to the revision of the strategy:

Addition of the comprehensive waste reduction programme

3. The waste reduction programme represents a significant change from the original strategy. This new programme consists of a series of projects targeting specific audiences to reduce waste. The programme is a result of evidence gathering and best practice and aims to change behaviours to reduce the amount of waste produced.

The recycling target of 70% by 2013/14

4. Recycling is an area that has seen significant progress since 2006, rising from an average of 27.9% (2005/6) to current levels of 48%. The recycling target within the original strategy was 60% by 2025. At current increases, Surrey is projected to reach 50% by the summer 2010. The original target and policy 4 are capable of being achieved considerably earlier than 2025 and therefore have been updated to reflect this progress and future aims.
5. The 15 Community Recycling Centres across Surrey also contribute to the recycling rate. Recent redevelopments and improvements to sites has seen performance rise to recycling rates at over 70%. The redevelopment programme continues with two further sites being developed in 2010/11. The strategy has been amended to reflect the progress in this area and to outline the additional policy changes that have been implemented to reduce waste and to increase recycling. This includes a Van Permit Scheme, a Residents scheme, and extended opening hours.
6. By the end of 2010/11 most of the 11 WCAs will have commenced food waste collection, which is a major contribution to increased recycling levels. Section 4 outlines the progress made to date to increase recycling. The table on page 22 identifies the current collection arrangements for each authority.

The move from in vessel composting to anaerobic digestion for food waste

7. The original JMWMS stated that the WDA would provide In Vessel Compost facilities to treat Surrey's household food and garden waste. Since then an analysis has been carried out to establish the actual food waste requirements of Surrey householders, and the WDA has reviewed the best method for treating food waste in Surrey. The conclusion is that Anaerobic

Digestion is the most appropriate method for treating the 40,000 tonnes of food waste due to the co-location potential and the outputs gained from the process. In vessel composting is still the preferred method of treatment for the 80,000 tonnes of garden waste. Actions within the Strategy have been amended to reflect this change.

The move away from mass burn incineration as an option for the disposal of residual waste, and the preference for advanced thermal treatment (gasification)

8. In 2009 the leader of SCC announced the change in technology to treat residual waste. The WDA were able review the potential technologies because the amount of residual waste that needs to be processed in the county has dropped and the amount of recycling has increased.
9. Gasification is an innovative technology that is better suited to treating smaller amounts of residual waste compared to Energy from Waste facilities, which are suited to processing high tonnages of waste. Because of the reduction in residual waste being treated within the county, gasification is now a suitable option for Surrey.
10. The new technology forms part of the World Class Waste Solution (WCWS) that was approved by the Surrey County Council Cabinet in February 2010. WCWS includes the construction of an Ecopark at Charlton Lane, Shepperton. This will comprise an anaerobic digestion facility to deal with 40,000 tonnes of food waste, a Batch Oxidation System Gasifier to treat 60,000 tonnes of residual municipal waste, a materials recycling facility to process and bulk dry recyclables. These facilities will sit alongside the existing community recycling centre.

Landfill diversion

11. The revised strategy now states that 0% of waste will be landfilled by 2013/14.

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| Impact on Guildford |
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12. Guildford Borough Council have been active contributors to the Surrey Waste Partnership and previously supported the principles and policies of the Surrey Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2006. Borough Council officers have also taken the lead on various projects which are underway to explore improvements to services in the County, most notably food waste, garden waste and improved joint working. At the same time it has instigated major changes to its services under the Recycling Works programme that has seen Guildford's local recycling and composting rate exceed 50%. Guildford Borough Council will consider the revised policies and targets for the 2010 JMWMS over the next month.
13. However, the Council recognises that further step changes will be required to make any significant improvement to this performance. This is likely to include greater focus on properties that are more difficult to service, such as flats, which form a significant percentage of the housing stock. It will also include a review of the range of materials that are recycled and how the

service is delivered as new opportunities arise. This will need to be completed in sufficient time to plan and deliver any major changes that might impact on the design of the vehicles that collect the recycling. The vehicles are due for replacement in 4 years time.

14. In considering short, medium and long term options the council will need to consider the following:

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| ▪ Financial implications | ▪ New technologies |
| ▪ Policies and targets – national and local | ▪ Carbon emissions |
| ▪ Resident satisfaction | ▪ The opportunity to work with partners |

15. To this end work is currently underway exploring the methods and potential to offer food waste collections to the majority of flats, whilst reviewing the overall waste plans at each site to encourage higher recycling. Officers are looking to develop plans to widen the range of plastics in a trial covering approximately 20% of households.

Consultations

16. Dialogue by Design has been appointed by the Surrey Waste Partnership to carry out the public consultation. As well as being the company that carried out the 2006 consultation, they have wide experience in this field and have also worked with Surrey County Council in the related field of the county Minerals Plan. Dialogue by Design will consult widely, using stakeholder workshops, web based consultation and public-building based consultation. They have produced a 'pro forma' consultation survey that addresses the main changes to the JMWMS as well as allowing respondents to express points of view on whatever other waste matters they wish. The consultation is being carried out online where the revised strategy is also available, at: www.surreywastepartnership.org.uk. The commission will also require Dialogue by Design to provide an analysis of the responses received and to present these results to the SWP. They are also commissioned to produce a report, which will be published following its presentation to the SWP.

17. Responses from the consultation will be considered. Depending on the comments received from the consultation process the Strategy will be altered before the final version of the Strategy is put to the Surrey Authorities for adoption in October/ November. It is not possible to give a precise time for the proposed Surrey wide adoption, because different councils have different dates for their meetings and different governance arrangements in place for the adoption of key policy documents.

18. The proposed timeline for the adoption of the interim revision to the JMWMS is set-out at Annex 1 to this report.

Member representation from this Council

19. Each council in Surrey appoints a Member to sit on the SWP Waste Members' Meeting. Their meeting is advised by a smaller strategic Group of Members and is supported by our officers and chaired by Guildford Borough Council head of service James Whiteman. In the coming months the role of

the Member representative will become increasingly important both in respect of the work to see through to adoption the interim revision of the JMWMS, but also because of another matter. This is the business of improved joint working on waste management in Surrey. The Project Group driving forward this particular project is due to complete its work in November.

Implications (Financial, Equalities, Community Safety, Environmental)

20. This report is specifically concerned with environmental matters. There are no specific equalities or community safety implications.

Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

21. It is important that the Local Committee are aware of the work currently under way to produce an interim revision to the JMWMS.

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