

**Item 8**

**LOCAL WASTE INITIATIVES IN SURREY HEATH  
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR  
SURREY HEATH**

**28th OCTOBER 2004**

**KEY ISSUE**

To consider the Local Waste Initiatives within the Borough of Surrey Heath.

**SUMMARY**

This report sets out the waste activities undertaken by the Borough and County Councils

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to agree that potential exists for the County and Borough Councils to work together to help each other meet the targets that confront them at an acceptable cost to the Council taxpayer.

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

1. As one of the eleven collection authorities within Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) is responsible for the collection of municipal waste including the proportion of waste that can be recycled.
2. SHBC's national recycling target was 33% for 2003/04 and it has been set a target of 40% for 2005/06
3. SHBC's recycling performance is amongst the best in Surrey. In 2003/4 the borough recycled just over 24% of the waste it handled.

**EXISTING COLLECTION SERVICES**

4. SHBC currently provides a weekly kerbside recycling collection service for paper and magazines, cans, plastic bags and greenwaste in pre-paid sacks. It has future plans to include textiles within the collection.
5. Refuse is collected on the same day as recyclables. SHBC provide a backdoor collection service using plastic sacks.

6. SHBC provide a network of 62 'bring sites' throughout the borough for plastics, textiles, paper and magazines, cardboard and directories, cans, glass, plastic bags, shoes and books. In addition greenwaste is collected at 4 sites and it is planned to expand this service in the future.
7. SHBC sell home composting bins for £14.00

#### **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

8. The Borough Council is aspiring to meet its recycling targets which are amongst the highest set within the country. It has invested in bulking facilities at its depot and proposes to enhance its network of bring sites wherever possible.

#### **THE SURREY JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

9. The Councils of Surrey have worked together to develop an Integrated Waste Strategy. Work on that continues and seeks to deliver on a number of fronts.

- Updating the Strategy
- Investigation of treatment technologies
- Costs and funding of waste solutions
- PR / Education
- Waste reduction
- Involvement of the Community sector.

10. The SLGA officers Group met on 6<sup>th</sup> October and agreed that the strategy would need to be updated to take into account new government guidance expected to be published in the Autumn. A number of officer sub groups have also met and are moving forward with actions on community involvement, costs & funding and waste reduction. This work will be reported on to the SLGA Members waste group when it meets later this year.
11. The Integrated Waste Strategy, together with the impending Landfill Allowance trading scheme, presents opportunities for County and Districts to work together to find and fund solutions that will enable the County to address the requirements of the EU Landfill Directive whilst helping the Districts to meet their Best Value performance targets.

#### **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

12. Surrey County Council has been working with the Waste Collection Authorities on developing and implementing an Integrated Waste Management Strategy. SCC officers provide secretariat services to the Surrey Authorities Waste Network, which oversees projects around the county. SCC officers are currently co-ordinating county-wide initiatives on the promotion of cloth nappies and community involvement in minimisation, recycling and re-use initiatives.
13. Two Civic Amenity sites are located within Surrey Heath Borough, at Wilton Road, Camberley and Swift Lane, Bagshot. These sites are managed by SCC's contractors, Surrey Waste Management Ltd. The latest audited figures for April to June this year indicate a recycling rate of 42.3% at Swift Lane and 34.1% at Wilton Road. Surrey Waste Management plan to redevelop the Wilton Road site into a modern split-level facility and this should be completed by the Summer of 2005, subject to planning approvals being obtained. The recycling performance of the site should improve substantially following the redevelopment.

14. Specifically with the aim of increasing recycling rates, especially of biodegradable waste, SCC officers have set up a “challenge fund” to which waste collection authorities could apply to pump-prime new recycling initiatives. The total value of the challenge fund is £500,000.
15. Community workshops on the subject of household waste have been offered throughout Surrey by the Environment Council, a national charity, on behalf of the County Council. The Standing Citizen’s Panel for Surrey Heath took part in one of these community workshops. The intention of these workshops has been to encourage householders to think on and discuss the whole waste stream. These are not separate events: workshops have been held for existing groups at their regular meeting venues to encourage the group to continue debate and discussion at future meetings. The intention is that these events provide a suitable lead into the formal consultation around the Waste Development Framework (formerly the Waste Local Plan review) – while stimulating householders into recycling action.
16. A number of background and issues papers, including site reports have been produced by the County Council and it is proposed that these form the basis of a consultation exercise on the waste development framework later this year. This decision is subject to the approval of the County Council’s Executive on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2004.
17. On 1 April 2005, the Government will implement the Landfill Allowance Trading System (LATS) in England. The Scheme will require Surrey County Council to reduce, year on year, the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill. A brief overview of the scheme is set out in annexe 1. The scheme will have an enormous influence on the way that waste is managed in the future.

### **COMMERCIAL WASTE**

18. By far the majority of waste arising in Surrey comes from the commercial and industrial sector. For example from shops, offices and construction activities. Private sector waste management companies deal with most of this waste. Surrey Waste Management provide disposal services for commercial and industrial waste at their three transfer stations.
19. There are no statutory drivers at present which require this waste to be dealt with in any particular way and therefore disposal and recycling options for this type of waste are led by market forces. In general it is more economic to recycle heavy construction waste than waste from shops and offices and a number of facilities exist around Surrey for recovering rubble and soil from mixed builders waste.
20. It is general practice at the waste transfer stations run by both Surrey Waste Management and the private sector for rubble and soils, metal and timber to be recovered from mixed loads of waste. Tree loppings and green waste from commercial companies are also generally sent for composting rather than disposal.
21. Wastes that generally are uneconomic to recycle are mixed waste from shops and offices. Whilst recycling of good quality office paper can be economic this is generally only the case when sufficient quantities are produced to make the collection viable. The County Council is currently working with waste contractors and businesses in Epsom and Ewell and Reigate and Banstead to trial collection networks for office paper.

22. Some of the Borough and District council's collect commercial waste, however one complicating factor is that any commercial waste collected by an borough or district council is classified as municipal waste and therefore forms part of the allocation given to Surrey County Council under the Landfill allowance Trading Scheme. This is extremely significant in terms of the future plans of authorities to collect commercial waste and the potential impact is described in more detail in annexe 1

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

23. The costs of meeting the best value performance targets and the EU Landfill Directive targets are considerable. The Authorities need to work to ensure that money is not paid in fines but rather used to develop infrastructure that provides real alternatives to landfill.

#### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

24. Ongoing landfill without retrieving value or benefit from waste is not sustainable.

#### **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

25. None.

#### **CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

26. Whereas the efforts of individual authorities have been considerable, compliance with targets and delivery of an alternative solution to landfill is only likely through joint working.

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	<b>None</b>

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## **Annexe 1**

### **Overview of Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS)**

The EU Landfill Directive requires the UK to meet the following targets

- By 2009/10 reduce the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) going to Landfill by 75% of that produced in 1995/6.
- By 2012/13 reduce the amount of BMW going to landfill to 50% of that produced in 1995/6
- By 2019/20 reduce the amount of BMW going to landfill to 35% of that produced in 1995/6

Municipal Waste includes all waste collected by a local authority, including household and commercial waste and all waste delivered by the public to civic amenity sites. Significant fines would be payable by UK Government if it fails to meet these targets (Up to £0.5 million per day)

In order to get the UK to these targets, the Government is proposing to introduce an instrument called the landfill allowance trading scheme. This scheme will commence in April 2005.

Under this scheme Waste Disposal Authorities such as Surrey County Council will be allocated allowances of BMW that they can landfill each year. These allowances will reduce year on year with a trajectory that meets the targets within the landfill directive years set out above.

The amount of BMW landfilled is calculated on a mass balance 'mass balance'. All municipal waste is deemed to be landfilled, 68% of which is deemed biodegradable. Proof is then required of biodegradable waste that has been diverted from landfill, through recycling, incineration or other qualifying treatment. This can then be deducted from the BMW landfill.

Therefore every tonne of greenwaste recycled is a deduction from BMW landfill. Recycling glass or plastic makes no saving, as the material is not biodegradable. 68% of waste minimised or incinerated is a saving in BMW landfill. Government advice is awaited on Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) diversion from landfill.

The fine for exceeding the allowance is £200 per tonne, however there are other options available. An authority may bank any unused landfill allowances (save them for future years) except into a target year. An authority may also sell surplus allowances to another authority. An authority may borrow up to 5% of the following years allowances (but not into or across a target year).

The Government also reserves the right to pass on some or all of any EU fine in the target years.

### **Local Authority Commercial Waste Collections and LATS**

Commercial waste collected by Borough Council's falls under the category of municipal waste. The Borough Council can make a charge for collection and disposal of that waste is required to deliver it to a facility nominated by the County Council. The County Council

is required to make arrangements for disposal and recharge the cost of disposing of that waste to the borough council so that the burden does not fall on the taxpayer.

The potential cost of disposal of this waste could be up to £200 per tonne if the County Council exceeds its allowances and is required to pay a fine. The introduction of LATS could therefore effectively make the collection of commercial waste by borough councils, uneconomic. Commercial waste collected by private contractors independent of the borough council is not classed as municipal waste and subject to the Landfill Directive Diversion requirements.

The Government has recently issued some guidance on this subject but this still leaves a number of questions unanswered.