



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INTERIM REVIEW AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

18 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 which was produced in 2006 and was adopted by all authorities in Surrey at the end of 2006 or early in 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. An interim review is agreed by the Surrey Waste Partnership. This report sets out the circumstances of the review and the main changes to the original strategy.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to agree what comments it would wish to submit as part of the current consultation.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 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 reviews. 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. The draft revised strategy is supplied in hard copies to members of the Committee at **Annex 1** and also available on-line at www.surreywastepartnership.org.uk .

2 DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

2.1 Changes have been made to the original Strategy because of new legislation (both in 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target of 70% recycling by 2013/14), and because of areas in the original JMWMS which have been achieved or are now out of date.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 needs to be aware of the major changes to the revision of the strategy:

a) Addition of the comprehensive waste reduction programme

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.

b) The recycling target of 70% by 2013/14

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.

The 15 Community Recycling Centres across Surrey also contribute to the recycling rate. Recent redevelopments and improvements to sites have seen performance rise to recycling rates at over 70%. The redevelopment programme continues with two further sites being developed in 2010/11, one being the Petworth Road site at Witley. 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. By the end of 2010/11 most of the 11 Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) will have commenced food waste collection, which is a major contribution to increased recycling levels. Section 3.4 outlines the progress made to date to increase recycling. The table on page 22 identifies the current collection arrangements for each authority.

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

The original JMWMS stated that the Waste Disposal Authority (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.

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

In 2009 the Leader of the County Council announced the change in technology to treat residual waste. The WDA was able to 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. Gasification is an innovative technology that is better suited to treating smaller amounts of residual waste compared to Energy from Waste (EfW) 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. The new technology forms part of the World Class Waste Solution (WCWS) that was approved by the County Council's 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 and a materials recycling facility to process and bulk dry recyclables. These facilities will sit alongside the existing community recycling centre.

e) Landfill diversion

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

3. Impact on Waverley

- 3.1 Waverley Borough Council has been an active contributor 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 under way to explore improvements to services in the county, most notably mixed plastics and garden waste. The revised policies and targets for the 2010 JMWMS will be considered by the Council over the next month.
- 3.2 Current performance has been good with demonstrable reductions in waste arisings over the last few years and a headline recycling rate of approximately 40%. However, the Council recognises that a step change will be required to make any significant improvement to this performance.
- 3.3 The mix and content of the current waste and recycling collection service was established over 5 years ago when the current contract was established. The contract is due for renewal in November 2012. The Borough Council has started to consider the future specification. In designing the content of the service the Council will need to balance a number of factors, not least:
 - Financial implications
 - Policies and targets – national and local
 - Resident satisfaction

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- New technologies
- Carbon emissions
- The opportunity to work with partners

As a first phase of introducing food waste collection the Borough Council are initiating a one round collection service over approximately 6000 households during June 2010. In addition other initiatives are being explored to improve the overall recycling rate including examining participation rates across the Borough and improvements to the garden waste service.

4. CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Dialogue by Design has been appointed by SWP to carry out the public consultation. As well as being the company which 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 which 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 SWP. They are also commissioned to produce a report, which will be published following its presentation to the SWP.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 The proposed timeline for the adoption of the interim revision to the JMWMS is set out at **Annex 2** to this report.
- 4.4 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. 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.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific implications.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific implications.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 It is considered important that the Local Committee is aware of the work currently under way to produce an interim revision to the JMWMS and that a public consultation will be carried out on our behalf by a respected professional firm, secure in the knowledge that Members will be informed of the outcome of the consultation and of the opportunities to build-in to the Strategy any significant outcomes.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Consultation documents available
at
www.surreywastepartnership.org.uk