



Environment and Transport Select Committee
17 July 2014

**Managing Surrey's Waste: Disposing of the Traditional Approach
Consulting on a revised joint strategy for waste management**

Purpose of the report: Policy development and review

This report provides the outline content of the revised joint waste management strategy for consultation by the Committee.

Introduction:

1. Surrey's residents produce half a million tonnes of waste each year, which costs around £73 million to manage. Over half of this waste (52%) is recycled, which is a significantly higher proportion than the national average of 45%, however improvement is now stalling. Innovative thinking is required to reduce these costs and ensure that waste is managed in the most efficient, economic and sustainable way possible.
2. The authorities of the Surrey Waste Partnership (SWP) are required by law to have a waste management strategy in place and keep it under review. The current joint strategy, called 'A Plan for Waste Management' was last revised in 2010. Since this time, the world has changed significantly in terms of the legislative environment, economic conditions and the authorities' priorities, and these need to be reflected in a further revision.
3. Key principles and themes for a revised joint strategy have been drafted and agreed by the SWP and are now being subject to consultation. As part of this,
 - Residents are being consulted via a bespoke questionnaire with questions related to the service that they receive.
 - Other stakeholders are being contacted directly and asked to either feedback on the relevant principles/themes, or on the full outline content of the strategy.

4. The Environment and Transportation Select Committee is a key stakeholder in the joint strategy and therefore an important participant in the consultation. All of the strategy's content is relevant to the Committee, so this paper provides the full outline content for its consideration.

Revised joint strategy: outline content

5. The outline content of the revised joint strategy is shown in Table 1. It has been broken down into the following sections:
 - Core values – these are not explicit actions, but are central to how we carry out our work and must be at the forefront of our minds when implementing the strategy
 - Visions - high-level objectives stating what we want to achieve in the future
 - Themes - the areas of work required to achieve each vision
 - Objectives – a more specific breakdown of the work required to deliver the visions and themes.
- 5.1 Please note that the objectives will be broken down further into specific actions with targets and timescales attached to them as the joint strategy is developed.

Table 1: Core values behind the revised joint strategy

Core values:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the future needs of communities • Working in partnership • Best value to the taxpayer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable environment, community and economy • Treat waste as a resource • Innovative thinking
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Table 2: Outline content of the revised joint strategy

Vision	Themes	Objectives
High quality service Provide a high quality service that residents and businesses like, understand and use to its full potential	Ensure residents and businesses understand their role in improving waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clear, consistent and regular communications that explain how and why they should manage their waste in the way that we ask them to • Publish an annual ‘Register of End Destinations of Recyclates’ to provide transparency in the recycling chain and ensure confidence in recycling
	Take the views of residents and businesses into account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide simple, accessible and effective routes to give feedback • Act upon feedback in a fair and timely manner
Working with others Work with others to improve how we manage waste	Support communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable community organisations to reduce, reuse and recycle
	Identify opportunities with other local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain relationships with all neighbouring authorities • Regularly assess opportunities for achieving economies of scale via cross-boundary working
	Create strong relationships with reprocessors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the processes used by all partnership reprocessors • Work together to develop optimum specifications for collected materials • Develop new and innovative ways of working together that sustainably deliver more value for everyone
	Encourage manufacturers to work towards a circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the appropriate scale, use our influence as a material supplier to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve product design to reduce waste and facilitate reuse and recycling ○ Facilitate closer relationships between manufacturers and reprocessors

<p>Maximise value</p> <p>Sustainably manage materials to obtain maximum value</p>	Reduce waste and drive materials up the waste hierarchy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly test current practice using ‘lifecycle thinking’ to ensure each material is managed at the optimum point on the hierarchy • Help residents and businesses to reduce the waste they produce, maximise the proportion they reuse and recycle, minimise litter and contamination of recycling by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing appropriate collection systems ○ Providing appropriate systems that help and encourage people to manage their waste on the go ○ Regularly communicating consistent and clear information
	Obtain high quality materials	
	Achieve the best deal for each material stream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly test the market to ensure that the optimum price is being achieved for each material without compromising sustainability
	Use the most appropriate collection systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present materials in a consistent way across Surrey • Regularly test collection systems to ensure that they are sustainable, legally compliant and provide best value
	Use the most appropriate infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in sufficient infrastructure to maximise material value in a sustainable manner
	Get value from commercial waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use existing assets to generate income from commercial waste where appropriate • Consider new opportunities to increase revenue from commercial waste
	Improve existing contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinise all operations and contracts to identify and assess all options for improvement

Discussion:

6. Members of the Committee are asked to input to the consultation by answering the following questions at the 17 July meeting:
 - 6.1 Do you feel that the core values in Table 1 are aligned with Surrey County Council's priorities and would you suggest any changes?
 - 6.2 Do you agree with the visions in Table 2?
 - 6.3 Do you feel that the themes and objectives in Table 2 represent what needs to be done to achieve each vision?
 - 6.4 Do you think that there is anything missing from the outline content in Table 2?

Next steps:

7. Residents will be able to take part in the consultation online from early July. Leaflets will also be produced to allow residents to take part by post.
8. Other stakeholders will be contacted by email during the consultation period. The consultation period ends on 14 September 2014.
9. Feedback from the Committee and other respondents will be included in a draft of the revised joint strategy, which will be reviewed by SWP Officers and Members in the October/November 2014 cycle of meetings.
10. The final draft revised joint strategy will be issued for the 22 January 2015 meeting of the Environment and Transport Select Committee for review, before being sent to cabinet for approval.

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Sources/background papers:

Papers to Surrey Waste Partnership Members' meeting held 4 June 2014 (available on request):

- Annexe 5 JMWMS_Guidance and process discussion v2
- Annexe 6 JMWMS_Content_v3

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