



Environment & Transport Select Committee  
22 January 2015

**Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Revision 2 (2015)**

**Purpose of the report:** Policy development and review

This report introduces the revised joint waste management strategy (Annexe 1), which is recommended for adoption by the Cabinet subject to approval by the Committee.

**Introduction:**

1. The authorities in two-tier counties such as Surrey have different responsibilities for managing waste and recycling. The districts and boroughs are responsible for its collection and the county council is responsible for its treatment and disposal.
2. To ensure that the authorities work together to manage the waste in a coherent way, the law<sup>1</sup> requires two-tier areas to produce a joint strategy for the management of municipal waste, and keep this under review.
3. In 2006, the Waste Members' Group of the Surrey Local Government Association (SLGA) produced the first Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Surrey, which was adopted by Surrey County Council.
4. The SLGA Waste Members' Group then became Surrey Waste Partnership (SWP). This includes all of Surrey's authorities and is the main forum through which waste management matters are discussed and improvement actions are agreed. To reflect the dynamic nature of waste management in Surrey, SWP produced a revision of the joint strategy in 2010.
5. Again, much change has occurred since the 2010 revision and a second revision has now been prepared in order to ensure that our joint actions for the next ten years reflect the needs of our current times and aspirations for the future. This comprehensive revision includes a new

<sup>1</sup> Waste Emissions and Trading Act 2003

aim, objectives and targets which are supported by a new set of specific and measurable actions.

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6. The revised strategy was developed by combining the input of:
    - Officers and Members of Surrey Waste Partnership via a project steering group (including Cllr Mike Goodman) and scrutiny at Partnership meetings
    - Best practice examples of other joint waste strategies
    - A consultation of residents and other key stakeholders
  7. The consultation exercise took place between July and October 2014 and focused on identifying residents' barriers to reducing, reusing and recycling more of their waste. Other stakeholders included the waste management industry, businesses, environment and conservation groups and other local authorities.
  8. This Environment and Transport Select Committee was also included in the consultation and Members provided their input at the meeting in July 2014.
  9. The feedback from the consultation was incorporated into the final draft of the strategy which is commended to you by Surrey Waste Partnership for adoption by Surrey County Council.
  10. This paper introduces Annexe 1, the revised strategy document (attached) and provides a brief summary of its key sections.

#### **Past Performance**

11. Much has been achieved since 2006, and Surrey County Council has actively participated in partnership working, making it responsible for many of the successes. Collection arrangements have largely been aligned, the range of recycling materials able to be collected has greatly increased and waste food collection from houses is now universal. Surrey's recycling rate has increased from 31% to 52% in 2013/14 and waste to landfill has decreased from 67% to only 11%.

#### **Current challenges**

12. Whilst progress has been made over the last few years, we are now facing a number of serious challenges:
  - Stalling performance
  - Changing legislation and regulation
  - Increasing population
  - Budget pressures

## **Aims and Targets**

13. Surrey's authorities can and must continue to improve in order to succeed against the challenges described above; therefore the strategy has an ambitious aim - to be the leading county area in England for waste management. It is proposed that performance against the aim is measured periodically using the following indicators:
  - Household waste and recycling per person (kg)
  - Recycling and recovery rate (%)
  - Municipal waste sent to landfill (%)
  - Cost per household (£)
14. Targets against each of these indicators are presented in the revised strategy document (Annexe 1).

## **Objectives and actions**

15. To achieve the strategy's challenging aim and meet the targets, the following high level objectives set out what should be done:
  - Provide a high quality service
  - Work with others
  - Maximise value from waste materials
16. These objectives are broken down into work areas containing specific actions within Annexe 1. The successful delivery of these will help to achieve this revised strategy's targets.

## **Plan for delivery**

17. To deliver the strategy successfully, each partner, including Surrey County Council, is required to develop an operational plan which delivers the actions. Delivery will be monitored annually, and the annual review will be considered by the Partnership. Being able to hold one another to account is key to realising the collective and individual benefits, whilst maintaining local responsibility for locally agreed operational plans is key to local governance.
18. Targets and actions will be revised periodically during the life of the strategy, and a further revision of the whole document is anticipated as being necessary in 2019/20.

## **Conclusions:**

19. This second revision of the joint waste strategy has been produced via a thorough and inclusive process. The successful completion of its actions will result in higher performing, better value waste services for Surrey.
20. Adoption is commended to Surrey County Council by the Waste Members' Group, and the Waste Officers' Group of Surrey Waste Partnership.

21. Adoption is concurrently being considered by all 12 partner authorities. It should be noted that minor revisions to this version of the strategy document may be required as a result of partners' approvals processes.

**Recommendations:**

22. It is recommended that the Environment and Transport Select Committee:

22.1 Approve the adoption of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Revision 2 (2015)

22.2 Support the adoption of the revised strategy by Surrey County Council at the next cabinet meeting.

**Next steps:**

Submit the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Revision 2 (2015) to Cabinet on 24 February 2015 for approval and adoption.

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**Sources/background papers:**

Annexe 1 - Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Revision 2 (2015)