

ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SELECT COMMITTEE

Item under consideration: PROPOSALS TO CHANGE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT IN 2018/19 [item 7]

Date Considered: 5 October 2017

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. Officers informed the Committee that the Surrey Waste Partnership had created a significant opportunities to work better with district and borough councils, and improve the cost to Surrey tax payers. It was noted that the Council could no longer sustain the level of funding it provided for waste management, and that discussions through the partnership had looked to minimise the impact of any changes on district and boroughs.
2. The officers outlined that the proposal to Cabinet would enable the Council to directly manage collected recyclable material, and improve value for money through engagement with the market.
3. The Committee queried how the principles and aims of the Surrey Waste Partnership were formed, and how district and boroughs would be assessed on their delivery in this respect. Concern was raised that there was a lack of clarity about what sanctions were available if individual districts and boroughs operated in contravention of these aims. Officers highlighted that the Surrey Waste Partnership was bound by a memorandum of understanding, and that any decision in that respect was a matter for the collective body.
4. There was a discussion regarding the long term objectives and governance of the partnership, and some Members commented that they felt unaware of the Cabinet's position with respect to becoming a single waste authority. It was noted that four of the district and boroughs were in a joint waste contract, and this would be a factor in any future considerations.

Recommendations:

The Committee notes the report and recommends:

- That the Cabinet ensures clarity in regard to strategy aims, including achieving recycling targets, and variable payments and, in particular, the thresholds included within those aims, how progress against them is measured and agreed and the level of payment and loss of payments associated with delivery and non-delivery.
- That the Cabinet makes a clear statement in regard to its position on a single co-owned approach.
- That the Committee receives an update once the financial arrangements are in place.

Bob Gardner

Chairman of the Environment and Infrastructure Select Committee

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