

CABINET – 23 JUNE 2020**COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS SELECT COMMITTEE****Item under consideration: Rethinking Waste – Surrey County Council's Waste Commissioning Strategy****Date Considered: 18 June 2020**

- 1 The Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change, the Executive Director – Environment, Transport & Infrastructure and other officers appeared before the Select Committee to seek their views on the development of a new Waste Commissioning Strategy.
- 2 The Select Committee sought information on the lessons learnt from the current council arrangements particularly around contracting methods, the development of infrastructure including the Eco-Park and the relationship of this strategy with the council's climate change commitments. Members raised concerns about repeating the length of contract awarded under the PFI agreement again emphasising the need for a flexible contract in the future.
- 3 Members highlighted the need for the council and its partners to prevent the creation of waste, citing the example of food waste, in the first place via behavioural change in Surrey residents. They also stressed value for money requirements to be present in any strategic outcomes.
- 4 There were questions asked about the existing use of Community Recycling Centres and the future capacity required to meet demand in the county. Members went on to suggest that infrastructure in Surrey be developed to process residual waste.
- 4 The Select Committee agreed that the council's climate change commitments and the contribution the council's management of waste can have on meeting the council's 2050 carbon net zero target should feature in the strategy.
- 5 The Select Committee was supportive of the need to develop a strategy particularly in light of the changing local and international context for waste commissioning. Members suggested a number of amendments to the proposed outcomes of such a strategy as can be seen below. The Select Committee agreed to support the development of the strategy further by creating a Member Reference Group to feed back on, and offer challenge on the emerging proposals for Surrey.

Recommendations:

The Select Committees agreed the following:

1. The Cabinet Member considers the development of Surrey based infrastructure to deal with residual, food waste and composting as part of the Waste Commissioning Strategy setting out reasons why or why not it should be commissioned
2. That the Cabinet Member provide assurances that the recommendations made by the Waste Task Group in September 2019 and reported to Cabinet

in October 2019 are inputted into the development of the new Waste Commissioning Strategy

3. The Select Committee will convene a Member Reference Group to offer feedback and challenge to officers on the development of the strategy

Membership: Mike Goodman, Ken Gulati, Fiona White, Jonathan Essex, Andy Macleod (chair), John O'Reilly (ex-officio)

The Select Committee also made the following amendments to the Cabinet report recommendations (text in bold)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) approves the development of a Waste Commissioning Strategy;
- b) approves the proposed outcomes for the Waste Commissioning Strategy, to:
 1. Meet Surrey County Council's Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) statutory duties.
 2. Maximise the financial sustainability of waste management in Surrey. **(this outcome must include cost efficiency measures)**
 3. Reduce the carbon impact of waste collection and disposal. **(this outcome must incorporate the Surrey Climate Change Strategy action points and also measurements on the impact on emissions of increasing reuse and waste reduction rates significantly)**
 4. Maximise the integration of waste management in the county.
- c) approves the programme proposed for the development of the strategy and procurement of the waste disposal contract; and
- d) within this programme, approves the review of the variable elements of the funding mechanism through which the county council funds the Surrey Environment Partnership and the Waste Collection Authorities.

John O'Reilly
Chairman of the Communities, Highways & Environment Select Committee