

# Chichester District Council

CABINET

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## West Sussex Waste Partnership Update

### 1. Contacts

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### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the actions and proposals of the West Sussex Waste Partnership be noted.
- 2.2. That the Head of Contract Services be authorised to approve the West Sussex Memorandum of Understanding and any future updates (provided the financial implications for the council do not exceed £100,000) following consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Head of Finance and Governance.
- 2.3. That a Panel of Members, advised by Officers, be formed to advise the Cabinet on the development of a medium term waste management strategy for the Council.
- 2.4. That the terms of reference attached (appendix 2) be approved.

### 3. Background

- 3.1. The West Sussex Waste Partnership (WSWP) is delivered through two inter-related groups; the Member led Inter Authority Waste Group (IAWG) and the Strategic Waste Officers Group (SWOG). The aims of WSWP are reduced municipal waste landfilled, compliance with EU and national legislation and targets, improved services and infrastructure facilities.
- 3.2. The EU Waste Framework Directive provides a target for local authorities to recycle 50% of their household waste by the year 2020.
- 3.3. In order to inform decisions on waste management, it is important to know exactly what is being collected within the waste and recycling bins. Therefore a detailed waste composition analysis was commissioned by the WSWP during Sept/Oct 2015.

- 3.4. Progress made by WSWP on several important work streams is detailed within this report.

#### **4. Outcomes to be achieved**

- 4.1. The focus of WSWP during the last year has been to review the protocols between the partners and to develop joint strategies with the aim of both achieving a 50% recycling rate across the county by 2020 and providing a sound base to aspire to even higher targets in the future.
- 4.2. The formation of a Members Panel to provide specialist advice to Cabinet to support the implementation of a waste strategy and complement the county-wide waste strategy by providing a local focus.

#### **5. Proposal**

##### Waste Composition Analysis

- 5.1. Representative samples were taken of waste and recyclables collected from all West Sussex districts and boroughs. The analysis identified a consistent picture across the county.
- 5.2. The results indicated that there was a significant amount (up to 20%) of good recyclable material within the residual waste bins. Also that a large proportion of the waste was made up of food waste.
- 5.3. Between 6 – 8% of the material in recycling bins was non-targeted material and should have been in the residual waste bins.

##### Waste Strategy

- 5.4. The Joint Materials Resource Management Strategy was approved in 2004 to provide governance for the Recycling Waste Handling Contract 2005 – 2035. A similar strategy is in place to cover the management of residual waste covered by the Materials Resource Management Contract which also expires in 2035.
- 5.5. Since the two strategies were approved, they have not been refreshed and updated. There has been a significant amount of strategic drift from the original content, assumption and direction outlined in the two documents. For example, when the policies were developed the aspirational target was to deliver a 45% recycling rate by 2015.
- 5.6. It is therefore proposed that the WSWP will deliver a new county-wide waste strategy. The revised document will set out the strategic direction for moving waste up the waste hierarchy and diverting waste from landfill. It will not determine the mechanism(s) for delivering the strategy.
- 5.7. The proposed draft project plan is as follows:  
Dec 2015 – Feb 2016 – desktop review, research and data modelling  
Mar-Apr 2016 – public consultation  
May 2016 – policy development

June – July 2016 – written review and drafting of revised strategy  
Sept 2016 – West Sussex local authorities approval process for the adoption of the revised strategy.

### Recycling 'Roadmap'

- 5.8. Running concurrently with the development of the strategy, the WSWP will be concentrating on the detail of how the West Sussex local authorities could work towards the 50% recycling target.
- 5.9. A review of the UK high performing authorities for recycling has been carried out and a short list of possible changes to waste services has been produced.
- 5.10. The WSWP will be considering options from this short list and providing a cost/benefit analysis for each separate waste stream. A temporary project manager, appointed by WSCC, will assist with this process.
- 5.11. It is intended that a detailed plan will be produced by September 2016.
- 5.12. It is acknowledged that a robust communications campaign will be an important factor in the successful implementation of any recycling initiatives. There is a dedicated WSCC waste communications team based at County Hall. It is intended that our own Public Relations team will be involved in producing specific messages that complement the county-wide communications plan.
- 5.13. CDC officers are currently working up a list of additional projects to increase recycling performance to be introduced concurrently with the WSWP initiatives identified above. Within the project plan the requirement for additional resources will be identified and a separate report brought back to Cabinet.

### Memorandum of Understanding

- 5.14. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) exists between the West Sussex local authorities covering the relationship and governance of the Waste Partnership. The purpose of the MoU is to clarify the aims, objectives and commitments of the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) and the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) to ensure that their respective activities provide Best Value in discharging their relevant responsibilities under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and all other relevant and associated legislation.
- 5.15. The MoU is intended as an operational document and not a formal contract. Therefore the WCAs and WDA retain their respective statutory powers, responsibilities and duties. The original MoU has been revised and is currently being updated, see draft (appendix 1).
- 5.16. An important strand of work within the MoU revision was to address the recycling support payment process. This process outlines how recycling budgets are allocated between all the authorities. The source of the budget is the savings generated from diversion from landfill and the income received

from the sale of recyclable materials.

- 5.17. It had become necessary to review the whole process in order to ensure that the document remains fit for purpose in changing circumstances. The income from recyclables had dropped significantly over recent years, all the risk for dealing with contaminated recyclates rested with the county council and financial allocation was not equitable across all parties.
- 5.18. A revised recycling support payment model has been developed and subjected to review by the West Sussex Finance Officers Group. The model should remain viable irrespective of fluctuations in income levels. The model provides a performance element to reward districts or boroughs that provide increased quantity and quality of recyclate. There will also be a mechanism whereby funds will be withheld for poor performance, and placed in an individual incentive pot. The relevant district will be able to access the incentive pot in support of improvement initiatives.
- 5.19. Based on current performance, the new model should increase the payment to CDC for 2016/17 by approximately £80,000. It should be noted that the final amount paid each year will be directly related to performance.
- 5.20. It is possible that this money could be used to part fund resources required to improve our recycling rate identified in paragraph 5.14.
- 5.21. When the final MoU revision is completed it will require formal approval by each local authority. It is suggested that responsibility for sign off should be delegated to the Head of Contract Services.

#### Waste Management Panel

- 5.22. The work streams detailed within this report will impact on every resident in the district. Dependent on outcomes, there is the potential to significantly affect the Council's capital and revenue budgets.
- 5.23. It is therefore suggested that a Waste Management Panel of Members advised by Officers be formed to analyse the detail of possible options and, in conjunction with the WSWP, to advise Cabinet on the development of a 5 – 10 year waste strategy for the Council in accordance with the terms of reference at appendix 2.

### **6. Alternatives that have been considered**

- 6.1. Alternative models for the delivery of waste management operations and strategy were considered in 2012 by IAWG.

### **7. Resource and legal implications**

- 7.1. It is possible that the Council may be subject to significant fines if the Waste Partnership fails to achieve the EU target to recycle 50% of household waste by 2020.

7.2. Failure to provide recycle of sufficient quality and quantity will directly impact on the income that it receives from the recycling support payment.

7.3. A CDC specific Recycling Action Plan is currently being developed. It is expected that the Plan will identify the requirement for additional staff resources.

## 8. Consultation

8.1. The Cabinet Member for the Environment attends the meetings of the IAWG and intends to engage with all Members to ensure they are fully informed of proposed initiatives and actions.

8.2. It is proposed that there will be a public consultation to inform the development of the county-wide Waste Strategy.

## 9. Community impact and corporate risks

9.1. Failure to achieve the 50% recycling target by 2020 has already been identified as a corporate risk for the Council.

## 10. Other Implications

<b>Crime &amp; Disorder:</b>		None
<b>Climate Change:</b> Recycling is further up the waste hierarchy than disposal. Therefore increasing recycling performance will have a positive environmental impact.	Yes	
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact:</b>		None
<b>Safeguarding and Early Help:</b>		None

## 11. Appendices

11.1. Draft West Sussex Waste Partnership Memorandum of Understanding

11.2. Waste Management Panel - Terms of Reference

## 12. Background Papers

12.1. None