

## WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE – 03/02/2015

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#### Title:

### REVISION TO JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Donal O'Neill]

[Wards Affected: All]

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#### Summary and purpose:

To comply with the Waste Emissions Trading Act 2003, waste authorities for a two-tier area must have a joint strategy for the management of waste from households, and must keep this strategy under review. This report introduces the second revision to the Joint Waste Management Strategy for Surrey, which was initially adopted by Waverley Borough Council in 2006. This latest revision is recommended for adoption by the Executive.

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#### How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

This report relates to the following Corporate Priorities:

- **Value for Money**- Providing customer-focused services at the best value for money.
- **Understanding Residents' Needs**- Focusing on providing the services our residents want.
- **Environment**- Increasing Waverley's recycling rate to 60% by 2015

#### Financial Implications:

The costs of producing and consulting upon the revised strategy have been kept to a minimum, with the majority of work being carried out in-house, and with the costs of consultation being met from the pooled Surrey Waste Partnership budget.

The strategy objectives will be implemented using existing resources and have the potential to yield significant efficiencies over time.

#### Legal Implications:

The Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 (WET Act) is the main source of guidance on joint waste strategies. It states that:

- Waste authorities for a two-tier area must have a joint strategy for the management of waste from households (and similar waste).
- The strategy must be kept under review.

- Before formulating policies for the purposes of producing a joint strategy, authorities must carry out such consultation as they consider appropriate.
- The waste authorities for a two-tier area must, when formulating policies and preparing statements, have regard to any guidance given by the Secretary of State.
- The strategy must be given adequate publicity and be made available for anyone to view free of charge.
- A copy should be sent to the Secretary of State and the Environment Agency.

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## **Introduction**

1. In 2006 the Surrey Waste Partnership produced a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Surrey, which was adopted by Waverley Borough Council. This was then the first of its kind, produced to comply with the Waste Emissions and Trading Act 2003, and set-out in a format required by statutory guidance.
2. To reflect the dynamic nature of waste management in Surrey, the strategy was revised in 2010.
3. Much has changed 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 current times and aspirations for the future.
4. The revised strategy was developed by combining the input of:
  - Officers and Members of the Surrey Waste Partnership via a project steering group and scrutiny at Partnership meetings
  - Best practice examples from other joint waste strategies
  - A consultation of residents and other key stakeholders
5. 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.
6. This Council was also consulted and feedback was provided by the Head of Environmental Services in liaison with the Leader of the Council and the Environment Portfolio Holder.
7. The feedback from the consultation was incorporated into the final draft of the strategy which is attached at Annexe 1.

## **Past Performance**

8. Much has been achieved since 2006. Collection arrangements have largely been aligned across the county, the range of recycling materials able to be collected has greatly increased and waste food collection is now universal.

Surrey's recycling rate has increased from 31% in 2006 to 52% in 2013/14 and waste to landfill has decreased from 67% to only 11% during the same period.

### **What is different in this revision?**

9. Whilst good progress has been made over the last few years, we are now facing a number of serious challenges, as follows:
  - Stalling performance
  - Changing legislation and regulation
  - Increasing population
  - Budget pressures
10. The strategy has been substantially revised in order to address these challenges. The previous revision to the strategy set out its vision as:

*“To provide Surrey with a forward looking Strategy for a more sustainable future. The vision is for a County in which resources are used and managed efficiently so that by 2026 the amount of waste produced will continue to be reduced or reused; materials reused, recycled or composted will exceed 70%; and the environment will be protected and enhanced for future generations”.*
11. The latest revision has a new, simpler, and more ambitious aim:

*“To be the leading county area in England for waste management”*
12. 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 (£)
13. Targets for each of these indicators are presented in the revised strategy document, and to achieve the aim and meet the targets, the strategy identifies the following high level objectives:
  - To provide a high quality service
  - To work with others
  - To maximise value from waste materials
14. These objectives are then broken down into ‘work areas’ containing specific actions. The successful delivery of these will help to achieve this revised strategy’s targets.

## **Plan for delivery**

15. To deliver the strategy successfully, each partner, including Waverley Borough Council, needs to develop an operational plan which delivers the actions (the Council's 'Recycling Improvement Plan, adopted in July 2014, performs this function). 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.
16. 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.

## **Conclusion**

17. 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. Adoption is concurrently being considered by all 12 partner authorities. Adoption is commended to Waverley Borough Council by the Waste Members' Group, and the Waste Officers' Group of the Surrey Waste Partnership.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Executive approves the adoption of the Updated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Revision 2 (2015).

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## **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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## **CONTACT OFFICER:**

**Name:** Rob Anderton

**Telephone:** 01483 523411

**E-mail:** robert.anderton@waverley.gov.uk