

20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE  
MANAGEMENT****REFRESH OF THE JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR  
STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE ON TRENT****EXEMPT INFORMATION****PURPOSE**

To seek Cabinet endorsement of the refreshed Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent municipal waste strategy

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that Cabinet adopt the refreshed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1 The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (JMWMS) was last updated in 2007. The Strategy which was subsequently approved through all partner authorities decision making process set out how the partnership would move towards achieving the challenging aim of 'zero waste to landfill by 2020'.

1.2 The partnership is now well on its way to achieving this aim. In particular the partner authorities are achieving recycling and composting rates in excess of 50% and project W2R which was recently commissioned now diverts the vast majority of the residual waste stream away from landfill to energy production through incineration.

1.3 Whilst the direction of travel has been extremely positive the waste industry has changed beyond recognition over the last few years and is continuing to evolve. The way in which waste is viewed has changed with the emphasis turning to its use as a valuable resource and the role the industry plays in the national energy security agenda has advanced very quickly. The partner authorities are also faced with growing financial pressures which will undoubtedly have an impact on the way services are provided. This changing environment prompted the Joint Municipal Waste Board to sanction a refresh of the Strategy which has taken place over the last fifteen months using the partnerships own resources.

1.4 The refreshed strategy builds on the current achievements by focusing on the higher levels of the Waste Hierarchy with Waste prevention at the heart of its approach. Each partner authority is required to develop an action plan which will detail how the core objectives and key principles of the Strategy will be delivered in their area. The Plan will be prepared during the first half of 2014/15 for consideration by both Cabinet and key stakeholders including our partner Lichfield District Council through the Joint Waste Board.

1.5 A draft version of the strategy underwent an eight week public consultation which ended in December 2013. Overall the consultation results were very positive which meant that only minor amendments had to be made to the final document.

1.6 As part of the partnership we are now being asked to endorse and support the adoption

of this strategy. The implications and effects on us as Waste Collection Authority are outlined below. Officers have been involved in its drafting and the Joint Waste Board has discussed the emerging strategy on a number of occasions and fed back their views.

**A copy of the refreshed Strategy is attached as Appendix A to the report.**

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications resulting from the adoption of the refreshed Strategy. Future financial implications will be considered when the Individual Partner Authority Action Plan is prepared in 2014/15.

## **LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND**

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The services that we provide are important as they enhance the environment for future generations. They also provide value for money

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Strategy addresses the management of municipal solid waste within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to the year 2020. It has been prepared in partnership by Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, and the eight Staffordshire District and Borough Councils. This refreshed Strategy provides a clear focus of the key targets and objectives as outlined in the Government's Guidance on Municipal Waste Management Strategies and is underpinned by a delivery plan.

As a waste collection authority we have a very important role to play in the management of municipal waste including the measures which need to be taken to minimise the impact of waste on the environment and reduce carbon emissions. In particular the type of service that we provide has a huge impact on the amount of waste which is recycled and it can also influence the amount of waste produced in the first instance. Whilst the Strategy does commit the Authority to maintaining high recycling rates it is the waste prevention agenda which the Strategy strives to develop. A lot of work has already been done on highlighting key areas of prevention such as home composting and nappies through education and awareness schemes. However operationally, reuse schemes for furniture and other items which are regularly discarded by residents remain a key factor to be improved upon to offer a better service for increased participation. The Strategy does require the Authority to consider increasing its waste minimisation efforts including the provision of reuse schemes. The Strategy will however allow the Authority to take into consideration the practicalities and cost implications of expanding the services which it provides.

This new Strategy 2013 is needed to provide the context for preparing the new long term municipal waste management contracts that are due to come into operation over the next few years. These contracts are important because they provide the infrastructure which we use for disposing of the waste that we collect from our residents and businesses. The latest contract was for the incinerator at Four Ashes and the transfer station at Lower House Farm in Tamworth which are both used as tipping off locations for our residual waste. It is important that the Authority has the opportunity to shape these contracts as the location of the tipping facilities will have a significant impact on our operational costs.

The refreshed Waste Strategy is based on a partnership approach and will involve a wide range of strategic partners all offering a diverse breadth of expertise. These partners will include the Waste Collection Authorities, Waste Disposal Authorities, producers and managers of non municipal waste, other public and private sector bodies, the voluntary sector and many groups and organisations. Collectively these partners will drive the Waste Strategy forward.

The refreshed Strategy is structured so that each partner authority will decide and develop the best collection systems which suit their area and deliver the core objectives and key principles of this Strategy in consultation with their local communities. This will enable local needs and demands, and financial pressures or service drivers to be taken into account. Each partner will therefore be able to control the way in which local services are structured and delivered but under the overarching ambitions and targets set out in the JMWMS.

Each partner will produce individual Partner Authority Action Plans which allows them flexibility in meeting local need. This work will be undertaken in the first half of 2014/15 and will draw on best practice and also take into consideration the emerging financial and environmental challenges. The Plan will need to be considered by the joint waste management committee, Cabinet and other key stakeholders.

The current JMWMS does not effectively incorporate strategies and policies adopted by individual authorities within the JWMB so the refreshed document redresses the balance more effectively. The proposal therefore is for individual authorities waste and minimisation strategies to be refreshed at the same time therefore allowing this JMWMS to be a simple overarching document which sits above the individual documents.

The Strategy seeks to build on the success the partnership has achieved in diverting waste away from simply being disposed of at landfill. There is recognition that the current economic climate is having an impact on our buying habits, which helps explain the reduction in overall waste production per head over the last few years. (However the total amount of waste produced will still increase in line with a growing population). The challenge for the Partnership is to ensure that as the economy improves and consumer confidence returns that there isn't a return to unsustainable levels of disposal. It is for this reason that this refreshed JMWMS places a greater emphasis on the Waste Hierarchy, with Waste Prevention sitting at the core of the thinking and delivery plan.

To facilitate this, the refreshed JMWMS has developed six Key Principles which form the

Key Principle	Aim
Key Principle 1 - Waste Prevention	To reduce the amount of waste produced by residents and businesses in Staffordshire.
Key Principle 2 - Efficiency Savings	To reduce the cost of both waste collection and disposal.
Key Principle 3 - Resource Recovery	To maximise the resource value of collected materials, as a commodity or as energy production.
Key Principle - 4 Carbon Reduction	To reduce carbon emissions for waste collection, processing and disposal activities by 2% a year.
Key Principle 5 - Infrastructure & Contracts	To provide and support appropriate infrastructure with suitable contracts that ensure value for money.
Key Principle 6 - Municipal Waste	To provide efficient and cost effective waste services to local residents and businesses.

basis for the delivery plan. And they are detailed in the table below;

A summary of areas that have been refreshed within the existing strategy are outlined in Appendix B annexed to this report

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**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS****APPENDICES**

Staffordshire Waste Partnership 2013 Refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (2007 – 2020)