

Title: Staffordshire Wide Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Submitted by: T Nicoll

Portfolio: Environment and Recycling

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

- To highlight the requirements for a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
- To provide a draft copy of the refreshed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.
- To seek approval for adoption of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Recommendations

- That the attached '2013 Refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (2007 – 2020)' to be adopted, and the Portfolio Holder of the Environment and Recycling agree that this document is approved by the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Management Board.

Reasons

- Developing the JMWMS as a simple overarching strategy allows individual partner authorities to develop their detailed strategies and delivery plans which take account of the six overarching principles of the JMWMS and allow them to develop their services in a way which reflects the needs and aspirations of individual authority communities.
- The methodology also allows flexibility in providing a structure which allows authorities to work more closely together and potentially share services, where there is mutual benefit to those authorities.

1. Background

The refreshed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) has been developed and produced by the Staffordshire Waste Partnership, which consists of all of the authorities within Staffordshire with a waste function, whether it be collection (WCA), disposal (WDA), or in the case of Stoke-on-Trent, both (UA). For clarification therefore the partnership consists of:-

- Cannock Chase District Council - WCA;
- East Staffordshire Borough Council - WCA;
- Lichfield District Council - WCA;
- Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council - WCA;
- South Staffordshire District Council - WCA;

- Stafford Borough Council - WCA;
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council - WCA;
- Staffordshire County Council - WDA;
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council - UA and
- Tamworth Borough Council - WCA

The partnership has a Joint Waste Management Board (JWMB) which consists of senior officers and Members with responsibility for waste as part of their portfolio. The JWMB meets on a quarterly basis to share best practice, develop new ideas and monitor performance of all the partners. The current JMWMS was last refreshed in 2007 and set out how all ten of the waste authorities in Staffordshire would move towards Zero Waste to Landfill by 2020. With construction of the new Energy from Waste plant (EfW) in the south of the county, known as 'Project W2R' well underway, and completion on target for the end of 2013, the partnership will only landfill a very small amount of the material (less than 5%) collected. As a partnership we are now recycling and composting over 50% of the waste we collect, and therefore the partnership has achieved its core objective as far as practicably possible.

In agreeing to refresh the JMWMS in 2012, the JWMB recognised this milestone had been met, and that the issues surrounding effective and sustainable waste management has changed substantially since 2007.

The Waste Hierarchy needs to be more effectively embedded in the new document, with Waste Prevention at the forefront of our thinking. Commercial and Trade Waste also needs to be incorporated, rather than concentrating on purely household waste as before.

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

Allowing individual partner authorities to develop their own waste strategies recognises individual authority aspirations and needs of their communities. The process for refreshing Newcastle's Recycling and Waste management strategy is currently in the process of development being led by a cross party group of members via a Cabinet Panel. As Newcastle's strategy develops further updates can be provided to the scrutiny committee as requested.

This will provide a clear framework of infrastructure requirements over the next five to ten years, especially in the north and east of the county, and in particular what we do to replace the current Northern EfW (Hanford) contract which expires in 2020.

Additionally there is a need to understand our neighbouring authorities intentions, again particularly in the North and East of the County, where proposals involving PFI have run into difficulties, as there may be opportunities to provide more effectively positioned infrastructure.

In conclusion therefore the refreshed JMWMS will incorporate the following.

- That we treat waste as a resource, not a problem.
- Include clear recognition of partner authority's waste minimisation and recycling strategies.
- Incorporate a waste minimisation and re-use strategy

- Explore fully the potential to increase work with 3rd Sector organisations.
- Incorporate a strategy for dealing with commercial waste
- Set a clear framework for infrastructure requirements which consider a wide range of technologies to ensure we recover the maximum value from the materials we collect.
- Considers options for the north of the County and Stoke-on-Trent when the current contract arrangements for the Hanford EfW plant come to an end in 2020.
- Working in partnership to maximise external funding opportunities.

Development of the refreshed JMWMS 2013 has taken place over the last twelve months, utilising the partnerships own resources. Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council have been the project lead for the refreshed strategy, and the process managed by an officer steering group, consisting of the Chair of the Staffordshire Waste Officers Group (SWOG) the Chair of the Staffordshire Recycling Officers Group (ROG) a lead officer from one of the WCA's, a lead officer from the WDA, and a lead officer from Stoke-on-Trent UA, with the support of an officer on a part time basis from the Staffordshire Waste Partnership.

Events have been undertaken for officers and members of the JWMB to set their vision and aspirations, which has culminated in the adoption of six key principles to which the refreshed strategy will focus.-

- Waste Prevention
- Efficiency Savings
- Resource Recovery
- Carbon Reduction
- Infrastructure & Contracts
- Municipal Waste Household & Commercial (providing more efficient customer focused services)

These key principles have been further developed into a draft delivery plan which was formally approved by the JWMB at its meeting in October 2013.

The strategy has been out to public consultation between 21st October and 13th December 2013, and comments from this process have been acknowledged within the reviewed document. The strategy was also taken to the December's Cleaner Greener and Safer Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Issues

In developing a refreshed strategy for the partnership it was recognised that account needed to be taken of individual authority's needs and circumstances, particularly in the current economic climate with severe pressure on financial resources. It is also recognised that the different partners within the JWMB offer their residents different collection services and this strategy does not look to change this.

3. Proposal

The proposal is for the attached '2013 Refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (2007 – 2020)' to be adopted by the Council,

and the Portfolio Holder of the Environment and Recycling should agree that this document is adopted by the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Management Board.

4. Reasons for Preferred Solution

Developing the JMWMS as a simple overarching strategy allows individual partner authorities to develop their detailed strategies and delivery plans which take account of the six overarching principles of the JMWMS and allow them to develop their services in a way which reflects the needs and aspirations of individual authority communities. The methodology also allows flexibility in providing a structure which allows authorities to work more closely together and potentially share services, where there is mutual benefit to those authorities.

5. Outcomes Linked to Corporate Priorities

The proposals relate to the effective delivery of high quality collection and treatment arrangements for recycling and waste, which would contribute to the following:

A clean, safe and sustainable borough

- ❖ The negative impacts that the Council, residents and local businesses have on the environment will have reduced.
- ❖ Our streets and open spaces will be clean, clear and tidy.

A Healthy and Active Community

- ❖ Council Services will be influenced by resident engagement, enabling local communities to shape services which directly affect their lives.

A co-operative Council, delivering high quality, community driven, services.

- ❖ High performing services will be delivered for all residents and customers.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC) required a reduction in bio-degradable waste to be land-filled by 75% by 2010, when compared against the 1995 level. The Government's Waste Strategy required 40% of domestic waste by weight to be recycled by 2010 and 50% by 2020. The waste strategy is designed to increase recycling and therefore meet the legislative requirements without incurring financial penalties from Europe.

Under the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003, the local authority had a statutory duty to produce Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategies (JMWMS), unless authorities achieved "excellent" in their Comprehensive Performance Assessment. These exemptions are no longer valid and government is currently consulting local authorities on the statutory duty to produce JMWMS's

7. Equality Impact Assessment

As this strategy is an overarching document, under which each Council would then develop their own strategy and action plan. It is deemed that during the development these a full equality impact assessment will be undertaken by each Council.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

There are limited financial or resources implications in respect of the adoption of this strategy which will be met from existing resources. The strategy will enable the JWMB to move forward to develop and enhance waste management within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

9. Major Risks

It is deemed that there are no major risks associated with the paper.

10. Key Decision Information

The decision is one that would affect all wards for the Council. It has therefore been included on the Forward Plan.

11. Background Papers

A copy of the draft '2013 Refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (2007 – 2020)