

Agenda Item No: 5

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 3 March 2014

Report Title: East Sussex Joint Waste Management Strategy

Report By: Mike Hepworth
Head of Environmental Services

Purpose of Report

To report the final draft of the refreshed East Sussex Joint Waste Management Strategy for 2014 to 2025 to Cabinet.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. Note the results of the public consultation on the refreshed East Sussex Joint Waste Management Strategy;**
- 2. Approve the amended strategy.**

Reasons for Recommendations

1 Overall the consultation feedback suggests that, apart from the ESCC household waste recycling site closure proposals, people were broadly in agreement with the Strategy's aims and objectives and how the waste collection and disposal authorities in East Sussex are proposing to achieve them.

2 The refreshed Strategy is being reported to the Cabinet of each of the District and Borough Councils (the waste collection authorities). It is hoped that each Cabinet will approve the refreshed strategy before it is also approved by the ESCC.

Background

1. This report introduces the final draft of the East Sussex Joint Waste Strategy for 2014 – 2025 (see Appendix 1). In 2006 the East Sussex Waste Resource Partnership (the Borough, District and County Councils working together) published a Joint Waste Strategy for 2006 – 2020 for managing the County's waste in a sustainable way.
2. Having met and exceeded the targets we set ourselves in 2006, the Waste Resource Partnership has reviewed the previous waste strategy, looking at the potential for managing our waste more sustainably, reducing costs and maximising the value of waste materials. This review included a public consultation carried out by ESCC. The revised Joint Waste Strategy for East Sussex summarises our waste management arrangements and sets out our new aims, objectives and targets from 2014 to 2025. The Strategy reiterates our continued focus on the waste hierarchy and gives an overview of achievements since 2006.
3. The Strategy sets five main targets for 2020:
 - Work to limit the total amount of household waste generated to 995kg per household per year.
 - Reuse 15% of the household waste generated.
 - Recycle and compost 50% of the household waste generated.
 - Recover energy from at least 95% of the rubbish that isn't reused, recycled or composted.
 - Divert at least 95% of waste from landfill.And one target for 2025:
 - Recycle and compost 60% of the household waste generated.
4. As well as these targets, the Strategy aims include:
 - Recovering more value from our waste.
 - Delivering waste services that offer value for money and are accessible to everyone.
 - Reviewing and continuously improving our waste services to ensure they remain environmentally sustainable and affordable.
 - Managing waste as close as possible to its source, ideally within the County.
5. The goals will be met by a combination of measures we have already put in place to improve services and new actions to better manage our waste. The objectives rely heavily on the continued commitment and good work of residents.
6. The public consultation on the Strategy took place between 30 October and 11 December 2013. It was advertised by press release and on the County

Council's website, as well as being sent to all County, District and Borough Councillors. ESCC also informed Parish and Town Councils and over 60 other mainly local groups. The consultation questionnaire on the online Consultation Hub asked set questions and people were also given the opportunity to make general comments in open questions. ESCC received 794 responses to the consultation questionnaire.

7. The version of the Strategy published for consultation included information on the Household Waste Recycling Site (HWRS) service review being carried out by ESCC, and the closures at Forest Row, Wadhurst and Seaford proposed in order for ESCC to make efficiency savings. Subsequently the details of the changes to HWRSs were removed from the Strategy and have been considered separately by the County Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 28 January.
8. Whilst the proposal to close these 3 sites was not of direct interest to Hastings, it should be noted that the ESCC Cabinet decided to keep the Seaford, Wadhurst and Forest Row HWRS open Friday to Sunday, and to close them Monday to Thursday. They also instructed Communities, Economy and Transport to develop additional proposals for finding further savings in the HWRS network to make up the savings gap from the partial closures. Whether this is likely to impact on the operation of the Freshfields site in Hastings is not known, but this seems unlikely.

Comments/Appraisal

9. The online consultation questionnaire found 40% of respondents agree with the broad aims of the Strategy, 31% agree with the targets in the strategy and only 13% think we will meet the targets. These are low percentages of agreement for a strategy review, however, the majority of the comments relate to people's views on the proposed HWRS closures.
10. In finalising the Strategy, we have considered the consultation responses and comments. Specific comments made about the Strategy were largely positive and encouraged more challenging targets, more waste reduction and reuse, and education and encouragement to recycle more. The Waste Resource Partnership has not increased the Strategy targets as a result, or made education programmes more ambitious, because it is not felt that sufficient resources will be available in the coming years. The Strategy also highlights that we are cautious about the resources we put into waste prevention campaigns because it is hard to measure the success of our efforts to encourage people to prevent waste and difficult to know whether we are getting value for money.
11. Interestingly the public consultation highlighted a public demand for improved kerbside recycling services by the collection authorities, such as the ability to recycle a wider range of dry recyclates including plastics, tetrapaks, batteries etc. Of course here in Hastings, Kier were literally in the process of mobilising the new improved kerbside recycling service. There was also a demand for more information/education about recycling, which is something that we are currently doing in order to improve the use of our new recycling service.

Equalities and Community Cohesion

12. Local authority waste and recycling services are used by all residents in East Sussex. It is therefore essential that they continue to be provided in a way that ensures access for all, and this is included in the strategy aims. A good example is where a resident requires an assisted refuse and recycling collection because they are unable to place their refuse and recycling containers at the normal edge of property location. Another example is where a resident requires access to a discreet free clinical waste collection and disposal service due to a medical condition. The East Sussex Waste Resources Partnership recognises how important accessibility is to our waste services, and the new East Sussex Joint Waste Contract in Hastings, Wealden, Rother and Eastbourne retained these essential accessibility features.

Environmental Issues

13. As a local authority, we must follow Waste Regulations and the Waste Hierarchy, taking all such measures as are reasonable in the circumstances to prevent waste and apply the waste hierarchy in handling household waste and the strategy addresses this issue.

Financial Implications

14. The strategy does not commit the Council to unbudgeted expenditure.

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

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| Equalities and Community Cohesiveness | Yes |
| Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17) | No |
| Risk Management | No |
| Environmental Issues | Yes |
| Economic/Financial Implications | No |
| Human Rights Act | No |
| Organisational Consequences | No |
| Local People's Views | Yes |

Background Information

Officer to Contact

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