

A JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE – PRE- CONSULTATION DRAFT

PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: ENVIRONMENT

CABINET

23RD OCTOBER, 2003

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To approve the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire which has been drafted by the Joint Members' Waste Forum for Herefordshire and the County and Districts of Worcestershire.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendations

THAT the Pre-Consultation Draft of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy be endorsed.

Reasons

In May 2000 the Government published "Waste Strategy 2000" which set out a vision for sustainable waste management, and the steps by which it can be achieved. Waste Strategy 2000 underlines the importance of having a fully integrated waste management system based on active partnerships between local authorities. The framework for these partnerships is the development of a Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Considerations

1. In March 2001 the Government published "Guidance on Municipal Waste Management Strategies". This document set outline guidelines as to what the strategy should deliver. Also contained within this document, the Government set statutory performance standards for each Waste Collection Authority and each Waste Disposal Authority. These performance standards have been set at levels to ensure that each authority contributes proportionately to the achievement of national targets set within Waste Strategy 2000.
2. Whilst production of a Waste Management Strategy is not yet mandatory, Herefordshire Council and Worcestershire County Council saw the benefits and importance of developing closer working relationships with the Waste Collection Authorities in Worcestershire and also raising waste awareness and education

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Andy Tector, Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards on 01432 261989

issues.

3. The Government expects County and District Councils to work together to produce a Municipal Waste Management Strategy.
4. Against this backdrop, a Joint Members' Waste Forum was established to develop a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The Forum consists of an elected member from each constituent Waste Collection Authority within Worcestershire, three elected members from Herefordshire Council (who as a Unitary Authority are both collection and disposal authority) and three elected members from Worcestershire County Council.
5. This is supported by an Officer Working Group consisting of one representative from each local authority, who also generally support the elected members at the Joint Waste Forum.
6. The Joint Members Waste Forum and Officer Group have been developing the Pre-Consultation Draft Strategy. The Environment Agency has also been consulted during its development. This draft will need to be circulated to and endorsed by the District Councils and Herefordshire Council and any comments made by these organisations will be fed into the document, which is programmed to be completed in January 2004, prior to production of the Public Consultation document. Following this a public consultation process will occur during Spring 2004 and comments made will be fed back to the Joint Members Waste Forum for consideration prior to the preparation of the final Strategy document. Once completed, the Strategy will need the approval of all the constituent partners prior to the document being published.
7. Attached are the Key Principles, Key Policies and Targets contained within the document. A copy of the full document will be on deposit in the Members Room for reference and referral.
8. In summary, the document contains the following chapters:
 - Chapter 1 Background - covers what the document is, who has prepared it, the period covered by the Strategy Consultation.
 - Chapter 2 Why We Need To Change - covers Waste Strategy 2000, Statutory Performance Standards, E.U. Landfill Directive and Waste Minimisation.
 - Chapter 3 Where We Are Now - covers waste growth; current recycling rates and waste collection arrangements; Integrated Waste Management Contract and facilities; kerbside recycling schemes; awareness raising and publicity; partnership working; DEFRA bids; grants and short term diversion from landfill.
 - Chapter 4 Other Issues - covers zero waste, transport, regional self sufficiency, leading by example and packaging.
 - Chapter 5 The Way Forward - covers Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO); waste minimisation - The Waste Challenge, recycling and composting - the need for additional facilities; the future role of Household Waste Sites including proposals to deal with the remaining unrefurbished Household Waste Sites; the future of waste collection; options looking at recovery, treatment and technology processes; landfill; awareness raising and

- publicity and partnership working.
- Chapter 6 Looks at Affordability.
- Chapter 7 Looks at Economic Opportunities.
- Chapter 8 Specific Waste Streams - covers abandoned vehicles, fridges and freezers, fly tipped waste and other headings.
- Chapter 9 Monitoring and evaluation - covers how we expect to monitor and check progress of the Strategy.

A series of Appendices include statistical and other supplementary information.

Risk Management

There would be risks associated with Herefordshire Council not participating in this strategy. Herefordshire Council could find, through not participating in the Strategy, that its waste arisings increase at higher levels than Worcestershire. If this were to occur then the payment formula for the Integrated Waste Management Contract would change and Herefordshire Council's contributions would increase.

Financial Implications

Bids are to be made to DEFRA for funding to support the initiatives in the Draft Strategy.

Consultees

Worcestershire County Council. The District Councils of Worcestershire.

Background Papers

A Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire And Worcestershire – Pre-consultation Draft.