

CABINET MEETING 15 JUNE 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025

Author(s):

Report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods

Purpose of Report:

To seek approval to adopt and publish the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to approve and publish the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025 prepared by the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership ('STWWMP')

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? *Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

To ensure that the Council as part of its membership of the STWWMP has in place an up to date strategy that covers the management of municipal waste

Alternative options to be considered:

No other options have been considered as is it deemed necessary to have the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in place across the partnership Local Authorities

Impacts analysed;

Equality ☒ Privacy ☒ Sustainability ☒ Crime and Disorder ☐

Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values? Yes/

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? Yes

Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? Yes

JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021-2025**Report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods****1.0 Purpose of the Report**

To seek approval to adopt and publish the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025

2.0 Recommendations

- a. Cabinet is recommended to approve and publish the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025 prepared by the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership ('STWWMP')

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Council is a member of the STWWMP along with Gateshead and South Tyneside Councils.
- 3.2 On 30th April, the Joint Executive of the STWWMP considered and approved the refreshed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025.
- 3.3 The twenty-year Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy ('JMWMS') was agreed by each partner authority Cabinet in 2007. It covers the management of municipal waste including general (residual) waste collected from households; kerbside recycling collections; bulky waste collections; street sweepings; fly tipped waste; and waste disposed at household waste and recycling centres.
- 3.4 Whilst there is no statutory requirement for STWWMP to produce a JMWMS, the Partnership considers it 'best practice' to do so and this includes a commitment to regularly reviewing its content. The first JMWMS review was published in January 2013.
- 3.5 Ongoing review processes have been delayed for several reasons that were beyond the control of STWWMP. This includes:
 - significant delays to the publication of the new national resources and waste strategy (RaWS) and its subsequent consultation programme;
 - the prolonged negotiations and implications of the UK leaving the EU ('Brexit');
 - the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on the further development of national waste policy;
 - and the implications of the partner authority climate emergency declarations on all aspects of the services that they provide.

4.0 JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021-2025

4.1 The previous review of the JMWMS was undertaken during 2012 for publication at the beginning of 2013. Therefore, the current JMWMS can now be considered as significantly out-of-date, largely due to the significant successes that have been achieved in recent years, such as:

- Service commencement of the 25-year residual waste treatment contract following completion of the construction of the STWWMP energy-from waste facility and associated waste transfer infrastructure;
- The development of complementary household kerbside recycling services across all three partner authorities, including the introduction of additional recyclable materials;
- The development and introduction of a dedicated community education and engagement programme delivered by third sector environmental regeneration charity Groundwork North East & Cumbria from the new visitor and education centre at Campground; and
- The establishment of a joint partnership team to provide the Waste Disposal Authority functions on behalf of the partner authorities through the day-to-day contract management functions for the range of waste treatment and recycling contracts with external service providers.

4.2 Therefore, it is important that STWWMP can ensure that the partner authorities have a relevant, top-level, waste management strategy available to them to ensure that the Partnership's key aims and aspirations are being met.

4.3 Despite the challenges highlighted earlier, further reflection in recent months has enabled the strategy refresh to be completed. This will now ensure that high-level guidance can be provided to support decisions on future service delivery issues and inform short-to-medium term budget planning cycles.

4.4 Attached at Appendix A, the JMWMS 2021-2025 has been designed to:

- Be easy to understand, follow, and enable progress to be monitored.
- Consider the context of partner authority waste services within the current financial climate and other restrictions on service delivery.
- Be clear about the priorities and not commit partner authorities to deliver actions with unknown external outcomes and/or influences.
- Be proportionate and realistic about issues that STWWMP can directly influence at different levels, e.g. nationally; within their own operational activities; and across other services within their own councils.

- 4.5 The structure for the refreshed JMWMS was agreed by the Joint Executive Committee on 16 March 2018. This also confirmed a new approach to the strategy's presentation which retained, yet simplified, the previous strategic objectives, and replaced commitments to specific actions and activities with over-arching service delivery themes. This approach is aimed at ensuring that the partner authorities can still achieve STWWMP's aims and aspirations with flexibility in how services are delivered and within the resources that are available.
- 4.6 The previously agreed refreshed JMWMS structure was initially intended to provide strategic direction for the period 2018-2022, but in light of the delays highlighted above, it is now proposed that the refreshed JMWMS will cover the period 2021-2025.
- 4.7 The Joint Executive Committee approved and agree that each partner authority publish online the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025.
- 4.8 Therefore it is proposed that Cabinet adopt the refreshed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025 and approve it to be published on the Council's website

5.0 National picture that has potential implications for Sunderland

- 5.1 As part of the JMWMS there is a section on The National Picture. It is important that as a Council and a Partnership that are aware of the current policy landscape, proposals and consultations that are currently underway as they will have long term operational, resident collection, waste management and financial consequences.
- 5.2 The STWWMP provide the strategic insight, monitoring and guidance into the potential future changes that may impact individual council's along with the wider partnership.
- 5.3 Environment Plan
- 5.4 Launched in January 2018, the '25-Year Environment Plan' sets out a wide range of goals and targets that aim to improve the environment 'within a generation'. It details how government will work with communities and businesses to target environmental issues such as:
- cleaner air through improved air quality and reduced air pollution;
 - enabling plants and wildlife to thrive;
 - reducing the risks of natural environmental hazards, such as flooding, drought, and coastal erosion;
 - managing exposure to chemicals; and
 - enhancing biosecurity.

5.5 It also includes plans to minimise waste, reuse materials wherever possible, and manage materials appropriately at their end-of-life to reduce their impact on the environment. Commitments include:

- Working towards zero avoidable waste by 2050;
- Working towards the elimination of all avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042;
- Meeting all existing waste targets (including those on landfill diversion, reuse, and recycling) and developing ambitious new future targets and milestones;
- Seeking to eliminate waste crime and illegal waste sites over the lifetime of the Plan;
- Delivering a substantial reduction in litter and littering behaviour; and Significantly reducing, and where possible preventing, all kinds of marine plastic pollution – in particular material that came originally from land.

5.6 Resources and Waste Strategy

5.7 The Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS) was released in December 2018, officially titled 'Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England'. This is the first significant waste-related statement from government since the 2011 Waste Review and the subsequent Waste Prevention Programme for England in 2013.

5.8 It contains proposals that clarify the government's long-term waste policy framework and aims to deliver actions that encourage England to recognise and maximise the value of resource usage by minimising waste and its impact on the environment.

5.9 Subsequently, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) issued a series of consultation exercises in February 2019 which considered some of the key areas identified within the RaWS. The consultation exercises considered:

- Introducing consistent household and business recycling collections in England;
 - Proposals targeting the promotion of householder and business participation in recycling, including key issues such as:
 - Ensuring that a core set of dry recyclable materials is collected from all households and businesses;
 - Ensuring that every household in England receives a weekly separate food waste collection by 2023;
 - Introducing free garden waste collections for all households with gardens;
 - Developing statutory guidance on refuse and recycling service standards; and
 - Increasing recycling for businesses that produce municipal waste, including the separate collection of food waste.
- Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland

- Proposals to consider the appropriate principles behind introduction of DRS, as government seek to increase recycling rates and reduce littering, including:
 - The materials and drinks that should be in scope of a DRS;
 - The most appropriate DRS model ('all-in' or 'on-the-go'); and
 - The design and management of a DRS, including the location of return points.
 - Reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system (also known as Extended Producer Responsibility or EPR)
 - Proposals that aim to ensure that when products are made, they are designed in a way that uses less material and achieves greater circularity when they are disposed at their end-of-life, including:
 - Invoking the 'polluter pays' principle by extending producer responsibility requirements for packaging disposal;
 - Supporting improved collections/infrastructure, including payments to local authorities for the management of waste collected; and
 - Mandatory obligation on producers to label packaging as recyclable/not recyclable.
- 5.10 The initial consultation period ended in May 2019 and STWWMP submitted a joint response to each consultation exercise on behalf of the three partner authorities.
- 5.11 The original timeframe for the further development of the proposals was anticipated to be:
 - 2020: Second consultation period.
 - 2021: Legislation prepared.
 - 2023: Implementation of final proposals.
- 5.12 Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic delayed the second round of RaWS consultations, which (at the time of writing) are now expected in spring 2021. It is anticipated that this will provide more detail on the specifics of these reforms, including which proposals will be implemented.
- 5.13 The RaWS states that all the proposals that will be legislated will be assessed for any new 'burdens' that would be placed on local authorities, who will be subsequently funded in meeting the 'net costs' of their delivery
- 5.14 Environment Bill
- 5.15 The Environment Bill supports the delivery of the Environment Plan and aims to ensure that England maintains and improves its environmental protections following the UK leaving the EU.
- 5.16 It was first introduced to Parliament in October 2019 and passed its second reading unopposed by MPs and progressed to the Committee Stage for further scrutiny and the next stages of the Parliamentary process before becoming law.

- 5.17 The Public Bill Committee was due to 'scrutinise the bill line by line' and table amendments with the aim of reporting back to Parliament on 1 December 2019. This process was paused following the dissolution of Parliament for the General Election that was held on 12 December 2019. The Bill was subsequently reintroduced at the end of January 2020 but, once again, its progress was paused on 19 March due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.
- 5.18 Once the Report Stage is completed, this will be followed by the Third Reading, before being passed to the House of Lords for further debate and scrutiny. However, government subsequently announced that the Bill will be carried over to the "next parliamentary session" and that its Royal can now be expected in autumn 2021.
- 5.19 The Bill provides the legal framework to deliver many of the waste and resource efficiency proposals identified in the RaWS, should government choose to do so. The introduction of new powers and amendments to existing legislation will have a number of implications for the resources and waste sector, especially local authority waste services.

6.0 Reasons for the Decision

- 6.1 To ensure that the Council as part of its membership of the STWWMP has in place an up to date strategy that covers the management of municipal waste

7.0 Alternative options to be considered:

- 7.1 No other options have been considered as is it deemed necessary to have the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in place across the partnership Local Authorities

8. Impact Analysis

- (a) **Equalities** -An assessment of Equalities Impact will be undertaken as part of the delivery of the strategy by the STWWMP.
- (b) **Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA)** – The proposal will not introduce any new PIA issues as systems of site management will be retained and followed by any contractor to ensure safe and legal disposal of property.
- (c) **Sustainability** – The recommendations will allow the planning of any mitigating actions deemed necessary with regard to social, economic and environmental impacts.
- (d) **Reduction of Crime and Disorder** – Community Cohesion / Social Inclusion – No impacts are anticipated from this decision.

8. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- (a) **Financial Implications.** The financial implications arising from the delivery of the refreshed JMWMS are currently uncertain. As these become known and additional costs will be included within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and reported accordingly.
- (b) **Legal Implications** – The strategy will provide a structure for the alignment of actions and activity to meet future legal requirements in the delivery of waste management
- (c) **Risk Analysis-** The adoption of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025 will provide a structure for the management of risks in waste management
- (d) **Policy Implications-** Policy implications may occur as the strategy is progressed and will be reported as necessary

Please view the appendix to this report which is available online at :-

<https://committees.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm5/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/10609/Committee/1953/Default.aspx>

