

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 5.2
15 SEPTEMBER 2008	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor W Fitzgerald, Cabinet Member for Environment	
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REFRESHED CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (JMWMS)

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
1. To seek approval for the ‘refreshed’ Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (available in the members lounge) prior to its adoption by Full Council on the 8 October 2008.

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy was agreed by full council in 2002. The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) guidance, on Municipal Waste Strategies states that strategies should be reviewed and refreshed every five years so that they reflect national, regional and local policies, legislation and targets.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The Joint Waste Partnership of Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council together with the five district council's submitted its Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) to Defra in 2002. Peterborough City Council and all the other partner authorities adopted and published this strategy the same year.

2.2 The Defra guidance on Municipal Waste Strategies states that strategies should be reviewed and refreshed every five years so that they reflect national, regional and local policies, legislation and targets. The refreshed document combines the original principles of the 2002 document and incorporates nine new themes that have emerged over the last five years.

2.3 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference. 3.2.1 ‘to take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council’s Major Policy Framework and Budget Framework and lead the Council’s overall improvement programmes to deliver excellent services’.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If Yes, date for relevant Full Council Meeting	8 October 2008
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4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The refreshed strategy will see partner authorities working towards voluntary targets set out below:-

- 45 - 50% of waste by 2010/11
- 50 - 55% of waste by 2015/16
- 55 – 60% of waste by 2020/21 (it should be noted that Peterborough is striving for 65% plus in this target year).

4.2 Peterborough as a waste disposal authority has achieved a very impressive recycling and composting rate of 46.15% for 2007/08. Peterborough continues, for the third year running, to be the highest recycling performing unitary council in the country. The overall performance of the Recap partnership has seen the 2010/11 target been achieved three years ahead of time.

4.3 The RECAP partnership has proven to be an exemplary in waste management, which has been recognised by Defra. As a high performing authority/partnership, the council is exempt from conforming to Defra's requirements for a municipal waste strategy. However it was felt that as the requirements for a Waste Management Strategy constitutes principles of best practice and therefore they should be followed. The requirements stipulate that a clear action plan for achieving targets should be evident and this is now part of the new strategy document.

4.4 The revised document combines and builds on the original principles of the 2002 document and incorporates new themes that have emerged over the last five years. Two extensive public consultations in 2005 and 2007 have informed these. The nine key themes are outlined below.

- Underlying Strategic Principles for the Waste Strategy;
- Joint Working, Partnership;
- Climate Change;
- Environmental Protection;
- Waste Prevention & Reuse;
- Recycling & composting;
- Management of Residual Waste;
- Wider Waste Role; and
- Stakeholder Engagement.

4.5 The strategy covers arrangements for the sustainable management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) controlled by the RECAP partners and is the framework for addressing waste prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery in line with the waste hierarchy. It also covers collection, treatment and disposal of MSW. The strategy is a forward thinking document which clearly identifies the links between waste management and climate change. It continues to direct the way forward for waste management within the area and reconciles the twin aspirations of customer satisfaction whilst achieving the national and European waste diversion targets.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Cabinet is asked to comment and approve the refreshed Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (available in the members lounge) prior to its adoption by Full Council on the 8 October 2008.

5.2 The development and approval of the Strategy ensures that the council continues to lead from the front, demonstrating best practice and setting clear outcomes for the Partnership.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 As a high performing partnership which includes Peterborough City Council, we are exempt from conforming to Defra's requirements for a municipal waste strategy, however it was felt that as the requirements of developing a strategy and clear action plan for municipal waste management are regarded as best practice, then it should be followed.

7. IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Where appropriate certain outcomes and actions identified within the strategy have been incorporated into the council's Service Plan for 2008/09 to 2010/11.
- 7.2 Any staffing implications which will be required in the delivery of this strategy will be highlighted through the resource and budget setting process for future years.
- 7.3 An equality impact assessment will be carried out through the RECAP partnership.
- 7.4 The strategy recognises the impact waste collections and treatment have on the environment and identifies the need to constantly improve this aspect of managing waste in a sustainable way.
- 7.5 The need to protect the community as well as the environment is inherent in the document and addresses such issues as the safe disposal of all waste including hazardous waste e.g. refrigerators, freezers and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment.

In presenting this report officers have considered the various implications as follows:

7.6 Risk Management Implications

- (i) Members are advised of the following **key** risk management implications arising from this report. A position of not adopting the refreshed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy carries the key risks shown below:
- a) The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS), which controls the ability of WDAs to reduce their waste to landfill, can impose fines of up to £150 per tonne for each tonne of waste landfilled above the allowance for that year.
 - b) The City Council is charged a tax of £32 for each tonne of waste sent to landfill. This Landfill Tax is currently increasing at a rate of £8 per tonne per year and is not likely to reduce over time.
 - c) The Growth Agenda is bringing in a larger population to the area and with it more waste to deal with.

The adoption of the refreshed strategy will reduce the financial risk on the council by managing the future risks through a number of mitigating actions in accordance with the management action plans which form the basis of delivery of the Strategy by the Partnership.

- (ii) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) partnership will develop a joint communications strategy to ensure that the refreshed JMWMS is communicated to all the residents within the partnership area.

7.7 Financial Implications

- (i) There are financial implications of increasing our recycling rate however these are mainly associated with the growth agenda for the city and are therefore covered within the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

- (ii) The majority of the waste management infrastructure for the delivery of the Strategy is underway as set out within the Medium Term Financial Strategy and shall be reviewed according to the project management process currently underway.

7.8 Legal Implications

- (i) There are no legal implications in not adopting the strategy however, this would go against Defra best practice and effect the council's CAA position.

7.9 Climate Change

This report will now incorporate the climate change agenda and aid the city council's overall impact on the environment through targets set within the strategy on how the partners manage their waste collections and treatment operations in the future as below:

- a) Waste Prevention reduces the City Council's contribution to climate change by reducing the amount of waste being transported and treated (either by recycling, composting or landfilling). Thus the contribution from vehicle movements and waste processing is reduced.
- b) Dry and Organic recycling reduces the City Council's contribution to climate change by reducing the amount of waste landfilled. Several of the key greenhouse gases, such as methane, are produced by the decomposition of waste in landfill and therefore it is anticipated that there will be a reduction in the amount of landfill gas generation compared to an "as is" scenario.
- c) Trade Waste recycling does not come under the legislative obligations of the City Council, however it does reduce the overall amount of climate changing activity related to waste. It is also a key way of reaching householders on a day-to-day basis whilst they are at work.

8. **CONSULTATION**

8.1 Two extensive public consultations have been conducted by the RECAP Partnership in 2005 and 2007 as detailed below:

- a) In 2005 the RECAP Partnership carried out a public consultation exercise to find out what the public thought about the waste management facilities. The consultation was called Rubbish: the problem on your doorstep and helped feed into the review of the current Strategy.
- b) Further consultation was carried out in 2007 in relation to reaching the objectives set out in the Strategy called, Rubbish: Your views on how to beat the waste mountain

8.2 Peterborough also conducted further consultations as set out below,

- a) In August 2006 a public consultation exercise was carried out called 'Your Waste, Your View'. A leaflet and article was produced and distributed to the Peterborough community (72,000 copies) within "Your Peterborough". The leaflet and article contained information on Peterborough's current and possible future waste situation, including an outline on the drivers for this change.
- b) Several focus group meetings took place in Peterborough during August and December 2006 to allow the residents of Peterborough to feed into the review of the future waste strategy.

8.3 This Refreshed Strategy has been recommended to be approved by the Joint Member Waste & Recycling Working Group and Environment Scrutiny Panel on the 12 June 2008

9. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

- 9.1 Joint Municipal Waste Strategy and Peterborough's Recycling Plan Committee Report to Environment Scrutiny Committee 2002
- 9.2 The Strategy for dealing with Municipal Solid Waste 2002 – 2022 in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

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