

KENT WASTE PARTNERSHIP – ANNUAL REPORT 2011 AND CONSULTATION ON REFRESHING THE KENT JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Services Select Committee – 20 September 2011

Report of the: Director of Community and Planning Services

Status: Consultation Document for Comment

Key Decision: No.

Executive Summary: The Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy was adopted in April 2007. A refresh is required to take account of changes to the economy, technology and markets. The European Union Waste Framework Directive was transposed into National Law in 2011. The Government has recently published its own National Review of Waste Policy.

The current refresh Consultation seeks views on suggested ways forward up to 2020. Views are required by 28 October 2011.

This report supports the Key Aim of a Cleaner and Greener Environment.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Mrs. Hunter

Head of Service Richard Wilson, Head of Environmental and Operational Services.

Recommendation: That the Committee agree comments to be forwarded to the Kent Waste Partnership in response to the Consultation on refreshing the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (KJMWMS).

Introduction

- 1 The Kent Waste Partnership (KWP) is comprised of the twelve Kent District Waste Collection Authorities, and Kent County Council (KCC) as Waste Disposal Authority. The refresh of the Strategy has been agreed for Consultation by the Kent Waste Partnership Members Board, which is represented by the relevant Cabinet Portfolio Member from each Constituent Authority.
- 2 The existing Kent Waste Strategy was adopted by all Member Authorities of the KWP in 2007 and covers the period 2007 – 2027.
- 3 It contains three objectives and twenty policies. Targets are listed up to 2012/13. They are that the Kent waste recycling and composting performance should reach 40% and that KCC's performance for its network of Household

waste and recycling centres (HWRCs) should be 60%. No targets are listed beyond 2012/13.

- 4 The existing strategy is available online at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/kwp> .

Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011

- 5 The refresh of the Kent Waste Strategy has been delayed pending the release of the new National Waste Strategy, which was released in June 2011. The key points from the National Strategy are detailed as Appendix A.
- 6 The key aspects of the National Review have been taken into account in the refresh of the Kent Waste Strategy.

Agreed KWP Goals that Support the Public Consultation

- 7 Four aspects influence how the KWP proposes approaching the public consultation.
- 8 Firstly, the existing KJMWMS has targets for 2012/13. Current Kent-wide recycling and composting performance suggest the Kent Partners are likely to achieve an overall recycling rate of 40% by that time, and possibly earlier in 2011/12. KCC's target of 60% at HWRCs is already being met though the pressure is on keeping it that way.
- 9 Secondly, the publication of the National Waste review provides a steer on those areas where the Government has stated a direction. This includes weekly collections of food waste; banning wood to landfill; householder incentives; focusing on fly tipping and away from 'minor' waste-related crimes; supporting the waste hierarchy now enshrined in UK law; seeking Councils' sign-up to a new Recycling and Waste Services Commitment; and creating a zero waste economy.
- 10 Thirdly, European targets continue to be in place. These require the UK to recycle/compost 45% of household waste by 2015 and 50% by 2020. Local Authorities are required to have in place recycling services for paper, plastic, glass and metal by 2015. National waste prevention plans must be in place by 2014.
- 11 Fourthly, the previous Joint Waste Management Committee (JWMC) indicated its desire that Kent should seek to achieve at least a recycling/composting rate of 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020. Landfill tonnage should be reduced to 10% or below of household waste. Members have also emphasised in the past that quality of recyclates (and value) are important issues, as well as supporting Kent jobs, and ensuring carbon emissions are minimised as far as possible.

Key Issues for Comment

- 12 Taking all of these issues into account, the issues below have been agreed as KWP goals. Key questions for stakeholders on each of the goals will revolve around ensuring that it is clear that the Community as a whole has ownership

of the goals. Comments will be sought on why recycle, how, what, when, where and who recycles.

- 13 Waste reduction is a priority for environmental, costs and social reasons. The KWP aspiration could be to reduce waste per household per year by 5% (2015) and 10% (2020) based on 2010/11 figures.
- 14 A joint waste reduction plan for Councils and stakeholders would be a feature of the new strategy.
- 15 Carbon and other greenhouse gas impacts from land filling Kent's household waste will be at least half of the National average in any year up to 2020.
- 16 The Kent Councils will jointly work to reduce the carbon and other greenhouse gas impacts of their waste/recycling activities. Emissions will be reduced by XX% by 2020 based on 2010/11 baselines. Where 'XX' appears, no dates have been suggested yet by the KWP Members. The Select Committee may want to offer suggested dates.
- 17 Land filling of wood will be banned as required by the Government. This will be achieved in Kent by 20XX.
- 18 Land filling of paper, plastic, glass and metal will be banned in Kent by 20XX.
- 19 Landfill to be at 10% of Kent's household waste by 2015 and 5% by 2020.
- 20 Recycling/composting household waste to be at 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020.
- 21 Cost-effective options for diverting bulky waste from landfill will be explored.
- 22 Using residual waste as a resource to create energy for Kent's homes and businesses will be a secondary solution, behind recycling/composting, to divert waste from landfill.
- 23 The energy from waste plant at Allington will continue to ensure emissions are rigorously controlled in compliance with all legal requirements. Data on emissions will be published openly online for residents and others to verify the continued safety of the facility.
- 24 The KWP will lobby Government to ensure that energy from waste is a key part of the UK's overall energy strategy. UK infrastructure needs are planned in a co-ordinated way accordingly, so that the carbon impacts of transporting feedstocks are minimised as far as possible.
- 25 The average annual cost of waste collection and disposal for a Band D household per year will not exceed £XXX of Council Tax in any Kent District in any year up to 2020. The ambition is to ensure it is closer to £XXX and the Kent-wide figure is lower than the average Band D costs in other South-East Counties.

- 26 The KWP supports the Government's approach to Responsibility Deals. The Partnership will work with the supply chain to reduce the amount of waste the Councils have to deal with. Wherever possible, the Partnership will also seek that residents should receive value (including financial benefits – or reduced household costs) for discarded household materials that are routed through "take-back" schemes.
- 27 Food waste will be collected on a weekly basis in all Kent Districts as is the current practice. The KWP aspires to offer residents food waste collections for composting in every District by 2015.
- 28 All Kent Councils will sign up to the new Recycling and Waste Collection Commitment during 2011/12.
- 29 A more direct relationship between the thirteen Kent Councils and reprocessors of recyclates will be piloted and, if successful, established on a permanent basis. The aims are to ensure taxpayers benefit from receiving better value for money from the sales of recyclates, as well as applying genuine 'closed loop' thinking to the supply chain.
- 30 The proximity principle will be a key driver in assessing the destinations of recyclates. As a matter of principle, waste generated by households in Kent should be recycled in Kent, or as close to Kent, as possible.
- 31 Exports of Kent's household waste outside of the European Economic Area will be banned unless there is a clear economic and environmental case for so doing. A clear audit trail that proves recyclates are being recycled is required and it must be shown to the satisfaction of Kent's Councils that treatment in the UK would create a worse overall combination of environmental, financial and carbon impacts.
- 32 The provision of waste collection services to commercial premises will be explored as part of an overall desire to understand how Kent business, particularly small to medium enterprises (SMEs) can be supported. Aims outlined for household waste collections will also be considered for commercial collections (e.g. very low landfill tonnages, high recycling/composting rates, waste prevention measures, and carbon impacts).
- 33 A unified approach to enforcing against enviro-crime will be considered for the whole of Kent. This includes approaches and penalties to fly tipping; littering on streets; throwing litter from vehicles; dog fouling; depositing chewing gum; fly posting; graffiti and any serious and continual misuse of household waste and recycling services that are detrimental to the Community.
- 34 A unified approach across Kent to charge residents fairly for the collection of bulky goods will be explored, including lower charges where items are collected for re-use or recycling. Lower charges will also be explored for specific residents including pensioners over age 65; and residents registered as disabled with mobility issues.

- 35 The Government has confirmed Landfill Tax will rise to £80 per tonne in 2014. The KWP will lobby Government to protect taxpayers from any further tax hikes by not exceeding the £80 per tonne rate in any year before 2020. The KWP will also lobby Government to not require Landfill Tax payments by Councils whom have worked hard to reduce landfill tonnage to under 20% of household waste. This will reward those that have worked the hardest to divert waste from landfill.
- 36 The KWP will lobby Government to change the Legal format of Council Tax Bills and supporting information, so that the overall costs per household of waste collection and disposal are clear to residents; and amounts of overall household waste by percentage and tonnage on landfill, energy from waste and recycling/composting are spelled out.
- 37 The KWP will lobby Government to retain the requirement in the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 to seek the views of residents and other stakeholders in developing local waste/recycling strategies. The KWP resists the repeal of this requirement as it removes an important means of residents getting involved directly in local waste/recycling issues that are important to them.

Annual Report and Consultation Document

- 38 This is reproduced as Appendix B. The document contains the following Key Issues:-
- KWP Key achievements on the last five years, (Page 8).
 - KWP's influence on the three existing policies, (Page 12).
 - Views are requested on twenty-one Consultation issues, under the following headings:-
 - Going Forward – Existing Policies.
 - Campaigns and Community Support.
 - Waste Reduction.
 - Recycling and Composting.
 - Waste Treatment Facilities.
 - Landfill and Waste Transfer Facilities.
 - Street Cleansing; Enforcement, Carbon Reduction.
 - The summary of Consultation issues are listed on Pages 30 – 31.
 - Pages 33 – 35, provide information on past and current performance.

Key Implications

Financial

39. The cost of the Strategy refresh exercise will be met from current approved KWP funding, and there is no additional funding required from this Council.

Community Impact and Outcomes

40. The Consultation is open to a very wide range of stakeholders including the Waste Management Industry, Community and Interest Groups and individual residents.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

41. There are no Legal or Human Rights issues arising from this Consultation process.

Conclusions

42. The Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy was adopted in April 2007. A refresh is required to take account of changes to the economy, technology and markets. The European Union Waste Framework Directive was transposed into National Law in 2011. The Government has recently published, it's own National Review of Waste Policy.
43. The current refresh Consultation seeks views on suggested ways forward up to 2020. Views are required by 28th October 2011.

Risk Assessment Statement

44. By not responding to the Kent Waste Strategy refresh Consultation, the Council will miss the opportunity of influencing the shaping of the strategy for the period 2012 – 2020.

Background Papers:

Sources of Information:-

KWP Annual Report 2011 and Consultation on refreshing the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011.

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