

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

25 October 2016

Subject: Updated Wiltshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2016

Cabinet member: Councillor Toby Sturgis - Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary

Wiltshire's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy was prepared by the Wiltshire Waste Partnership and adopted by the four district councils and the county council in 2006. This was then updated in 2012 following the formation of the Wiltshire Council unitary authority to reflect emerging legislation and changing council priorities.

Since the strategy was updated in 2012, there have been a number of changes to the legislative, policy and local context affecting waste management both nationally and in Wiltshire which need to be reflected in an a new waste and resource strategy, which can robustly inform future policy decisions for the council and its stakeholders. In the meantime the committee is asked to note the contents of the attached Wiltshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2016 **(Appendix 1)**.

Proposal(s)

To note the contents of the updated Wiltshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2016.

Reason for Proposal

To provide the committee with an updated version of the current strategy to help inform them in developing a new draft waste and resource management strategy for Wiltshire Council.

Tracy Carter

Associate Director, Waste and Environment

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

Date of meeting

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Key Decision: No

Purpose of Report

1. To provide the committee with an updated version of the current strategy to help inform them in developing a new draft waste and resource management strategy for Wiltshire Council.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The following business plan outcomes, principles, and actions are relevant to this report:
 - (i) Outcome 3: Everyone in Wiltshire lives in a high quality environment
 - (ii) Principles:
 - (a) We will be a community leader and not just a service provider
 - (b) We are efficient and provide good value for money for our residents
 - (c) Our services work well, are joined up and easy to access
 - (iii) Actions:
 - (a) We will increase recycling to 50% by 2014 and reduce our carbon footprint
 - (b) We will encourage waste prevention and reuse

Main Considerations for the Council

3. Wiltshire's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy was prepared by the Wiltshire Waste Partnership and adopted by the four district councils and the county council during the spring of 2006. This was then updated in 2012 for Wiltshire Council to reflect changing and emerging legislation, update on the council's progress in diverting waste from landfill and place a greater emphasis on waste prevention and saving resources.

4. Key objectives of the Wiltshire's current strategy are to:
 - (i) divert municipal waste from landfill
 - (ii) reduce waste arisings by increased waste prevention initiatives
 - (iii) reduce local and global environmental impact of managing waste
 - (iv) in the medium to long term, avoid significant cost increases for residents through the reduction in payment of Landfill Tax.
5. Since the strategy was updated in 2012, there have been a number of changes to the legislation, policy and local context affecting waste management in Wiltshire which need to be reflected in a new forward thinking waste and resource strategy.
6. The demographics of the Council have also changed since the strategy update in 2012, with evidence suggesting that residents of Wiltshire are living longer and significant numbers of new properties being built across the county. Both of these features contribute to the challenge of effectively managing the increasing demand for waste services. The council's waste management budget of £30.1 million in 2016/17 represents 9.6% of the council's overall budget.
7. In addition, the council faces continued reductions in financial resources. This funding challenge will almost certainly continue into the near future and throughout the term of any revised strategy. Targets and aspirations therefore must reflect the need to make optimum use of the financial resources available, whilst enabling continued environmental compliance and improvements where opportunities arise. Given that the council faces continuing financial constraints, the service will continue to experience budget pressures due to rising costs and increasing service demand.
8. These factors all contribute to the need for a new waste and resource management strategy for Wiltshire Council. In the meantime the current Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy has been updated to reflect current levels of performance (see Appendix 1).

Background

9. Wiltshire's current Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) consists of four main principles and associated actions and targets. The table below shows the targets set within each principle and the council's progress against these targets.

Principle from JMWMS	Target within strategy (2012 update)	Performance against target (2015-16)
Principle 1 – Waste Prevention and Reuse	545 kilos of residual waste per household by 2015-16.	567 kilos of residual waste per household
Principle 2 – Recycling and Composting	50% of household waste recycled and composted by 2014 Fortnightly recycling and residual collections. Beyond 2020, seek further increases in recycling and composting of household waste through continuous improvement and adopting viable step changes to services	44.9% of household waste recycled and composted
Principle 3 – Further Diversion from Landfill	Landfill rate of 25% or less of total municipal solid waste (MSW) collected by Wiltshire Council by 2014 Landfill rate equivalent to less than 35% of the biodegradable municipal waste tonnage landfilled in 1995 by 2019-20.	21.2% of MSW to landfill Not measured
Principle 4 – Waste Treatment Capacity	Monitor available capacity for diversion of MSW from landfill and, subject to the requirements of planning policies and procedures, support any additional proposals required to meet targets and policies for landfill reduction	On-going

10. Current performance against the targets by the deadlines set in the Strategy is mixed. Targets relating to principles 1 and 2 were not achieved by the stated deadline. However in 2012-13 the quantity of residual waste per household (principle 1 target) reduced to 550kg. Since that time we have seen increases in the tonnage of household waste collected which has impacted on this performance. Again in 2012-13, following the introduction of plastic bottle and cardboard collections, non-chargeable garden waste collections and fortnightly collections of residual waste, performance of 50% recycling was achieved during some months. Performance against targets highlighted for principle 3 is strong with the target for waste to landfill having been achieved each year since 2014-15.

11. It is notable however that all the time-bound targets within the document now refer to deadlines that have since elapsed. Currently, there are no targets set beyond 2015/16 so it is recommended that the council updates the existing strategy to reflect current performance.

12. National and European waste policy places significant emphasis on prioritising waste management activities that support the waste hierarchy; “reduce, reuse, recycle, recover energy, dispose”.
13. The waste hierarchy ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery of energy, and finally disposal (i.e. landfill) as the option of last resort.
14. The waste hierarchy therefore still provides an appropriate and logical structure for considering the key themes of Wiltshire’s new waste management strategy.

Safeguarding Implications

15. There are no specific safeguarding implications arising from this report.

Public Health Implications

16. There are no specific public health implications arising from this report.

Procurement Implications

17. There are no specific procurement implications arising from this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

18. There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

19. There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

Risk Assessment

20. As this report asks the committee to note the updated strategy, it is not considered necessary to complete a risk assessment.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

21. Not applicable

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

22. Not applicable

Financial Implications

23. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

24. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Options Considered

25. To note the content of the report.

Conclusions

26. The updated Wiltshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2016 should help inform the committee in developing a new draft waste and resource management strategy for Wiltshire Council.

Tracy Carter
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October 2016

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

None

Appendices

Appendix 1: Updated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2016