

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Cabinet

Date of Committee 20th October 2005

Report Title Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Summary The report summarises key aspects of Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy and details progress with the adoption of the Strategy by the District and Borough Councils.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? Yes/No

Background Papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

Other Committees Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 27/9/05

Local Member(s)
(With brief comments, if appropriate)

Other Elected Members Councillor C K N Browne } for information
Councillor Mrs E Goode }
Councillor Mrs J Lea }

Cabinet Member Councillor M Heatley – “Pleased to endorse this report and to acknowledge the work done by the Group in getting this agreement with the Boroughs and Districts”.
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Chief Executive

Legal I Marriott - Comments incorporated

- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Warwick District Council.
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Forum for the Future.

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation Any comments from each Council will be considered by the Warwickshire Waste Partnership on 25th October 2005.

Cabinet – 20th October 2005

Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy

**Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and
Economic Strategy**

Recommendation

That:-

1. Cabinet approves Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy.
2. Cabinet authorises the Director to agree minor and uncontentious Clauses following consultations with the Portfolio Holder and the Chair of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Warwickshire authorities – North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Stratford on Avon District Council, Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council, have been working together to produce a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Warwickshire.
- 1.2 The development of the Waste Strategy has been managed by the Warwickshire Waste Partnership (formerly known as the Waste Management Forum), which consists of elected members from each of the authorities.
- 1.3 On behalf of member authorities the Waste Management Forum was given authority to manage and steer the waste strategy in March 1999 and as a result has approved and supported each stage of the development of the Strategy.

2. Why Do We Need a Waste Strategy?

- 2.1 The production of a Waste Strategy is mandatory unless an authority is considered 'excellent' through the CPA scheme. Although two of the Warwickshire authorities currently have excellent status, it was agreed that 'Warwickshire' needed a Waste Strategy to provide a framework for the future management of waste in Warwickshire.
- 2.2 The Waste Strategy provides a framework for the management of waste in Warwickshire for the next 15 years, incorporating district/borough recycling

plans. Our current waste management practices are not sustainable, historically we have recycled little and have relied on landfill as our main means of waste disposal. Challenging EU and UK legislation and subsequent statutory targets mean that this cannot continue.

3. Warwickshire's Waste Strategy

- 3.1 We have worked together and sought advice from independent environmental experts on the most suitable options for managing waste in Warwickshire.
- 3.2 Critically, we have also consulted key stakeholders and the public throughout the development of the Strategy, to seek their opinion and inform them of our options and choices and the reason for their selection.
- 3.3 The Waste Strategy will consist of two documents. A summary document, which contains the main aspects of the Strategy (attached as **Appendix A**) and a supporting information document, which contains the detailed background information.
- 3.4 In summary our proposed Strategy for managing municipal waste in Warwickshire is:-
 - (i) To reduce the amount of waste produced in Warwickshire.
 - (ii) To work progressively towards higher recycling levels, exceeding current statutory targets of 30%.
 - (iii) To achieve aspirational countywide targets of between 40-45% recycling by 2009/10.
 - (iv) To limit the amount of waste disposed of to landfill – making use of existing waste treatment facilities e.g. Coventry and Solihull's Energy from Waste (EfW) facility.
 - (v) After maximising recycling we will treat all remaining residual waste using a thermal treatment system – generating heat and electricity from a non-fossil source.

Translated into 'real terms' this means the following:

3.5 Waste Prevention and Reuse

- (i) We will continue to develop innovative campaigns to encourage waste prevention, minimisation and reuse.
- (ii) We will continue to develop links with community groups, the voluntary sector and charities to establish partnerships to promote waste prevention and particularly reuse.

- (iii) We will work with private sector/charitable institutions to provide door-to-door collections of alternative materials, such as shoes, mobile phones toner/printer cartridges etc.

3.6 Waste Collection and Recycling

- (i) We will need to consider changes to collection frequencies of residual waste and recyclables. It will be up to each authority to determine what the frequency of collection should be.
- (ii) Districts that do not currently have complete coverage will need to consider expanding their green waste collection services.
- (iii) To reach higher recycling levels of 40-45% we will need to consider the separate collection of biowaste (kitchen and food waste) to be processed in an In-vessel composting facility.
- (iv) If biowaste is collected, the County Council will need to ensure that sufficient In-vessel composting capacity is available to meet the needs of the participating district(s).
- (v) As the waste disposal authority the County Council will provide financial support to the districts to enable them to reach enhanced recycling targets, which are over and above their statutory requirements

3.7 What Facilities Will be Needed to Meet Our Targets?

- (i) If biowaste is collected we will need to develop In-vessel composting facilities in Warwickshire – we could need up to three facilities depending on capacity requirements.
- (ii) We will need to increase our input of residual waste into Coventry and Solihull's Energy from Waste Facility (EfW) – utilising any spare capacity.
- (iii) We will need to develop an Energy from Waste Facility within Warwickshire to process between 150,000-200,000 tonnes of residual waste per annum.
- (iv) The EfW facility could potentially be developed in any of the districts within Warwickshire. The selected location will be in accordance with the policies of the Waste Local Plan and subsequent Waste Development Framework.
- (v) Depending on the location of the EfW facility, we may need to build new transfer facilities for bulking waste.
- (vi) We will need to improve existing Household Waste Recycling Centre infrastructure, increasing the types of materials that can be recycled.
- (vii) Post 2015 consider the need to invest in additional waste treatment infrastructure – considering alternative technologies.

4. Implementation of the Waste Strategy

4.1 Our statutory and enhanced targets that we have set ourselves are challenging. In order for us to reach them and implement the Waste Strategy we will need to:-

- (i) Work in partnership towards the aspirations set out in the Waste Strategy.
- (ii) Share (District Councils and the County Council) appropriate costs of meeting the aspirations in the Waste Strategy.
- (iii) The proposed enhanced targets (40-45% recycling by 2009/10) are progressive, countywide targets, to be reached over a period of years.
- (iv) We will keep the public and stakeholders 'in the loop' and ensure that they are aware of our proposals and how we aim to implement them.
- (v) A Multi-representative Project Board has been established to drive the procurement process to develop the treatment facilities required to implement the Waste Strategy.

4.2 Next Steps

- (i) The comments from each council and final approval of the Waste Strategy will be considered by the Warwickshire Waste Partnership on 25th October.
- (ii) Beginning of November – Final Strategy published.
- (iii) Commence information/education campaign on Waste Strategy.
- (iv) Implementation of the Waste Strategy.

5. Support for Warwickshire's Waste Strategy

5.1 Forum for the Future have carried out a Sustainability appraisal on Warwickshire's completed waste strategy, they commented that:-

"The Waste Strategy has the potential to contribute positively to delivering sustainable development by using the waste hierarchy as a framework and seeking to exceed statutory composting and recycling targets."

5.2 The following table provides a summary of status of the Strategy with respect to approval at district and county committees.

North Warwickshire Borough Council	Approved by Environment and Community Committee on 5th September.
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	Approved in principle by Cabinet on 28/9/2005
Rugby Borough Council	Has been approved by Waste Management Working Party, going to Cabinet for approval in October.
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	Going to Executive on 3rd October
Warwick District Council	Approved by Environment Overview and Scrutiny Executive on 6th September.
Warwick District Council	Approved by Executive on 12th September.
Warwickshire County Council	Environment Overview and Scrutiny on 27th September. (see paragraph 6 below).
Warwickshire County Council	Cabinet 20th October.
All Warwickshire authorities	Warwickshire Waste Partnership 25th October.

6. Resolution of Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 6.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved to support the Waste Strategy, subject to the provision of some facility to remove most recyclables before incineration.
- 6.2 It is the view of officers that as far as reasonably practicable removal of potentially recyclable materials should be optimised prior to processing in an energy from waste facility. However, the installation of an additional pre-processing facility should not be a prerequisite but considered during the procurement process as stated in the Waste Strategy Summary (p.34)

JOHN DEEGAN
 Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy
 Shire Hall
 Warwick

30th September 2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy provides a framework for managing waste in Warwickshire for the next 15 years. It has been produced jointly by the Warwickshire authorities. The Warwickshire Waste Partnership has managed development of the Strategy. We have consulted key stakeholders and the public throughout the development of the Waste Strategy and we will continue to inform and seek opinion throughout its implementation.

The main objective of the Strategy is to provide a sustainable framework for managing our waste, working our way up the waste hierarchy and reducing our reliance on landfill as our primary means of waste disposal.

In 2003/04, 296,793 tonnes of municipal solid waste were produced in Warwickshire, 269,310 tonnes of this was household waste. The majority, 76% was disposed of to landfill. Less than 3% was used to generate energy from waste and 21% was recycled and composted. This is a significant improvement on previous years, but we must do better.

We cannot continue to rely on landfill as our main method of disposal and need to develop more sustainable methods of managing our waste. We need to change how we approach waste management, moving away from disposal to increasing levels of recycling, reuse and ultimately resource management.

The Warwickshire authorities have been set challenging targets to increase the amount of material that is recycled and composted. Furthermore, the Landfill Directive states that we must significantly reduce the amount of waste disposed of to landfill. By 2020 we will only be permitted to landfill 52,897 tonnes of biodegradable waste, but it is estimated that we are likely to generate in the region of 280,000 tonnes. Clearly we need to invest in alternative methods of managing our waste. If we fail to meet our landfill diversion targets, we will receive substantial fines from the Government and risk being fined £150 for every tonne of waste that we landfill over our allowances.

To provide direction for the development of the Waste Strategy, the Warwickshire Waste Partnership has identified key strategic objectives, which are summarised as follows:

- To manage our waste in order to move up the waste hierarchy and work towards resource management versus waste management.
- To minimise the amount of waste generated in Warwickshire.
- To maximise the amount of material recycled and composted in Warwickshire and to meet and exceed our statutory recycling targets.
- To limit the amount of waste disposed of to landfill and to ensure that we meet our landfill diversion targets.
- To make use of existing waste treatment infrastructure in Warwickshire.
- To contribute to the generation of energy from a non-fossil source.
- To work in partnership with each other and other stakeholders to implement the Waste Strategy.
- To keep the public and key stakeholders informed of our plans and provide opportunities to comment on our proposals.

In developing the Waste Strategy we critically assessed seven potential waste management scenarios against environmental, socio-economic and operational criteria. This assessment indicated that the best practicable environmental option for managing waste in Warwickshire should incorporate the following:

- Reduce the amount of waste produced in Warwickshire.
- Work progressively towards higher recycling levels, exceeding current statutory targets of 30%.
- Aim to reach aspirational countywide targets of between 40-45% recycling to be achieved by 2009/10.
- Limit the amount of waste disposed of to landfill – making use of existing waste treatment facilities e.g. Coventry & Solihull's EfW facility.
- After maximising recycling we will treat all remaining residual waste using a thermal treatment system such as Energy from Waste– generating energy from a non-fossil source.

We have set ourselves challenging targets and need to make significant changes to how we currently collect and dispose of our waste in order to achieve them.

This Waste Strategy details how the Warwickshire authorities aim to meet the targets and work towards more sustainable methods of managing waste.