

Committee Report – Template – Update of Warwickshire’s Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Recommendation

That Members support and approve the update of Warwickshire’s Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Background

The current Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy was adopted in 2005 by the Warwickshire Waste Partnership, as well as individually by each of the Partner Authorities and runs until 2020. The Warwickshire Waste Partnership is a Committee that was established to develop and implement Warwickshire’s Waste Strategy. The Warwickshire Waste Partnership is composed of representatives (elected Members and Officers) from all of the Warwickshire Authorities.

The Partnership has made great progress since the strategy was adopted and has even achieved some of the key targets/actions before the original 2020 goal. While good progress has been made over the last decade to reduce the volume of waste sent to landfill and increase recycling, there is more to be done.

Why do we need a Waste Strategy?

Since 2005, Authorities in two-tier areas have a statutory duty (under the Waste and Emissions Trading (WET) Act) to have a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in place and to keep the strategy under review. Defra is currently reviewing the duty contained in the WET Act to produce a joint strategy, but no imminent decision is expected.

The updated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy will ensure that the members of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership continue to work together to implement sustainable methods of waste management and will ensure the Authorities meet their legislative requirements.

Waste Strategy Update Process

In June 2012 the Warwickshire Waste Partnership agreed to update key elements of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy including waste composition, services, performance information, data, legislation, targets and indicators. It was not the intention to fundamentally re-write the existing strategy, start from a blank canvas or substantially alter the main strategy objectives.

The Partnership chose to ‘update’ the strategy rather than carry out a formal review, as the 2005 objectives of the strategy have been successful and so do not need changing substantially. In addition a formal review would entail completion of a full strategic environmental assessment (SEA), which can be time consuming and costly. Since Defra is in the process of reviewing the

requirement for Authorities it was felt better to complete an update at this time and await the outcome of Defras review before completing a formal review.

Warwickshire's Updated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

The Waste Strategy provides a framework for the management of waste in Warwickshire for the next 7 years. As part of the update process the Partnership have renewed support for the following 2005 strategy objectives:

- To reduce the amount of waste generated in Warwickshire
- To develop integrated, sustainable solutions for managing waste in Warwickshire
- To meet and exceed national re-use, recycling and composting targets
- Work in partnership with each other and other stakeholders to produce and implement the Strategy
- Encourage public participation in the implementation and review of the Waste Strategy
- Regularly review and update the Strategy and implementation programme

The key aspirational targets in the updated strategy are as follows:

- Aim to achieve to reduce household waste to 311kg per person, per year by the end of the strategy period (2020)
- Aim to achieve a countywide recycling and composting target of 70% by the end of the strategy period (2020)
- Provide an effective HWRC service aiming to reach re-use, recycling and composting levels of 74% across all sites by reducing recyclables being put into the residual waste stream

Implementation of the Waste Strategy

Warwickshire's updated Municipal Waste Management Strategy is supported by an implementation plan, which sets out how the Partnership aims to achieve the objectives and targets within the Strategy.

Outlined below are the key strategic areas of the Waste Strategy Implementation plan.

- Implement and monitor a range of waste reduction campaigns to raise awareness and promote behaviour change (love food hate waste, smart shopping, home composting and master gardeners, junk mail and real nappies).
- Implement measures to improve re-use through the HWRC re-use shops and bulky waste collections.
- Work with partners (re-use forum, third sector organisations, etc.) to increase re-use in Warwickshire.
- Commence review and implementation of measures to improve kerbside recycling and composting performance; such as roll out of

service to flats and provision of smaller replacement residual waste bins.

- Commence review and implementation of measures to improve HWRC recycling and composting performance; such as review of van permit scheme, meet and greet trial and open bag policy. Implementation of various communication activities (providing information on current services and promoting behaviour change) to improve performance of current recycling and composting schemes.
- Raise awareness of recycling and composting across Warwickshire by providing information on the environmental and economic benefits to the public and key stakeholders (volunteer groups, third sector organisations, schools etc.)
- Review of waste technologies on a regular basis to optimise recycling and composting opportunities for Warwickshire residents.
- Introduce measuring and monitoring of the carbon impact of Warwickshire's waste management (using Government guidance/carbon metric tool).
- Continue to investigate the best solution for Warwickshire's residual waste, ensuring any new residual waste contracts support the diversion of waste from landfill.
- Promote and support the implementation of commercial services for recycling and composting of business waste (particularly SMEs) at the HWRCs.
- Consider opportunities for increased partnership working within Warwickshire and across the region to support the efficient delivery of services and savings.
- The Warwickshire Authorities will lobby Government on key waste issues by responding to relevant consultations either individually, through relevant organisations or as a Partnership.

Next Steps

- Adoption of updated Waste Strategy by individual authorities – December 2013 onwards
- Publication of the updated Waste Strategy (once adopted by all partner authorities) – Spring 2014
- Annual report – December 2014