

Cheshire East Council

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	14 th October 2014
Report of:	Ralph Kemp, Corporate Manager Commissioning – Waste and Environmental Services (Acting)
Subject/Title:	Cheshire East Municipal Waste Strategy 2030 (Ref CE 14/15-6)
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr David Topping – Service Commissioning

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 Cheshire East is developing a strong and robust approach to waste management putting residents first in maintaining a quality service while increasing sustainability and cost effectiveness. The Council is also taking an innovative approach in service delivery through the formation of Ansa Environmental Services to meet its ambitious waste objectives.
- 1.2 The Municipal Waste Strategy 2030 has received strong endorsement from the public during its consultation phase with nearly 800 responses received. The majority of responses agree with the strategic objectives with the highest endorsement of 92% for the recycling objective to provide a simple, easy to use kerbside recycling service.
- 1.3 The strategy outlines the key aims and objectives for future municipal waste management in Cheshire East, the public consultation on these objectives and steps that will be needed to implement them.
- 1.4 Council is seeking to manage waste in a sustainable manner contributing to outcome 4 of the Council's three year plan, ensuring Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place.
 - i. The strategy retains a focus on stopping waste production in the first place through waste prevention – a priority reinforced by focus group attendees.
 - ii. It seeks to increase the reuse of waste through working with the charitable sector.
 - iii. To maintain our recycling rate, already within the top 12% of Councils in the country and where possible increase the materials that can be recycled.

iv. To transition to a more sustainable treatment of organic and residual waste through bio technologies such as an Anaerobic Digestion and energy generation.

1.5 The prevention of waste and the use of waste and recycling as a resource will ensure waste management remains cost effective while continuing to deliver a high quality service to the public.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 To review and adopt the appended Cheshire East Municipal Waste Strategy 2030.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 A clear, coherent strategy is vital for such a major area of spend, especially in an area of changing technologies and practice. The adoption of the strategy will communicate the Council's policy and direction in managing municipal waste to both the public and waste management industry alike.

3.2 The strategy will provide the Council with a long-term strategic policy and offer protection against the possibility of challenge from the waste industry over its waste and recycling activities; it will also assist the long term sustainability of its operations.

3.3 The strategy will provide a vehicle to be able to set measurable objectives for the Council's alternative service delivery vehicle, Ansa Environmental Services, in accordance with the aims, objectives and priorities of the Council.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All wards

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All members

6.0 Policy Implications

6.1 The waste strategy is in line with section 5 'ensure a sustainable future' of the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy. The strategy objectives will also ensure the delivery of Outcome 4 of the Council's 3 year plan: Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place.

7.0 Implications for Rural Communities

- 7.1 The strategy builds on the current good practices of the waste management service which means it will continue to provide a quality service to all areas including rural communities.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The strategy is in line with the overall aspirations of the Environmental Operations Change Programme and the cost savings associated with it. As reflected in the medium term financial strategy, elements of the waste strategy will result in both expenditure and savings proposals, either through operational delivery, contracts or waste prevention activities; such changes are being reflected in the current business planning process.
- 8.2 A continued delivery plan will be produced identifying areas of future investment that will be required to deliver the key strategic recommendations and actions. Capital monies have already been put in place for depot infrastructure projects as part of the current 6.4 Environmental Operations Change program. Subject to current feasibility work a further capital bid will be developed for the Dry Anaerobic Digestion plant to enable energy generation from garden and food waste from the Borough.
- 8.3 Future Commissioning strategies will also be required to deliver the key recommendations over the next 16 years.

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 There is no statutory requirement for a unitary authority to have a waste strategy, however it is considered good practice. Since 2010 a number of high profile residual waste management procurements have been abandoned following the withdrawal of PFI credits. As a result, the pool of potential contractors from whom the Council might wish to procure future waste management services is cautious in assessing which procurements to participate in. Having a newly developed waste strategy should enhance the attractiveness of the Council's offering resulting in better competition and enhanced value for money.
- 9.2 If the Council is developing new facilities in connection with its waste management function, a SEA (strategic environmental assessment) should be carried out under article 3(3) and 3(4) of the SEA Directive (regulation 5, 2004 Regulations). The objective of the SEA Directive is "to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and

to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development”. The SEA report must be made available with the draft plan or programme for consultation to interested parties and the relevant consultation bodies.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 The waste management legislative framework, technologies and industry are in a period of change and innovation. It is necessary to plan for municipal waste management to 2030. It is recognised however that changes in legislation and technology are likely to affect the implementation of the strategy over this period. To address this risk the strategy will be reviewed every 5 years to assess its continued suitability and effectiveness.

11.0 Background

11.1 Cheshire East Council currently operates under a waste policy in line with the Community Strategy 2010-2025 and Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy to 2020. A new strategy is now required following the removal of credits from the former Public Finance Initiative (PFI) solution for residual waste.

11.2 The new strategy will provide a framework to deliver waste management services through Ansa Environmental Services. It will also inform the public and industry alike of the Council’s future aspirations for waste management through to 2030.

11.3 The strategy is centred on 19 key objectives outlined in section three of the report. The objectives are themed around Service Delivery, Waste reduction and re-use, Recycling, Residual waste management and Working together

11.4 In summary the objectives see the Council:

- Moving to seek value through delivering services through an alternative service delivery vehicle, Ansa Environmental Services;
- Continue to carry out waste prevention work and seek to increase reuse of household goods to reduce waste over all;
- To continue to deliver value through the sale of high quality recycle and to maintain or increase recycling;

- In recycling garden and food waste the Council seeks to utilise an innovative dry anaerobic digestion process to produce a high quality compost and saleable energy;
- Aspire to stop landfilling residual waste and transition to utilise it as a resource for energy production; and
- Seeking to work in partnership with others such as the waste industry, supermarkets and the voluntary/charitable sector.

11.5 A strategic environmental impact assessment (SEA) has been undertaken and statutory bodies engaged to ensure the suitability of the Council's strategic proposals. A copy of the SEA is available electronically on request.

11.6 A consultation exercise has been completed through a survey and focus groups with members of the public and key interest groups. The consultation received a large number of nearly 800 responses. The majority of response agree or strongly agree with the strategies objectives with the highest endorsement of 92% agreement on the recycling objective to provide a simple easy to use kerbside recycling service.

11.7 The strategy outlines a number of key strategic recommendations and actions. A costed delivery program will be produced following adoption of the waste strategy.

12.0 Access to Information

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