

Cheshire East Council

Executive Summary Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2014

Executive Summary

Purpose of this Report

This document sets out the draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Cheshire East Council (the Council). It establishes key aims and objectives for the future management of municipal waste within East Cheshire and identifies important steps that will be undertaken to deliver these aims and objectives. These actions will be targeted to improve the sustainability of waste management practices, make increased use of waste as a resource and ensure legislative compliance moving forward.

Overview

In 2013/14 the Council managed 179,646 tonnes of municipal waste – just over half of this (53%) was recycled, composted or re-used; 6% was used to generate electricity and the remaining 41% was landfilled. The Council is one of the highest performing recycling authorities in North West England.

However the Council recognise that there are strong drivers to change and increasing pressure to minimise the overall amount of waste produced and to be more responsible in the way that the waste that is produced is then managed. For England, waste management targets and requirements are passed down from the European Union and these are transposed in to national law, policies and strategies which impact on the Councils management of waste moving forward. This draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy identifies these key drivers and examines the options through which the Council can not only comply with their requirements, but can also increase the use of waste as a resource to benefit the residents and economy of Cheshire East.

The future collection, treatment and disposal of waste in Cheshire East will be underpinned by a number of high level strategic objectives that have been established by the Council. These were agreed by Cabinet in the spring of 2013 and residents, businesses and other interested parties have had the opportunity to comment upon them as part of a consultation exercise (the results of this which are summarised within this draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy).

These 19 Objectives fall into five themed categories:

- Service delivery;
- Waste reduction and re-use;
- Recycling;
- Residual waste management; and
- Working together.

Long and short listed options for waste management service change and improvement have been systematically appraised to develop options that the Council will seek to develop and deliver during the implementation of the draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy. These options cover a variety of service areas ranging from bring bank provision through to the treatment of the residual waste that remains after recycling. These options collectively contribute to:

Appendix 1

- Waste prevention and reduction;
- Increased reuse and recycling;
- The recovery of energy from residual waste (and its potential use locally in Cheshire East);
- Substantially reduced dependence on increasingly expensive and unsustainable landfill;
- The support of local third sector organisations in Cheshire East;
- Protection of the environment; and
- The improved efficiency of waste services delivered by the Council and its wholly owned company Ansa.

The options analysis has also facilitated the development for a reference project that shows that the aspirations and aims encompassed within the Councils waste management objectives can be attained and approximate costs associated with key elements of delivery.

Reference project

The reference project comprises the waste management options that have been assessed as having the most potential for delivering the Council's high level strategy objectives, and which are likely to be successful in the unique setting of Cheshire East. The purposes of developing a reference project can be two-fold:

To show that the Council's objectives can be delivered by a particular solution and the estimated cost of doing so (demonstrating that the objectives are attainable and so that the affordability of their delivery can be assessed), without constraining any future procurement options (i.e. the Council can go to the market on a technology neutral basis). Most commonly the lowest cost option that meets the Council's objectives is selected for this purpose.

Alternatively, the reference project can be used to define the solution that best fits the Council's objectives and affordability criteria and set out clearly that this is what the Council intends to deliver (i.e. that the Council will go to market for a specific technologies/solution). This may not be the lowest cost option and can include specific criteria with particular local significance (e.g. political commitment, site constraints).

The reference project developed as part of this draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy is a hybrid of these two alternatives and identifies some options that the Council intends to pursue subject to more detailed work (e.g. the delivery of a Dry anaerobic digestion facility) and elements where it will remain neutral prior to engagement with the market (e.g. the delivery of an energy from waste residual solution).

In summary the reference project comprises the following:

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| • Prevent and Reduce | Undertake waste education and awareness programmes and support activities that prevent waste being produced; |
| • Reuse | Support and engage third sector organisations in reusing waste that would otherwise be disposed of or treated as residual waste; |
| • Organic waste | Dry AD – supported by the collection of mixed garden and food waste |

