

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: New Delivery Vehicles and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 2nd October 2014
Report of: Strategic Director of Commissioning
Subject/Title: Draft Municipal Waste Strategy 2030 report
Portfolio Holder: Service Commissioning Portfolio – Councillor David Topping

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Municipal Waste Strategy 2030 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee examine the draft strategy. See Appendix 1 for Executive Summary and linked document for full draft Waste Strategy

3.0 Wards Affected

- 3.1 All wards

4.0 Local Ward Members

4.1 All members

5.0 Background

5.1 Cheshire East Council currently operates under a waste strategy that was prepared in 2007. The need to update this strategy arises from a number of issues:

5.2 In order to set up the objectives of Ansa Environmental Services Ltd and inform procurement decisions, the Council needs the direction of an overall waste strategy. Additionally this strategy will form the link between the strategic aspirations of the Council, the formation of Ansa's business plan and the final delivery of services. This in turn will inform and be informed by the Waste Local plan.

5.3 In addition, there is a need to build confidence in both the public sphere and waste management industry, that the Council has a considered and well thought out long term strategy for waste management. The industry needs to:

- Understand the strategic direction of the authority to inform its own decisions
- Have confidence in the future procurement of recycling and waste processing being undertaken as part of the Environmental Operations Major Change Programme.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 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.

7.0 Background

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 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

7.4 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 recyclate 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.

7.5 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.

7.6 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 respondents 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.

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

8.0 Access to Information

Name: Andrew Dunstone
 Designation: Contracts and Quality Assurance Manager (Acting),
 Waste and Environmental Services
 Tel No: 01270 371319
 Email: andrew.dunstone@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Documents: Executive summary of Cheshire East Council Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2030 see Appendix 1

Cheshire East Council Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2030

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.

Appendix 1

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:

- 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).

Appendix 1

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:

- **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
- **Bring sites** Alignment of materials collected with kerbside collection system supported by rationalisation of bring bank provision and reduction in number of bring sites – estimated cost saving
- **Commercial waste** Introduce charged collections for co-mingled recyclable waste and residual waste from the commercial sector – potential income
- **Litter bin waste** Provide separate bins for recyclables & litter (recycling on the go), and integrate bin management with existing collection system – low cost
- **Residual waste** Build waste transfer stations and send residual waste to a merchant EfW facility
- **Mechanical St. sweepings** Promote re-use and recycling – low cost

Key Recommendations and Actions

- That the Council undertake a review of bring bank usage and costs prior to renewal of service contract/s;
- The management of bulky waste (collection and re-use / recycling) should be subject to dialogue and optioneering with potential Third Sector partners;
- That the Council undertake an efficiency review of the HWRC network
- That a market study/ potential customer survey is undertaken prior to introducing a collection service for commercial waste;
- Preparation of a business case for the treatment of co-mingled organic waste using Dry AD to support future procurement of treatment solution;

Appendix 1

- Recommend use of Competitive Dialogue procurement process for securing the Dry AD facility to enable detailed dialogue on risk and time for site related work;
- Undertaking an optioneering study prior to commencing replacement of existing Litter Bins with recycling bins, and the integration of bin emptying with the recyclable collection system;
- Prior to replacing the service contract for the recycling of Mechanical Street Sweepings, to undertake an appropriate due diligence for the contract;
- That service contracts for the recycling of Mechanical Street Sweepings are relatively short term with the provision for extension (to reduce risk exposure); and
- Preparation of a business case for residual waste treatment options and the provision of waste transfer capacity prior to procurement of a solution for residual waste management.