

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

22 NOVEMBER 2007

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Councillor Jennie Beaumont, Cabinet Member for the Environment

NEW JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2008 - 2020

1. Summary

The four unitary authorities of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees (the "partner authorities") are the successor Waste Disposal Authorities to Cleveland County Council and share a contract with SITA/CWM Ltd. for the disposal of municipal wastes based on an Energy from Waste (EfW) Plant at Haverton Hill. The contract terminates in July 2020.

The partner authorities agreed to manage their municipal waste streams jointly through a Waste Management Group of senior officers, one representing each authority. Managed by a Waste Management Development Officer employed by the Joint Strategy Unit the joint arrangement includes for provision of a joint waste strategy and co-ordination of waste stream information as well as management of the waste disposal contract.

The existing Joint Waste Management Strategy was developed between the four former Cleveland County authorities and was intended for the period 1 October 2001 - 30 June 2020. However much has changed in waste management terms, in 2006 the Government issued new guidance on the content of waste management strategies, and earlier this year following extensive consultation the government published a new waste strategy for England which will need to be reflected in the new Joint Waste Management Strategy.

Additionally the scope of the new Joint Waste Management Strategy has also been expanded to include Darlington Borough Council, which reflects the greater joint working across the Tees Valley Area.

2. Recommendations

1. Approve the draft headline strategy for public consultation.
2. Note that development of a draft implementation plan for Stockton will be informed by the work of the Environment Select Committee currently starting work on a review of the council Management of Waste.
3. Note that the Joint Waste Management Strategy will be brought back to Cabinet in the spring of 2008 for approval.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To agree the draft headline strategy prior to public consultation which will inform the development of an implementation plan for the Strategy which is appropriate for Stockton Borough Council.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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SUMMARY

The four unitary authorities of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees (the "partner authorities") are the successor Waste Disposal Authorities to Cleveland County Council and share a contract with SITA Ltd. for the disposal of municipal wastes based on an Energy from Waste (EfW) Plant at Haverton Hill. The contract terminates in July 2020.

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Additionally the scope of the new Joint Waste Management Strategy has also been expanded to include Darlington Borough Council which reflects the greater joint working across the Tees Valley Area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the draft headline strategy for public consultation.
2. Note that development of a draft implementation plan for Stockton will be informed by the work of the Environment Select Committee Scrutiny review of the Council Management of Waste.
3. Note that the Joint Waste Management Strategy will be brought back to Cabinet in Spring 2008 for approval.

DETAIL

1. Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington Borough Councils have started development of a new Joint Waste Management Strategy (JWMS) covering the period 2008-2020.

2. Work is well underway to develop the new JWMS and statutory Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), resourced through DEFRA's Local Authority Support Unit (LASU) in conjunction with the Joint Strategy Unit (JSU). The timetable of event is listed below:-
 - December 2006 - application made to DEFRA for consultancy support.
 - 12 February 2007 - Steering Group agrees to recommend (6) objectives to partner authorities.
 - February 2007 - March 2007 - public consultation on SEA Scoping Report (no amendments were requested).
 - 23 March 2007 - first stakeholder consultation on Objectives, Policies and Drivers and Initial Options appraisal.
 - April 2007 – June 2007 - Core stakeholder group works with Steering Group to develop initial draft headline strategy and supporting documents, with draft policies.
 - 13 July 2007 - Core stakeholder workshop including portfolio holders agrees scope of initial stakeholder consultation.
 - 2 August 2007 - Steering Group agrees draft headline strategy for stakeholder consultation.
 - August 2007 - 5 October 2007 - Stakeholder consultation, including Stockton Environmental Partnership (20 September) and second main stakeholder consultation (including portfolio holder), on core strategy.
 - November 2007 – February 2008 - development of Stockton's Implementation Plan in conjunction with the Select Committee.
 - Documentation and Implementation Plan for full public consultation.
 - February 2008 – March 2008 - Public Consultation on Joint Waste Management Strategy including Stockton Implementation Plan.
 - Spring 2008 - Cabinet approval of JWMS.
3. Following a stakeholder consultation on objectives, policies and drivers, and including an initial options appraisal, a core stakeholder working party worked with the Steering Group to develop an initial draft headline strategy. Portfolio holders were consulted informally at a core stakeholder meeting held on 13 July.
4. On 2 August, the Steering Group agreed an initial draft headline strategy for stakeholder consultation. This consultation included the Environmental Partnership on 20 September, and a second Tees Valley Stakeholder consultation event on policies and actions that was held on 5 October.
5. Following this consultation, the partner authorities have agreed the following strategic objectives for the new JWMS:-
 - To reduce waste generation.
 - Achievable and affordable.
 - To work towards zero landfill.
 - To minimise the impact on climate change.
 - To develop an effective and accountable delivery structure.
 - To contribute towards economic regeneration.
6. These objectives were presented and agreed at the LSP Environment Partnership in March 2007 with a further update to the Environment Partnership in September. The strategic objectives were also presented to the Urban Environment Task Group (UETG) in March with further updates to UETG in June and September.

7. The development of a draft implementation plan for Stockton will be informed by the work of the Environment Select Committee currently starting work on a review of the Council Management of Waste.
8. A full public consultation will be carried out on the draft strategy and implementation plan.
9. A final draft Joint Waste Management Strategy will be prepared for approval in March and brought back to Cabinet for approval following further consultation and the development of the implementation plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Actions in meeting the subsequent implementation plan will potentially have financial implications which will require analysis following the completion of the detailed implementation plan by the Environment and Select Committee.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No specific legal implications as a direct result of this project.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The associated risks are against the council failing to meet its recycling and waste management obligations including diversion from Landfill. The developing strategy will minimise these risks and therefore is deemed as low risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

The Joint Waste Management Strategy links into the following areas of the Community strategy ensuring a better quality of life for everyone in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees, now and for future generations: -

- Liveability Theme – Create a better environment, Care for Your Area - Improving the quality of life for local people, through developing long term strategies to reduce the boroughs waste increase recycling and reduce the effect of waste on Climate Change.
- Children and Young People – Making a positive contribution. By working with young people we will develop links regarding good citizenship which will promote health, well-being and achievement.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out during the scrutiny work and the developing implementation plan.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

Consultation to date includes Cabinet Member for the Environment, LSP Environment Partnership, Stakeholder Consultation, Urban Environment Task Group. Public consultation will be ongoing as outlined in the report at paragraphs 2 and 8.

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Background Papers

Joint Waste Management Strategy 2002
Waste Strategy for England 2007-11-05

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

Not applicable.

Property

Not applicable