

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 14 October 2013

ITEM 6(j)
Title: North Tyneside's
Waste Management
Strategy 2013 -2030

Portfolio(s): Housing and Environment

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr John Harrison

Report from Directorate: Community Services

Report Author: Phil Scott, Head of Environment and
Leisure

Tel: (0191) 643 7780

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet's approval of the North Tyneside Waste Management Strategy 2013 – 2030 as attached at appendix 1.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet approve the North Tyneside Waste Management Strategy 2013 – 2030, "Changing our thinking...away from rubbish towards a resource".

1.3 Forward plan:

The report is on the Forward Plan published 28th August 2013.

1.4 Council plan and policy framework

The recommendation is in support of the Council Strategic Plan 2014 - 2018, Our North Tyneside, Our Places outcome, "Be places that people like living in and will attract others to either visit or live."

1.5 Background

1.5.1 History

The last Cabinet approved Waste Strategy, "What a Waste?" covered the period 2002 – 2006. Following this a plan for waste, "Waste the Way Forward" was produced in December 2009 that continued the delivery of the agreed strategic aims from "What a Waste". The production of a new strategy was delayed due to the protracted contract negotiations with SITA as it was clear that the outcome of the negotiations would impact on the timings and desired outcomes of any strategy.

The contract negotiations were concluded successfully in August 2011. 2013/14 is the first full year of operation under the terms of the variation and is it therefore now timely that a new strategy is brought before Cabinet for their consideration.

1.5.2 Government Advice

Whilst a Waste Strategy is not a statutory requirement, it is deemed good practice by central government for a waste authority to have one. This was confirmed by Defra in the recent, and very positive, contract review of the waste disposal contract.

This strategy was produced in line with advice from Defra including the style and content, and has been produced in a way to make it easily accessible to residents. The Strategy will be available on the Authority's website and will be a valuable tool in shaping work with schools and behaviour change, and in future waste procurements.

1.5.3 Future Waste Procurements

It is also timely to consider the Authority's strategic objectives as, although the current waste disposal contract runs now until the end of March 2022, large long-term waste contracts are currently taking on average seven years from initiation to contract implementation and service delivery. The re-procurement of the waste disposal contract has been included in the Council's procurement plan from 2014/15.

This strategy will inform the Strategic Business case for this next waste disposal procurement. Detailed research and a technical evaluation of various waste technologies have been carried out and are available to support this strategy and future procurements.

1.5.4 Future Waste Levels

Waste levels have fallen over the last five years but the rate of reduction has reduced and early indications are that this trend is reversing (Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) July 2013). Our figures indicate an anticipated rise of 1-2% this year, which would mean an additional 2,000 tonnes of rubbish to manage, at an additional cost of around £200,000.

Although there are a number of factors that affect waste reduction and waste growth, the state of the economy is the single biggest factor. In North Tyneside this is also linked to population growth, with an anticipated increase of 13.4% in the population by 2035 compared to 2010. It is therefore probable that the anticipated upturn in the economy coupled with household growth will, without positive action, result in increased levels of waste with consequent increased costs of disposal.

This strategy seeks to actively encourage residents, businesses and visitors to take personal responsibility for their waste, to reduce what they produce and seek out routes for any waste they do make that reduce its environmental impact. This strategy proposes that the Authority will assist in this through education, the provision of resources, for example in increasing the number of recycling points, and in procuring treatment and disposal routes that maximise the use of waste as a resource.

1.5.5 The Future of our environment

The best way to reduce the environmental impact of waste is to reduce its production in the first place. However, once produced the next consideration is to maximise its use as a resource. This strategy seeks to reinforce the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, dispose) in all we do, and to educate residents, businesses and visitors alike.

1.5.6 The Strategic Intent

We want waste to be seen as a valuable resource to be utilised in energy recovery or manufacturing. We want everyone in North Tyneside, residents, schools, businesses and visitors to recognise that waste is not an Authority problem but a personal choice. As consumers we have to ensure that we carefully consider what we are buying and we have to think about what will happen to things once we have finished with them. We need to think differently about the things we throw away and make sure that we have given them every chance to become useful again.

At the same time we need to encourage and educate residents and businesses to reduce the amount of rubbish they produce in the first place. This may be through behaviour change, for example through careful meal planning and shopping for residents, or more radical procurement strategies, perhaps enabling companies to work together so one's waste becomes the other's resource, therefore supporting local businesses.

1.5.7 The strategy aims are:

- 1 We will work with our residents to reduce rubbish produced by each household
 - We will work with residents to educate and inform them on how to reduce their rubbish
 - We will work with residents to encourage “smarter shopping” so that they plan meals ahead of time and avoid throwing food away
 - We will provide residents with home composters at a subsidised cost
 - We will encourage the use of reusable shopping bags
 - We will offer a cash back payment to users of reusable nappies
 - We will think about how we deal with rubbish in the long-term including how and when we collect and store it

- 2 We will maximise the amount of rubbish that is reused, recycled or composted

Reuse:

- We will promote reuse of items to residents
- We will offer reuse credits to voluntary/charity organisations that reuse items that would otherwise have been disposed of

Recycling:

- We will add additional materials to our kerbside collections whenever markets are available
- We will monitor participation in our recycling schemes and target our communications on those areas with low participation
- We will increase opportunities for residents to recycle on the go
- We will keep residents informed of our recycling performance
- We will increase the amount of commercial rubbish recycled
- We will recycle more waste from council offices and schools
- We will recycle street sweepings

- We will think about how we deal with rubbish in the long-term including how and when we collect it to maximise recycling
- We will procure a treatment technology which supports maximum recycling

Composting:

- We will continue to collect garden rubbish from suitable properties
 - We will separate garden rubbish collected through our bulky rubbish collections
 - We will ensure that more of the rubbish from our operations is composted
 - We will include composting processes in our rubbish treatment appraisals
- 3 We will put technology in place to recover value from our rubbish and minimise the amount we send to landfill
- We will ensure that up to 55,000 tonnes of rubbish per annum goes to the Energy from Waste Plant until the end of the current contract in 2022
 - We will procure the technology solution which recovers value from our rubbish and delivers the best landfill diversion rate to commence in 2022
- 4 We will reduce our carbon footprint through better management of our rubbish:
- We will ensure that all collection routes are optimised to reduce distances travelled and minimise fuel consumption
 - We will explore all opportunities to use low emission fuels
 - We will ensure all drivers are trained to minimise fuel use
 - We will ensure disposal points/treatment facilities are in close proximity whenever possible
 - We will divert as much rubbish as possible from landfill
 - We will recover energy and value from our rubbish
 - We will consider the whole life cycle impact of materials

1.6 Decision options:

Option 1 –

Cabinet approve the North Tyneside Waste Management Strategy “Changing our thinking...away from rubbish towards a resource” (as attached at Appendix 1).

Option 2 –

Cabinet do not approve the strategy as shown at Appendix 1 but provides a clear steer on an alternative strategy.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

It is good practice for a waste authority to have a Waste Management Strategy and as recommended by central government. We are about to initiate the re-procurement of the Authority’s waste disposal contract and need agreement on the Authority’s strategic intent with regard to waste management. The most effective way to reduce the environmental impact of waste is to minimise what is produced and then to manage what

rubbish there is as a potential valuable resource and this strategy enshrines this ambition.

1.8 Appendices:

Copy of the final draft of North Tyneside Waste Management Strategy, "Changing our Thinking....away from rubbish and towards a resource"

1.9 Contact officers:

Phil Scott, Head of Environment and Leisure, tel. (0191) 643 7295

Catherine Lyons, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Sustainability, tel. (0191) 643 7780

Julie Evans, Waste Strategy Manager, tel. (0191) 643 7284

Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager, tel. (0191) 643 7038

1.10 Background information:

Waste Management Strategy, 2002 – 2006, "What a Waste?"

http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=531634

Plan for waste, "Waste the Way Forward", December 2009

http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=527664

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The strategy itself does not have any direct financial implications. Actions will be delivered from within the existing budget. There are, however, significant financial risks if the volume of waste increases or if the amount of material recycled reduces. Conversely there are also potentially savings from reducing the amount of waste collected and from increasing the amount of waste reused and recycled.

2.2 Legal

Whilst there is no legal obligation to adopt a Waste Strategy, the Authority is subject to a number of statutory duties relevant to the subject matter of this strategy. These include the duty to collect and dispose of household waste arising within the Borough (Section 12 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974, Section 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990); the duty to collect at least two types of recyclable waste from all households (Section 1 of the Waste Minimisation Act 1998, Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990); and the duty to ensure the provision of a commercial waste collection service (Section 45(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990).

There are also a number of international and national targets for waste that have been transposed into UK law, to which local authorities are subject, for example the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 and landfill allowance trading scheme (April 2005), relating to reduced use of landfill for disposal of waste. The Waste Framework Directive (revised in 2008) sets targets for member states to recycle 50% of household waste by 2020, and to introduce separate collection of at least four materials by 2015.

The adoption of the Waste Strategy will assist the Authority in achieving its statutory obligations.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

Communication with and feedback from residents with regard to recycling is continuous through the use of the dedicated 'Recycle' email address, attendance at regular community events, and the Authority's Residents' Panel. These sources informed the development of the Strategy and information and evidence from these sources is included in the Strategy. These included:

- Resident consultation as part of the 2013/14 budget setting process, October 2012 to February 2013
- Residents Panel events April and November 2012
- Area Forums November and December 2012
- Housing Forums and Gold Ticket Events July 2012 and 2013
- Community events, e.g. Tynemouth Village Association, West Moor Show, August 2013

The Draft Strategy was published on the Authority website for four weeks and the public were able to provide their feedback through an online questionnaire.

http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/browse-display.shtml?p_ID=547220&p_subjectCategory=437

The draft Strategy was also considered by the Environment and Culture Subcommittee, 11th September 2013. Information about the draft strategy and the feedback mechanism was included in the September 2013 Members' Newsletter. The lead Cabinet Member was briefed during the development of the Strategy and all Members of Cabinet were briefed as part of the production of the final document. The Senior Leadership team were informed about the development of the Strategy and the Strategic Director of Community Services provided direct feedback.

Feedback received from all these sources has informed the final version of the Strategy.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment (reference 1184) has been undertaken for waste collection services, including recycling collections.

2.6 Risk management

There are significant financial risks if the volume of waste increases or if the amount of material collected for recycling reduces.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

This strategy aims include that the management of waste follows the waste hierarchy, which will also ensures that the environmental impact of any waste is minimised. The proposals for education, resources and waste treatment are all predicated on the use of waste as a resource, and enshrine the principles of sustainability. There are specific actions relating to minimising the carbon footprint of our waste and waste operations which will further support the ambitions of the Authority and of North Tyneside as a Borough to reduce its carbon footprint.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Strategic Director(s)
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Strategic Manager for Policy, Partnerships
Performance and Communication
- Chief Executive