

Agenda Item No: 16

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 13th Sept 2018

Report Title: Kent Municipal Joint Waste Management Strategy refresh

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Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Mrs. Clair Bell

Portfolio Holder for: Environment and Land Management



Summary:	This report gives an update on the very light touch refresh of the Kent Municipal Joint Waste Management Strategy, through the Kent Resource Partnership, which Cabinet is asked to formally adopt
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Key Decision: NO (delete as appropriate)

Significantly Affected Wards: all

Recommendations: **The Cabinet is recommended to:-**

- I. Adopt the refreshed Kent Municipal Joint Waste Management Strategy.**

Policy Overview: The 13 Kent Councils first adopted the original Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (KMJWMS) in 2007. This strategy set out how Kent, both waste collection authorities (districts) and waste disposal authority (County) would manage its resource materials and waste from households up to 2020. This is the second strategy refresh and comes ahead of legislative adjustments following Brexit and new guidance anticipated from central government which will take us beyond 2020.

Financial Implications: None

Legal Implications: None

Equalities Impact Assessment: Not required

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Report Title: Kent Municipal Joint Waste Management Strategy (KMJWMS) refresh

Introduction and Background

1. The 13 Kent Councils first adopted the original Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (KMJWMS) in 2007. This strategy set out how Kent, both waste collection authorities (districts) and waste disposal authority (County) would manage its resource materials and waste from households up to 2020. This strategy was refreshed in 2012 / 13 (and adopted by Ashford Borough Council). This is the final refresh before new guidance anticipated from central government which will take us beyond 2020.
2. This very light touch refresh captures the objectives for the KCC Waste Disposal Strategy for 2017 – 2035. It also acknowledges the European Commission changes (2015 / 16) to the European Waste Framework Directive (2008), incorporating the Circular Economy Package. This strategy refresh has been developed with all 13 Kent Councils and extensively consulted on with key stakeholders.
3. In 2017, the government published its clean growth strategy, which included working towards no food waste entering landfill by 2030 (Ashford collect food waste separately and this is composted. We are continuing to ensure as many residents as possible use this service and we have the highest residential participation in our food waste collection service, across the Mid Kent partnership at almost 2kg per week per household.) The strategy also included an ambition to be a zero avoidable waste economy by 2050 (more detail on this is expected in the autumn).
4. It is anticipated that in the autumn of 2018 the Government will publish the Resource and Waste Strategy as part of the 25 Year Environment Plan.
5. It is also anticipated that Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) reform (suggesting that where manufacturers that produce non-recyclable or difficult to recycle items must pay more for their products disposal), Deposit Return Schemes (DRS), single use plastic charging and the outcome of Brexit will all inform strategy and delivery going forwards.
6. Therefore the full re-write of the KMJWMS in 2020 / 21 will support Kent and specifically Ashford, into the next phase of the household waste, recycling and street cleansing services.

Proposal/Current Position

7. The current refresh of the KMJWMS began with a Members and Senior Managers of the Kent authorities at a workshop with a leading waste management specialist in September 2017.
8. This was reported at the KRP Board in February 2018.

Consultation Planned or Undertaken

9. 6 weeks of consultation was undertaken (19 March – 27 April 2018) with the public, neighbouring County authorities, central government and industry specialists (key stakeholders included; Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC), Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM), REcycling Of Used Plastics (RECOUP), Environmental Services Association (ESA), Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), Etc.)
10. The feedback from the consultation appears at Appendix 1. Of note for Members regarding consistency and quality recyclates, the Mid Kent Waste Partnership (Ashford, Swale, Maidstone and KCC) is noted as an exemplar for high quality and consistent recyclates achieved through our collection methodology;
http://static.wrap.org.uk/consistency/Recycling_collections_in_east_and_mid_kent.pdf

Reasons for Supporting Option Recommended

11. Although changes to the strategy are relatively minor, they include an aspiration to reach no more than 2 % household waste to landfill across Kent and to increase “recycling on the go” from items such as coffee cups and fast food wrappers. (As a County we send 2.8% waste to landfill, for Ashford that is 2.1%, with the government target currently being no more than 10% of household waste to landfill.)
12. There is now a section in the strategy on future thinking for the partnership to be flexible enough to incorporate legislative change as we leave Europe (including different end destination markets for our materials) and looking for best value from those markets.
13. Consideration is being given to quality metrics, not just tonnage percentages and working together across collection and disposal authorities to make informed infrastructure decisions.
14. This refresh (full strategy appended) is a baseline for the whole of Kent. Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge and Malling (West Kent Partnership) will be the next to go live, East Kent (Canterbury, Dover, Thanet and Folkestone and Hythe) are currently reconsidering their future partnership options through consultants and Mid Kent (Ashford, Maidstone and Swale) will begin early consideration of what our new service may entail in 2019. This is the opportunity for each authority to adopt the same starting point, encouraging closer collaboration.

Next Steps in Process

15. If Members are minded to adopt this strategy refresh it will form part of the considerations for our new refuse, recycling and street cleansing service structure, as we begin to consider that in 2019.

Portfolio Holder's Views

16. Working together in partnership benefits Ashford not only as part of the Mid Kent partnership but as part of the wider Kent Resource Partnership (KRP). Our reputation is enhanced as we continue to lead Kent in terms of recycling figures (55%) and lead the KRP in communication strategies, benefiting from the joint intelligence role for flytipping investigation invested in by each authority through the KRP and the collective bargaining power of 13 authorities working together in concert.

Contact and Email

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KJMWMS Consultation - Key Themes

During the KJMWMS consultation period, 29 responses were received. They ranged from local Parish Councils, Kent councils, and key organisations across the supply chain the KRP have worked with over the years. All responses supported the KRP's decision to refresh its KJMWMS with the following key themes:

Residual household waste per household tonnage

Stakeholders welcomed the KRP's ambition to decrease the residual household waste per household tonnage across Kent. It was highlighted one of the optimum ways to achieve this was through reduced residual waste frequency or capacity. This was supported alongside the consistency in collections as outlined below.

- Landfill performance

Stakeholders noted the significant improvement to Kent's landfill performance where in 2012/13 performance was recorded at 21.0% and in 2016/17; it was recorded at 2.8%. Stakeholders challenged the KRP to consider being more ambitious with its target given its high performance in recent years though no stakeholder went as far as saying the KRP should look to achieve zero waste to landfill.

- 'On the go' recycling

Stakeholders highlighted 'on the go' recycling as a key area for development and agreed this approach needed to be collaborative with the supply chain. It was also highlighted policy 1.5 could be strengthened and reflect the role 'on the go' recycling has a role to reducing litter too. As a starting point, it was suggested it might be best to focus on areas of high footfall or biggest emotive areas e.g. towns, beaches etc.

- Food recycling

Stakeholders reflected how policy 2.3 would reinforce the KRP's recycling ambitions up to 2020 and beyond. This has proven to be the case already in Kent with the majority of Kent council's already (or expected to) offer a separate food recycling service to its residents.

- Consistency in collections & quality recyclates

Stakeholders highlighted how providing consistent recycling and waste services can result in high quality recyclates, as proven in Kent. Stakeholders wish for this approach to be continued as the consistency in collections would likely attract future investment and infrastructure in Kent and the South East.

- **Transition to other metrics (as opposed to traditional weight-based targets)**

Stakeholders welcomed the KRP's proactive approach to research alternative metrics on waste and resource efficiency in Kent. There was a particular sub-theme focused on using carbon and further work was needed on this nationally too. It was therefore highlighted the KRP may wish to reference in its refreshed KJMWMS though wait upon further guidance as part of the Resource & Waste Strategy which is likely to be published later this year (2018) by Defra.

- EU Circular Economy Package & National Legislation

Stakeholders highlighted the value for the KRP to align with key policies such as the EU Circular Economy Package, 25 Year Environment Plan and imminent Resource & Waste Strategy. In addition, to maintain a flexible approach to other potential changes that may come from Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) reform, Deposit Return Schemes (DRS), single-use plastic charges etc.

Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (KJMWMS)

2018/19 to 2020/21

Overarching Vision	
<p>The Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) will lead the transformation to a circular economy, where the value of material resources flowing into and through Kent are retained, generating employment, skills and training opportunities, and realising wider economic, environmental, health and wellbeing benefits for the local and regional community and beyond.</p>	
Strategy Mission Statement	
<p>We are committed to delivering efficiency and quality in our resource management and waste services, with focus on: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximising the ‘value’ of resources that we manage from households, in terms of realising the social, environmental and economic opportunities; • Providing the best possible value for money service to the Kent taxpayer, taking into account whole service costs; • Realising opportunities to improve services now and in the future through engagement, collaboration and working in partnership with the supply chain; and • Supporting future thinking through ongoing research and evidence that will facilitate the transition into a circular economy for Kent. 	
Policies & Policy Objectives	
1.	Maximising the Value of Resources
1.1	Up until 2020/21, the KRP will achieve a year on year reduction to its Kent-wide residual household waste per household (kg/h’hold) tonnage. [Note: measured using the ex NI191 as published by Defra’s waste statistics annually].
1.2	By 2020/21, the KRP will recycle and compost at least 50% of household waste tonnage. [Note: measured using the ex NI192 as published by Defra’s waste statistics annually].
1.3	By 2020/21, the KRP will ensure no more than 2% of Kent’s municipal waste ends at landfill. [Note: measured using the ex NI193 as published by Defra’s waste statistics annually].
1.4	By 2020/21, the KRP will develop a joint approach to facilitate the procurement of third sector/reuse providers/charities in managing and delivering a reuse service for bulky waste.
1.5	The KRP will explore the possibility of implementing recycling on-the-go initiatives, and other similar activities aimed at recovering resources and help reduce litter. The KRP will also look to engage and work with the supply chain to deliver recycling on-the-go in key areas of high footfall e.g. towns, beaches etc.
1.6	The KRP will publish its Materials End Destinations Publication on an annual basis and continue its transparent approach to reflect where all material resources end up.

2.	Value for Money for Kent Taxpayers
2.1	The KRP will deliver value for money to Kent residents by maximising joint service delivery opportunities between its councils; cross-boundary working and ensuring all opportunities to realise economy of scale savings through procurement exercises are delivered.
2.2	The KRP will continue to build on its reputation as a leading resource partnership and work with the supply chain to deliver research projects, services and campaigns. As with previous successes, the KRP will continue to seek external funding opportunities, where possible.
2.3	The KRP will retain its focus on food waste as a priority waste stream and support, through the sharing of good practice and identification of joint opportunities, separate collection for discarded food waste on a weekly basis for all residents by 2020/21 where possible.
2.4	The KRP will develop a joint approach to tackling littering, fly-tipping and other related enviro-crimes which would be underpinned by creating a culture of sharing high quality intelligence within the KRP and with others where appropriate e.g. Highways England, Environment Agency, Kent Police, neighbouring local authorities and others.
2.5	The KRP will facilitate the sharing of resources both in terms of communication campaigns linked to priority actions and focus areas, and in terms of ensuring local intelligence and information can be shared across the County.
2.6	The KRP will support its councils in ensuring first class health and safety standards are maintained across the County. This includes employees (& potential employees) have the skills, training and competencies to meet the increasingly technical requirements of the resource management and waste sector.
3.	Engagement, Collaboration and Partnership Working
3.1	The KRP will identify opportunities for joint working and realise greater efficiency savings. This to be achieved by maximising on economies of scale and implementing good practice across all aspects of its resource management and waste services, in partnership with both its own councils and through developing new relationships across the supply chain.
3.2	The KRP will continue to maximise engagement with national and local government and those operating across the supply chain, and wider industry bodies through representation on forums, networks, working groups, and through its own Annual Conference.
3.3	The KRP will produce an Annual Report that reflects the focus and priorities of the previous financial year in delivering the KJMWMS, and any other activities within its remit.
3.4	The KRP will maintain a publically available Operating Framework that defines its scope, remit and procedures; review its continued operation at least in 2019 and 2024, or any other times as agreed by the KRP.
3.5	The KJMWMS will be fully reviewed in 2021/22; or at any other times as agreed by the KRP; or in accordance with any changes in legislation relating to such strategies.

4.	Future Thinking
4.1	<p>The KRP will research activities that will provide an evidence base to enable a more detailed review of the KJMWMS from 2021/22 onwards. This would include focus on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aligning with key policies such as the EU Circular Economy Package, 25 Year Environment Plan and the imminent Resource & Waste Strategy. In addition, to maintain a flexible approach to other potential changes that may come from Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) reform, Deposit Return Schemes (DRS), single-use plastic charges etc.• Exploring the possibility of extending the partnership and reviewing potential opportunities for greater cross-boundary working;• Considering requirements to secure infrastructure to enhance and develop the network of local resource management and waste facilities. This may include the development of consistent collection specifications across all councils as a means to attract future investment and infrastructure.• Developing other metrics and means to focus on quality and value of resources as opposed to traditional weight based targets; and• Target material streams and/or specific sectors in order to identify and implement management options within a more circular context.