

CABINET

Lancashire Municipal Waste Strategy

8th July 2008

Report of Head of City Council (Direct) Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To inform members of the implications of adopting the revised waste strategy 'Rubbish to Resources' for Lancashire 2008 to 2020 and to determine a course of action with regard to the adoption of it.			
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Referral from Cabinet Member
Date Included in Forward Plan	December 2007		
This report is public.			

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLOR JON BARRY

- (1) That Cabinet resolves in principle to adopt the New Waste Management Strategy 'Rubbish to Resources' for Lancashire 2008 to 2020.
- (2) The Cabinet resolves that the final adoption of the Strategy is delegated to the appropriate Cabinet Member, and subject to the budget framework being updated accordingly.
- (3) That Cabinet notes that a further report providing options for the implementation of the Strategy and its impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) will be presented in September.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Lancashire Waste Partnership (LWP) comprises the County Council, the two unitary authorities and the twelve district councils. All of these authorities developed and jointly adopted the 'Lancashire Municipal Waste Strategy 2001-2020'. In November 2006, Cabinet resolved to enter into a Cost Sharing agreement with the County Council, whereby the City Council would receive payments from the County Council which were based upon the number of households in the District which were served by a recycling service which included the separate collection of glass, cans, cardboard, paper, plastic bottles and textiles and food waste, once disposal facilities were made available.

1.2 It is now seven years since the waste management strategy for Lancashire 'A Greener Strategy for a Greener Future' was published. In it were challenging targets for reducing waste growth and increasing recycling and composting, to be delivered by all 15 local authorities across the County. The revised strategy **Rubbish to Resources** will look to build on progress since the 2001 strategy and take into account policy and best practice from DEFRA's 2007 document 'Waste Strategy for England'. The document presents the targets and key principles of the 2001 strategy showing how the waste hierarchy priorities were delivered in Lancashire. It details what has been achieved and goes on to propose new and even more challenging targets for the future.

1.3 The new strategy incorporates challenging targets, which include:

- Reduce and stabilise waste to no growth each year (0%)
- Provision of an environmental education serviced to a minimum of 300 primary school classes in Blackpool and Lancashire each year.
- To extend the three-stream collection to all households, where appropriate.
- Recycle and compost 56% of all waste by 2015, increasing to 61% by 2020
- Recover 81% of all waste by 2015 and 88% by 2020
- Reuse, recycle and compost 70% every year at Household Waste Disposal Centres
- The County Council will continue to support partner authorities through the Cost Sharing Agreement.
- The construction of three 'Waste Technology Plants' together with satellite transfer stations, including a facility at Middleton.

1.3 District partners signed up to the waste strategy will need to provide-

- A separate collection service where the following materials are collected: Cardboard, Paper, Glass, Metals, Textiles, Plastic bottles, Garden waste, non-recyclable waste-
- A separate collection of food waste to all households
- Separate recycling litter bins in town centres by 2010
- Segregated collection services at all schools and municipal buildings by 2010
- Segregated collection services of trade waste by 2010

1.4 In terms of considering the implications for this District it is important to note that whilst the initiatives above are more clearly defined within the 2008-2020 strategy they are not entirely new. Eg the need to collect food waste separately is likely to have financial implications that will need to be included in the MTFs but the actual principle was part of the cost sharing agreement already entered into by the Council. In addition County's application of Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) means that Districts will have to seriously consider how they collect trade waste and again the Council's approach is something that needs to be included in the MTFs.

2.0 Proposal Details

Based on the fact that as a member of the Lancashire Waste Partnership we are already signed up to the principles of the existing strategy and have already signed up to the cost sharing agreement it is proposed that-

- (I) Cabinet agrees in principle to adopt the new waste management strategy for Lancashire 2008-2020 'Rubbish to Resources'.
- (II) Provided there are no major changes when the final version of the strategy document is published, the adoption of the Strategy is delegated to the appropriate Cabinet member.

- (iii) A further report will be presented to Cabinet on 02/09/08. This report will offer proposals for the Council's contribution to the strategy, particularly in respect of the provision of a separate food waste collection service and the segregated collection of trade waste. This will enable Cabinet to consider the options for the implementation within the context of the MTFs.

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 Draft copies of the strategy document are available in public buildings throughout the County and they can also be accessed on the County Council's and City Council's websites. The public consultation period terminated on 14/06/08 and a final version of the document is being drafted.

It is anticipated that all partners will adopt the finalised strategy in September 2008.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

4.1

Option	Pro	Con
Cabinet resolves to adopt the strategy in principle and to delegate the acceptance of the final version of the document to the appropriate Cabinet member	The taking up of this option will enable the Council to formally adopt the new strategy within the allocated time scale. This would be beneficial to the County Council in order for it to proceed with plans in respect of waste disposal. Lancaster City Council are already a member of the Lancashire Waste Partnership that has developed the strategy to date and have already signed up to the cost sharing arrangement.	Cabinet will not have the opportunity to consider any amendments to the Strategy that have resulted from the public consultation process
Cabinet resolves to await the publication of the final version of the strategy document prior to deciding upon the adoption of the strategy	A decision in respect the Council's adopting the new strategy and remaining in the Lancashire Waste Partnership will be taken by Cabinet	The awaiting of the final version of the document will delay the publication of the finalised Waste Strategy. This in turn, could delay planning within the County
Cabinet resolves not to adopt the strategy and withdraw from the Lancashire Waste Partnership.	None	The Council lose the benefits of partnership working, together with Cost Sharing payments

5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

5.1 The officer preferred options are that Cabinet agrees to adopt the Strategy in principle and that the decision to adopt the Strategy once the final version has been published is delegated to the appropriate Cabinet member. Representative officers

from all Lancashire Waste Partnership member authorities have formulated this strategy, based on best practice and Defra's 'Waste Strategy for England 2007'. Members of the LWP have been consulted throughout this process.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 Defra's 'Waste Strategy for England 2007' sets out standards and best practice for waste collection and waste disposal authorities. The 'New Waste Management Strategy for Lancashire 2008 to 2020' sets out the Lancashire Waste Partnership's strategy for taking forward the objectives and targets in respect of waste management as set out by Defra. The Council's adoption of the NWMSFL 2008-2020 will enable it to continue as a member of the LWP and also provide it with a challenging and sustainable waste management strategy to take forward for up to a further twelve years.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Council's Corporate Plan 2008/9, Priority Outcome No 6 is to 'Reduce waste in the District by recycling and reuse'.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

The Council's adoption of this Strategy will continue to drive up the percentages of household waste in the District that is recycled and composted and thus contribute towards sustainability.

The actions and targets outlined within the 2008-2020 strategy are consistent with national policy and best practice and provide a strategy for sustainable waste management.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the Council adopts the new waste management strategy for Lancashire 2008-2020 'Rubbish to Resources' it will be committed to undertaking ongoing enhancements in the recycling services it provides both to residents and to trade customers. This will build on from some of the commitments already made on entering into the cost sharing agreement and existing waste strategy.

A further report will be presented to Cabinet in September and this will offer options for the implementation of such improvements, particularly in respect of the recycling of household food waste and trade waste. The financial implications of each of the options will be included in the report, to support decision-making and for incorporation into the review of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, for approval by Council as appropriate.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Whilst the financial implications of implementing the full updated strategy are not yet known, this report seeks an early in-principle decision regarding its adoption. As referred to in the report the financial details of options will be reported in September, thereby allowing firm decisions to be taken, subject to any requirement for Council to update the budget framework / MTFS projections for future years. As part of the last mid-year review of the MTFS and during the last budget exercise, the planned future changes to recycling (arising

from the then existing Strategy) were highlighted, and it is expected that only a few new commitments will arise as a result of the updated strategy. Clearly though, the financial impact was not available at the last budget update, and therefore future financial projections could change quite markedly.

Generally, Members are advised to consider all potential growth items alongside each other, in order that they can be prioritised. Given the Council's existing commitments regarding the County-wide Strategy, however, and the limited options for going forward, the recommended approach seems reasonable, assuming that the Council wishes to continue supporting recycling initiatives.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted and have no further comments to make.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and her comments are incorporated in the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

LMWMS consultation document.

Contact Officer: Peter Taylor

Telephone: 01524 582437

E-mail: PTaylor@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: [Click here and type Ref, if applicable]