

Review of Waste Management at Mid Sussex District Council – update report.

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Wards Affected: All
Key Decision: No
Report to: Scrutiny Committee for Leisure and Community - 6th July 2016.

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to highlight the timeline of the formal review of the West Sussex Waste Partnership - Joint Waste Materials Resource Management Strategy 2005 – 2035. The new proposed timeline is set out in the report.
2. The report provides an update and refined timeline to deliver the recycling “Road Map” options for the Waste Partnership.
3. The report also outlines a revised timeline for considering future Waste Management options which the Council may wish to consider during 2016/17. This enables the Council to determine the type of service to deliver in the future and identifies areas that the Members working group may wish to consider in the autumn.

Recommendation

4. **The Committee are requested to:-**
 - a) **Note and approve the report.**
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Background

5. The Council strategy and policies were agreed ahead of the contract and were focused on the non-statutory targets of 45% recycling and composting rate by 2015. Although the Council had achieved a rate of 44% in 2011 / 2012 changes in definitions, accepted materials and increased residual waste, have meant the Council is now achieving a rate of 39%. By 2020 the statutory target of 50% by 2020, with potential fines for non-achievement. Targets of 65% by 2030 have been put forward by European Union Directives but are yet to be translated into English Law. The waste industry has expressed some concern in achieving targets as recycling rates had plateaued and now in 2015 -2016 nationally fallen for the first time.
6. The West Sussex Waste Partnership’s Joint Waste Materials Resource Management Strategy (2005-2035) is being reviewed. The major waste management contracts have been operating for a number of years, and the two major waste and recycling processing plants have now been built in West Sussex. New legislation and statutory targets have been introduced by the Government. Therefore a review of the joint strategy was required. The review is underway and the next stage of this process is due to involve stakeholder consultation on new waste targets.
7. Recent reports to Scrutiny committee for Leisure and Community on the 10th February 2016 and 2nd March 2016 introduced the Partnership’s “Road Map” recycling options

aimed at improving performance. Work has commenced on each option by the Partnership, however this work is resource intensive and the Partnership's timeline to deliver the business cases is being extended.

8. The Council's own Waste Management contract commenced on the 1st August 2007 and runs until 31st July 2028 with a mid-point of January 2018. We therefore need to review the specification of the contract to confirm the vehicle fleet for the second 10 ½ years of the contract.
9. This report seeks to provide a refreshed timetable, noting the number of work streams that are running in parallel and need to inform each other to deliver a refreshed Mid Sussex waste contract from spring 2018.

Revisions to the project timelines.

10. The original timeline for the completion of the review of the waste strategy 2005-2035, was due to be completed by November 2016. It involves simplifying the original documents to reflect the legislative changes since 2005, including the new statutory waste targets for 2020. Detailed work on the strategy commenced on that process in early 2016 but as the consultation involves new European Union waste targets for 2030 this is being delayed because of the National Referendums purdah requirements. The Waste Partnership wishes to ensure the level of public engagement is appropriate for this process and this is being reviewed. Due to this delay it is unlikely that the Waste Strategy review will be completed until early 2017.
11. It was originally intended to look at the detailed recycling Road Map options (those options which the Council may wish to adopt to enable the 2020 targets to be achieved), in this cycle of meetings. These options are delayed as the Waste Partnership has indicated that the food waste project, which is the single biggest potential project stream, needs further work due to the complexity of the issues and the number of potential options. Work is being undertaken on all the options including recycling road sweeping arisings, increasing textile and small electrical items, and targeted marketing to residents to encourage waste minimisation.
12. The final strand is the review of the existing waste contract, and the timetable to bring in new fleet to deliver the second half of the contract. Due to the slippage on the overarching high level Waste Strategy and the Road Map options business cases, it is very difficult to specify the future service needs. In turn this means our contractors do not have information on the requirements for vehicles, for example what they will be required to collect and how frequently. Therefore at the recent Mid Sussex & Serco Partnership Board initial discussion has commenced about possible extension to the contract review timetable. This will allow the Partnership to complete the work on the business case options and therefore provide a better steer on the direction of the future service.
13. The Waste regulations assessments last done in 2014 and approved at Cabinet in February 2015 will need to be completed ahead of the options on the new fleet requirements. This will be progressed in the autumn to help inform the process.
14. The new timeline for delivery of this project is set out below:-
 - Inter Authority Working Group (IAWG) – 30th June 2016.
 - Scrutiny Cttee. Leisure and Community 6th July 2016.
 - Inter Authority Working Group IAWG – 29th September 2016.
 - Scrutiny Cttee. Leisure and Community - 11th October 2016.

- Waste members Working Group – Food
- Waste members Working Group – Contract Review
- Waste members Working Group – review of Waste Strategy
- Scrutiny Cttee. Leisure and Community - 22nd November 2016 (Initial recommendations).
- Cabinet report – 28th November 2016 - Update report.
- Mid Sussex & Serco Partnership Board 14th December 2016- . Update report.
- Scrutiny Cttee. Leisure and Community 8th February 2017 (final recommendations).
- Cabinet report – 13th February 2017 (Final recommendations).
- Mid Sussex & Serco Partnership Board 9th March 2017
- Cabinet report - 27th March 2017 – Strategic Risk / Fines.

Waste Regulations Assessments

15. The Council has a legal requirement to review our recycling methodology in 2016/17 as part of the requirements of the Waste Regulations Assessments. This followed the initial assessment in 2014, reported to Cabinet in February 2015. The new assessment included the recycling compliance “Practicability Test”. An assessment of future collections of the 4 statutory dry recycling elements of (glass, plastic bottles, paper and metal cans) on the grounds of Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable “TEEP” is triggered by the Council’s requirement to specify the replacement collection vehicle fleet.
16. This process needs to be combined with the current contract review process to plot the direction of travel and service requirements for waste management for the remainder of the contract. The Council needs to give Serco a period of approximately one year to enable a new refuse collection vehicle (RCV) fleet to be delivered in early 2018.
17. Detailed independent technical advice is required to assist the Council during the autumn. The Council has already benefitted from advice provided by the Waste Partnership’s consultant to assist with the production of the original TEEP assessments and the initial development of the Road Map options for the Waste Partnership.

Conclusions

18. With public interest in changes to this high profile services and with many aspects to this project, we are proposing hosting three Members working group meetings in the autumn. The purpose will be to get involved in the detail behind Road Map options, the Waste Management contract review, and the Waste Partnership’s joint waste strategy review.
19. The next report for the Scrutiny Committee for Leisure and Community will focus on the Waste Management contract review and provide a brief for the three members working group meetings proposed.

Financial Implications

20. This report has the following financial implications:-

Specialist waste consultant advice is required for the completion of a refreshed Waste Regulations (TEEP) assessment, soft market testing and for progressing the approved road map options to a state of implementation. The estimated value of this work would typically fall range from £30k - £50k.

Risk Management Implications

21. The business case for individual elements coming forward will have specific Risk Assessments as they impact on the Council and potentially our partner Councils and / or our contractor, however the generic risks are set out below:-
22. The project delays concerning the Waste Strategy review and the development of the recycling Road Map options are in the main outside of Mid Sussex's direct control, but with a revised timetable, we believe the project outcome to be achievable, and will commence discussions with Serco about extending the contract review period.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

23. .Future decisions arising from the implementation of the revised Waste Strategy will have customer service implications; however this report has no specific implications.

Other Material Implications

24. .There are no legal implications as a direct consequence of this report.

Background papers

None.