
Subject: KENT JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REFRESH

Meeting and Date: Cabinet – 14 January 2019

Report of: Roger Walton, Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial)

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Nicholas Kenton, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Health

Decision Type: Non-Key

Classification: Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: To consider the refreshed policies that form the foundations of the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy as at Appendix 2.

Recommendation: That Members consider the refreshed KJMWMS objectives and policies 2018/19 to 2020/21 contained in Appendix 2 and adopt these as being polices for this Council.

1. Summary

The 13 Kent councils working together through the Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) adopted the first Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (KJMWMS) in 2007. The strategy was refreshed and adopted in 2012 and the KRP has been working over the past year to update the strategy, this report seeks Cabinet agreement to adopting the refreshed KJMWMS objectives and policies. This is a common report being considered by each of the Kent authorities.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The 13 Kent Councils (12 Kent districts and the County Council) who form the Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) has been in place since 2007 and is now recognised as a national peer leader in deriving firm benefits from partnership working between councils and wider stakeholders.

2.2 The elected Members with responsibility for recycling and waste services form the KRP Members Board. Directors and Heads of Service form the KRP Officers Advisory Group. Each group meets three times a year to take forward all policies and issues relating to the 13 councils recycling and waste functions.

2.3 The original KJMWMS was first adopted in 2007. The strategy sets out how Kent would manage its resource materials and household waste up to 2021. This was refreshed in 2012/13 with a view to refresh the strategy again in 2016/17 if required.

2.4 In February 2016 the KRP Members Board agreed to delay the refresh for the following reasons:

- KCC were developing their Waste Disposal Strategy for 2017 to 2035.
- The European Commission had published details in December 2017 that would change the European Framework Directive 2008.

- The current KJMWMS targets, policies and objectives remained valid up to 2020/21
- 2.5 In February 2018 the KRP Members Board approved the Consultation process to obtain views of KRP Stakeholders on the refresh of the KJMWMS. A copy of the consultation document is provided at Appendix 1.
- 2.6 On 6th July the KRP Members Board approved the refreshed strategy with a view to formally adopting the strategy by each of the 13 Councils that form the KRP.
3. **The Refreshed KJMWMS**
- 3.1 During the KJMWMS consultation period 29 responses were received. They ranged from local Parish Councils, Kent Councils and key organisations across the supply chain that the KRP have worked with over the years. All responses supported the KRP's decision to refresh its KJMWMS with the following themes:
- 3.2 **Residual Household Waste Per Household Tonnage** – Stakeholders welcomed the KRP's ambition to decrease the residual household waste tonnage across Kent. It was highlighted that one of the optimum ways to achieve this appeared to be through reduced residual waste collection frequency or capacity. This was supported alongside the consistency in collections as outlined below, increasing the types of materials collected for recycling and providing a weekly collection of food waste. It is worth noting that Dover District Council reduced its frequency of collecting residual waste in 2011, which saw the waste per household reduce from 550kg/phh/pa to 374kg/phh/pa. At the same time an enhanced fortnightly recycling scheme and a separate weekly collection of food waste was introduced.
- 3.3 Following the meeting of Cabinet on the 5th November 2018, it was agreed to continue with the same recycling and waste collection methodology as presently implemented across the district when the new service arrangements start in 2021, this decision supports the refreshed strategy policies and will have no impact on our residents in the district.
- 3.4 **Landfill Performance** – Stakeholders noted the significant improvement to Kent's landfill performance where in 2012/13 performance was recorded at 21% 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. One stakeholder suggested a 2% target might be more challenging for the partnership.
- 3.5 **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 that 'on the go' recycling has on reducing litter too. As a starting point, it was suggested it might be best to focus on areas of high footfall or busiest areas e.g. towns, beaches etc.
- 3.6 **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 councils already (or expected to) offer a separate food recycling service to its residents.

- 3.7 **Consistency in Collections & Quality Recycling** – Stakeholders highlighted how providing consistent recycling and waste services can result in high quality recyclates, as proven in Kent. Stakeholder’s 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.
- 3.8 Dover District Council changed to one of the preferred collection methods in WRAPs framework for greater consistency in household recycling in England in 2011, when the enhanced recycling and waste collection service was introduced. Along with the other three East Kent authorities of Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe and Thanet, Dover are used as a positive case study within WRAPs framework, highlighting that collections are consistent across Kent.
- 3.9 **Transition to Other Metrics (as opposed to traditional weight based targets)** – Stakeholders welcomed the KRPs proactive approach to research alternative metrics on waste and resource efficiency in Kent. There was a particular sub-theme focused on using carbon targets, further work is also being explored nationally. It was therefore highlighted that the KRP may wish to reference this in its refreshed KJMWMS, though it is thought that it would be prudent to wait upon further guidance from the Resource & Waste Strategy which was published by Defra in December 2018.
- 3.10 **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 the recently released 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.
- 3.11 Taking account of these themes, at Appendix 2 is the refreshed KJMWMS.

4. **Corporate Implications**

- 4.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: Finance has been consulted and has nothing further to add (VB).
- 4.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make (HR).
- 4.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equality implications, however in discharging their duties members are reminded to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15> (KM)

5. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – KJMWMS Consultation Document

Appendix 2 – Refreshed KJMWMS 2018/19 to 2020/21

6. **Background Papers**

None.

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