

From: Susan Carey, Cabinet Member for Environment  
Barbara Cooper, Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport

To: Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee – 15 September 2020

Subject: Waste Management – Requests for Developer Contribution Funding

Classification: Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** N/A

**Future Pathway of Paper:** N/A

**Electoral Division:** All

### **Summary:**

A strategic KCC waste infrastructure review has concluded that planned housing growth across the county will result in increasing demand and pressure upon the Household Waste Recycling Centres and Waste Transfer Stations facilities, requiring replacement or expansion to meet both current and future capacity requirements.

Historically, KCC Waste Management has not been included in requests for Developer Contribution funding, however, over the past year, KCC Waste has been compiling 'The Case for Waste' to provide an evidence base and methodology for collecting these contributions for waste infrastructure investment.

This report provides an update to Cabinet Committee on the actions that are being undertaken to develop the 'Case for Waste' document, in particular early engagement with the district and borough councils planning teams and waste teams, in advance of being included in the overall 'Developer Contribution Guide' consultation to be undertaken by KCC Economic Development in the coming months.

**Recommendation:** The Cabinet Committee is asked to note and comment upon the actions being undertaken to develop the 'Case for Waste' and the approach to engagement with the district and borough councils.

## **1.0 Background**

1.1 KCC Waste Management operates as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA). The WDA is responsible for arranging the recycling and final disposal of waste collected from households by the 12 Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs).

1.2 KCC currently operates under Contract, five Waste Transfer Stations (WTS) for the deposit and bulk loading of waste collected by the district/borough/city councils. A further three non-KCC mercantile WTSs are utilised under contract.

- 1.3 KCC also provides eighteen Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). These sites provide facilities for reuse, recycling and safe disposal for a range of materials brought by Kent residents.
- 1.4 KCC's Kent Waste Disposal Strategy was endorsed by Members in July 2017. This sets out our current position, identifies future pressures, and outlines how we will maintain a sustainable waste management service. It takes into consideration the following key drivers; population and housing, budget pressures, market provision, current performance, legislation and performance targets.
- 1.5 KCC Waste Management has undertaken an internal strategic infrastructure review to establish whether current HWRC and WTS capacity will suffice by 2030 and if not, where extra capacity is required. A baseline position for capacity has been established and layered with housing/ population projections in order to understand the impact on the waste infrastructure.
- 1.6 The review found that housing growth across the county is resulting in increasing demand and pressure upon these facilities of which many require replacement or expansion to meet capacity requirements. Over the past year, KCC Waste has been compiling 'The Case for Waste' – to provide an evidence base and methodology for collecting these contributions for waste infrastructure. This Case for Waste sets out:
- The strategic approach to providing Waste Transfer Stations (WTS), Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and a countywide Materials Recovery Facility (MRF<sup>1</sup>)
  - The evidence base – which sites are at or nearing capacity and the requirements for increasing capacity in respect of existing households and expected housing growth to 2030
  - The cost of increasing capacity across the three types of facilities and the cost per new household for each facility required
- 1.7 This information will be included in the revised Developer Contributions Guide, which will be taken out to consultation by KCC Economic Development later this year.

## **2.0 Progress so far**

- 2.1 2.1 In recent months KCC's Economic Development has used the evidence and per dwelling rates from the Case for Waste to request contributions for several developments. There has been a mixed response from local planning authorities to the principle of KCC requesting developer contribution for waste but we have been successful in obtaining from five developments thus far (two in Tonbridge & Malling, two in Thanet and one in Dover).
- 2.2 This is the start of a conversation about how waste infrastructure is planned for and we are keen to understand the views of the local planning authorities so that we can make an effective case for waste contributions as part of new developments.

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<sup>1</sup> A MRF is a materials recycling facility where dry recyclate waste is taken for sorting into the different commodities, i.e. glass, plastics, paper.

### **3.0 Engagement with the district/ borough councils**

- 3.1 Following initial feedback from districts and boroughs and considering discussions that have been held at the Kent Planning Officers Group (KPOG), an initial 'call for views' discussion took place with districts and boroughs in July/ August 2020, in advance of inclusion in the overall developer contributions guide consultation later in the year.
- 3.2 This engagement took the form of a presentation and discussion of the Case for Waste document with numbers of districts at a time. The document was also shared subsequently for any further comment or questions. Attendees included members of the Kent Resource Partnership Officers Advisory Group (waste senior managers from all the district/ borough councils), and planning representatives from Kent Planning Policy Forum (KPPF).
- 3.3 This engagement is being used to test the evidence base; share the significant capacity issues with district and borough officers; and discuss how the Case For Waste evidence base can align with our role in responding to Local Plans and planning applications. We are also obtaining views on the level of evidence districts and boroughs would expect to see and to understand how to integrate the need for waste contributions in their own plan and strategy work, and policies. KCC Waste Management Officers are finalising this initial feedback.
- 3.4 It is hoped this early engagement will give district/ borough councils the confidence that they have helped to shape the final Case for Waste document, in advance of being included in the KCC developer contribution guide consultation and to ensure they are comfortable with its application when contributions are sought for waste infrastructure.

### **4.0 Recommendation**

**Recommendation:** The Cabinet Committee is asked to note and comment upon the actions being undertaken to develop the 'Case for Waste' and the approach to engagement with the district and borough councils.

### **5.0 Report Authors**

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