

From: Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member – Environment & Transport  
Roger Wilkin, Interim Director – Highways, Transportation and Waste

To: Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee – 16 September 2015

Subject: **Waste Strategy**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee March 2016

Electoral Division: All

**Summary:**

KCC, as the Waste Disposal Authority, requires a Waste Strategy to underpin future service design, ensuring intelligent and coordinated delivery which meets financial, environmental and customer needs.

**Recommendation:**

The Cabinet Committee is asked to approve the approach to developing a Waste Strategy and support the setting up of a Waste Strategy Task and Finish Group to inform strategy development.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Kent County Council's (KCC) Waste Management operates in a two-tier system. KCC is the statutory Waste Disposal Authority<sup>1</sup> (WDA), responsible for the receipt and onward processing/disposal of Kent's household waste which is collected by the district and borough councils as the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs). KCC also has statutory responsibility to provide a Household Waste Recycling Centre service to residents. KCC's annual expenditure to meet current responsibilities is in excess of £66m.
- 1.2 With continued budget pressures, coupled with an anticipated increase in waste volumes and fluctuations in market value for recyclate, local authorities must consider innovative ways to deliver services. A new waste strategy for KCC will provide clear direction with regard to priority outcomes set against financial, corporate and government drivers. It should be noted that the statutory and discretionary services provided by a WCA are not within scope of this strategy.
- 1.3 Following a period of strategy development, including data analysis, desk research, modelling and stakeholder engagement, a subsequent report with key strategic recommendations for decision will be presented to this Cabinet Committee in March 2016. A Public consultation will be undertaken in summer 2016, with results and final strategic recommendations presented to this Cabinet Committee late in 2016, prior to implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in legislation: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents>

## **2. Objectives**

2.1 The key objectives for the strategy will be to:

- make a significant contribution to the Council's Outcomes Framework;
- protect statutory service delivery;
- identify further saving efficiencies through commissioning, partnership working and challenging existing practices;
- maximise synergies between internal and external partners;
- build greater flexibility with regard to quantity, composition and quality of waste streams to accommodate and enable economic growth;
- ensure KCC meets its environmental compliance and public protection functions;
- help future proof service delivery for customers including WCAs;
- provide equitable access to services for Kent residents and compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and
- equip KCC to succeed in meeting local and national targets.

## **3. Financial Implications**

3.1 Costs associated with strategy development will be met by existing budgets.

3.2 The financial requirements / implications of strategic options will be identified to ensure viability.

## **4. Legal implications**

4.1 There are statutory obligations required of a Waste Disposal Authority which must be met and recommendations must be legally compliant and as such KCC Legal is supporting the strategy development.

## **5. Equalities implications**

5.1 Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs) exist and are regularly reviewed for current service delivery. New EqIAs will be conducted to understand positive and negative impacts upon customers as options are being developed.

5.2 Where public consultation is required, a separate EqIA will be prepared to inform the consultation approach and engagement across our customer and stakeholder base.

## **6. Other corporate implications**

6.1 The Waste Strategy will embed the principles and objectives of the following corporate and partnership strategies:

- KCC's Supporting Independence and Opportunity: Corporate Outcomes Framework 2015-19;
- KCC Commissioning Framework;
- Kent Environment Strategy;
- KCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013 - 2030;;

- KCC's Customer Service Policy 2015-17;
- Relevant waste legislation;
- KCC's Growth & Infrastructure Framework and
- Kent Joint Municipal Waste Strategy

## **7. Governance**

- 7.1 It is proposed that a small cross party Waste Strategy Task and Finish Group is established to support an officer strategy steering group, which in turn is accountable to the Growth, Environment and Transport Portfolio Board and ultimately through to this Cabinet Committee.
- 7.2 When the KCC policy on Household Waste Recycling Centres was successfully introduced in 2012, one of the great strengths of the process was the detailed and significant contribution of elected members through an Informal Members Group.
- 7.3 The Waste Strategy Task and Finish Group will guide the strategy development and consider approaches and draft recommendations to be made to this Cabinet Committee. By using the Waste Strategy Task and Finish Group, Members will be able to have confidence that the final strategy document will fully take into account issues of interest and concern for the communities they represent. Draft terms of reference will be provided to the Waste Strategy Task and Finish Group for consideration at the initial meeting.

## **8. Conclusions**

- 8.1 A new WDA Strategy will provide KCC with clear direction to equip it to achieve the desired outcomes set against financial, corporate and government drivers.
- 8.2 Whilst this paper provides an overview of the need for a Waste Strategy for KCC, a subsequent report with key strategic recommendations for decision will be presented to this Cabinet Committee in March 2016, prior to any public consultation.
- 8.3 It is proposed that a Waste Strategy Task and Finish Group is established to support development of the strategy.

## **9. Recommendation:**

The Cabinet Committee is asked to approve the approach to developing a Waste Strategy and support the setting up of a Waste Strategy Task and Finish Group to inform strategy development.

## **10. Background Documents**

None

**11. Contact details**

Report Author: Melanie Price Partnerships and Development Manager 03000 413437 melanie.price@kent.gov.uk	Relevant Director: Roger Wilkin, Interim Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste 03000 413479 roger.wilkin@kent.gov.uk
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