

**Agenda Item No:**

**Report No:**

**Report Title:** East Sussex Joint Waste Strategy 2014 - 2025

**Report To:** Cabinet

**Date:** 7 July 2014

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Paul Franklin

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

**Report By:** Gillian Marston, Director of Service Delivery

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**Purpose of Report:**

To consider adopting the East Sussex Joint Waste Strategy 2014 – 2025.

**Officers Recommendations:**

That Cabinet adopt the East Sussex Joint Waste Strategy 2014 – 2025.

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**Reasons for Recommendations**

- 1 Responsibility for the management of waste is divided between collection authorities (the Districts) and the waste disposal authority (East Sussex County Council and is necessary that the disposal and collection authorities work together to manage waste sustainably and effectively.
- 2 This is achieved through the East Sussex Waste Resource Partnership and the development of a broad strategy whereby parties agree the 'direction of travel' at a high level.

**Information**

- 3 In 2006 the East Sussex Waste Resource Partnership (the Borough, District and County Councils working together) published a Joint Waste Strategy for 2006 – 2020, to set out how the County's waste would be managed in a sustainable way. The targets that were set in 2006 have already been exceeded, which has led to a review of the previous Waste Strategy, looking at the potential for managing waste more sustainably, reducing costs, and maximising the value of waste materials.

- 4 The revised Joint Waste Strategy for East Sussex summarises the waste management arrangements and sets out new aims, objectives and targets from 2014 to 2025. The Strategy reiterates the continued focus on the nationally accepted waste hierarchy and gives an overview of achievements since 2006. The waste hierarchy is as follows;
- **Reduce** (produce less waste in the first place, the preferred option)
  - **Reuse** (without re-processing)
  - **Recycle** (re-processing into the same type of product or something new)
  - **Energy recovery** – (waste converted to energy, as at Newhaven)
  - **Disposal** (to landfill and incineration, being the least preferred option)
- 5 Travelling down the hierarchy, the options have a greater negative environmental impact and are generally more expensive.
- 6 The Strategy sets five main targets for 2020:
- Work to limit the total amount of household waste generated to 995kg per household per year;
  - Reuse 15% of the household waste generated;
  - Recycle and compost 50% of the household waste generated;
  - Recover energy from at least 95% of the rubbish that isn't reused, recycled or composted;
  - Divert at least 95% of waste from landfill.
- 7 There is one target for 2025:
- Recycle and compost 60% of the household waste generated.
- 8 As well as these targets, the Strategy aims include:
- Recovering more value from waste;
  - Delivering waste services that offer value for money and are accessible to everyone;
  - Reviewing and continuously improving waste services to ensure they remain environmentally sustainable and affordable;
  - Managing waste as close as possible to its source, ideally within the County.

## Consultation

- 9** Public consultation on the draft Joint Waste Strategy took place between 30 October and 11 December 2013. It was advertised by press release and on the County Council's website, as well as being sent to all County, District and Borough Councillors. The on-line consultation questionnaire asked set questions and people were also given the opportunity to make general comments in open questions. ESCC received 794 responses to the consultation questionnaire. The version of the Strategy published for consultation included information on the Household Waste Recycling Site (HWRS) service review and the proposed closures at Forest Row and Wadhurst (in Wealden DC) and Seaford (in Lewes DC) in order to make efficiency savings. The survey attracted 40 responses, a number that is considered a good return for a survey of this type. By far the highest percentage of participants described themselves as residents, followed by commuter, other and then business owner.
- 10** The online consultation questionnaire found 40% of respondents agreed with the broad aims of the Strategy, 31% agreed with the targets in the Strategy and only 13% thought the targets would be met. These are low percentages of agreement for a strategy review, however, the majority of the comments related to people's views on the proposed HWRS closures. Overall the consultation feedback suggests that, apart from the HWRS closure proposals, people were broadly in agreement with the Strategy's aims and objectives.
- 11** Subsequently the details of the changes to HWRS proposed were removed from the Strategy and were considered separately by the County Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 28 January 2014, and it was decided to:
- Keep the Seaford, Wadhurst and Forest Row HWRS open Friday to Sunday and to close them Monday to Thursday;
  - Instruct Communities, Economy and Transport to develop additional proposals for finding further savings in the HWRS network.
- 12** ESCC propose to start a process of engagement with boroughs, districts, and town and parish councils to explore a range of options on how further savings could be met from the HWRS budget, to make up the savings gap from the partial closures.

## Discussion

- 13** The Joint Waste Strategy is at high level setting overall targets with work which is currently being undertaken or due to be undertaken by each district council and the county council.
- 14** The Council has responsibility for the collection end of the waste service, and will need to consider how it will deliver further reductions in waste levels and increases in recycling to meet the Strategy targets. It is the only district to implement food waste recycling following a grant from DCLG of just over £2

million. Currently, this results in an additional 6% of waste diverted further up the waste hierarchy towards recycling.

- 15** The strategy refers to the continuation of the 'Zero Heroes' campaign and the review of a green waste service to be brought to cabinet in the autumn.

### **Financial Implications**

- 16** There are no direct financial implications arising from the East Sussex Joint Waste Strategy. Lewes District Council continues to provide a service which achieves value for money as indicated in the table below, produced from 2014/15 budget figures:

<b>Line</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Cost per Property</b>
1	Lewes District Council	£59.48
2	Eastbourne Borough Council	£78.08
3	Hastings Borough Council	£61.78
4	Rother District Council	£65.40
5	Wealden District Council	£43.90
	Average cost for those councils in the joint waste consortium (lines 2 to 5).	£60.56

*Note: the Budget figures are as returned to the Communities and Local Government Department on form RA 2014-15 and the property numbers are the gross valuation list totals from the Communities and Local Government Department return CTB October 2013.*

Hastings Borough Council, Rother and Wealden District provide a fortnightly refuse service and no weekly food waste service, unlike Lewes District Council and this needs to be taken into consideration when analysing the figures above.

As plans are developed to reduce waste and improve recycling, these will be fully costed and brought to cabinet for approval.

### **Legal implications**

- 18** There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **Equalities implications**

- 19** I have completed the Equality impact screening assessment and there are not impacts. As proposals are developed by the Council to improve the waste service and increase recycling levels equality impact assessments will need to be undertaken.

## **Sustainability implications**

- 20** Local authorities must follow Waste Regulations and the Government's waste hierarchy, taking all such measures as are reasonable to prevent waste and to apply the waste hierarchy in handling household waste. The Joint Waste Strategy addresses this issue, and focuses attention to the need to reduce waste at the top of the waste hierarchy, to ensure a reduced environmental impact.
- 21** I have completed the Environmental Impact assessment. Reducing waste, increasing reuse and recycling have positive benefits on the environment.

## **Risk Management**

- 22** There are no risks directly arising from the Waste Strategy. There will be risks in implementing actions to meet the targets set out in the strategy such as financial and operational and these will need to be considered carefully at the time including reputational issue of achieving higher recycling levels.

## **Background Papers**

- 22** Reports to ESCC Cabinet on Seaford, Wadhurst and Forest Row HWRS are at:  
[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/meetingpapers/cabinet/2014/28january](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/meetingpapers/cabinet/2014/28january)

## **Appendix 1**

- 23** East Sussex Joint Waste Strategy 2014 - 2025