

Body:	Cabinet
Date:	19 March 2014
Subject:	East Sussex Joint Waste Strategy 2014 - 2025
Report Of:	Henry Branson, Senior Head of Infrastructure
Ward(s)	All
Purpose	To consider adopting the East Sussex Joint Waste Strategy 2014 – 2025.
Decision Type:	Key decision
Recommendation:	That Cabinet adopt the East Sussex Joint Waste Strategy 2014 – 2025.
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 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.

1.2 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 Government’s 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)

Travelling down the hierarchy, the options have a greater environmental impact and are generally more expensive.

1.3 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.

There is one target for 2025:

- Recycle and compost 60% of the household waste generated.

1.4 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.

2.0 Consultation

2.1 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.

2.2 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.

2.3 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.

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.

3.0 Local performance

- 3.1 Eastbourne is a part of the Joint Waste Partnership and entered into a new waste contract with Kier Environmental Services Ltd on 1st April 2013, alongside Wealden District Council. Hastings Borough Council joined the contract in July 2013, and Rother District Council will join it in April 2014.
- 3.2 We have a local indicator in Eastbourne to measure performance as regards reuse, recycling and composting. The target for 2013/14 is 33%, and as at the end of Q2 (September 2013) performance is showing a year to date figure of 35.77%, with October's performance being 35.4%. There is always a time delay with the data as it is subject to verification by ESCC. The Q2 performance represents a slight increase on the previous quarter, as customers get used to the new collection system and become more familiar with the wide range of materials that can be recycled, and in addition the greater variety of materials that can now be recycled under the co-mingled service has led to an improved level of recycling in comparison with the level achieved using the previous kerbside sort system.
- 3.3 It is envisaged that performance will continue to improve and that the targets of 50% of household waste being recycled by 2020 and 60% by 2025 across the county are achievable. However this will require intervention and there is clearly an important piece of work to be done in terms of educating and influencing customers. Eastbourne Borough Council along with the other councils in the Joint Waste Partnership and Kier, rely upon the cooperation of customers to recycle their household materials. The financial mechanisms that support the contract provide an incentive for Kier to positively influence resident behaviour and seek to maximise the volumes of recycling collected each week

4.0 Resource Implications

- 4.1 **Financial** – given the life of the Joint Waste Strategy and the targets contained within it, it may be necessary to support more customer education and promotional activities alongside Kier's interventions, to increase recycling. Financial resource implications will be kept under review.
- 4.2 **Staffing** – interventions will be carried out within existing staff resources and in partnership with Kier and the other members of the Joint Waste Partnership.

5.0 Other Implications, Environmental, Community Safety, Youth, Anti-poverty, Equality and Fairness analysis

- 5.1 **Environmental:** 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.

6.0 Summary

- 6.1 The new Joint Waste Strategy 2014 – 2025 sets out new aims, objectives and targets for the East Sussex local authorities to deliver the Government's waste hierarchy and to reduce the impact of waste on the environment.

Sue Oliver
Manager, Specialist Advisory Team

The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

Reports to ESCC Cabinet on Seaford, Wadhurst and Forest Row HWRS are at;
www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/meetingpapers/cabinet/2014/28january

East Sussex Joint Waste Strategy 2014 - 2025

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.