

<b>Cabinet Meeting</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	31 October 2018
<b>Report Title</b>	Kent Joint Municipal Waste Strategy Refresh
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr David Simmons, Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs
<b>SMT Lead</b>	Martyn Cassell, Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure
<b>Head of Service</b>	Martyn Cassell, Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Kelly Upson, Senior Contract Monitoring Officer
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	1. Adopt the refreshed Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy up to 2020/21

## 1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report gives an update on the refresh of the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (KJMWMS), through the Kent Resource Partnership, which Cabinet are asked to formally adopt.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 The 13 Kent Councils that make up the Kent Resource Partnership first adopted the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in 2007 which set out how districts (waste collection authorities) and Kent County Council, as the waste disposal authority, would manage resource materials and waste from households up to 2020. The strategy was refreshed previously in 2012/13 and this will be the final refresh before any new guidance anticipated from central government which will take us beyond 2020.
- 2.2 The refresh captures the objectives for the KCC Waste Disposal Strategy for 2017-2035 and acknowledges the European Commission changes (2015/16) to the European Waste Framework Directive (2008), incorporating the Circular Economy Package. The Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy was developed with all 13 Kent Councils and has been extensively consulted on with key stakeholders.
- 2.3 The Government published its Clean Growth Strategy in 2017 which included working towards no food waste entering landfill by 2030. Swale offers a weekly food waste collection to all residents receiving an alternate weekly collection of refuse and recycling. We are currently in the process of working with national recycling charity, WRAP, on a food waste intervention program in order to improve take up of this service in the Borough.
- 2.4 It is anticipated that Government will publish the Resource and Waste Strategy as part of the 25 Year Environment Plan in autumn of 2018 and it is widely expected to make a number of changes to the national picture
- 2.5 These changes include the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which suggests that manufacturers that produce non-recyclable or difficult to recycle items will pay more for their product's disposal, a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) making it more convenient to recycle on the go and single use plastic charging.

- 2.6 The full re-write of the KJMWMS in 2020/21 will support Kent into the next phase of the household waste, recycling and street cleansing services.

### **3 Proposals**

- 3.1 The proposal is for Members to adopt the refresh of the Kent Municipal Joint Waste Management Strategy.
- 3.2 Although changes to the strategy are relatively minor, they include an aspiration to send no more than 2% household waste to landfill. Kent and more specifically Swale are currently meeting this target.
- 3.3 There is also a target to increase “recycling on the go” from items such as coffee cups and fast food and initial trials are taking place across the county.
- 3.4 One of the changes in the strategy is a section on future thinking for the partnership to be flexible enough to incorporate legislative change.
- 3.5 Consideration is being given to the use of quality metrics to measure performance, not just volume (tonnage percentages) and working together across collection and disposal authorities to make informed infrastructure decisions.
- 3.6 This refresh is a baseline for the whole of Kent. Mid Kent (Swale, Ashford and Maidstone with KCC) was the first waste partnership to go live for our joint contract (2013 – 2023). A number of changes are occurring with Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge and Malling (West Kent Partnership) next to go live. East Kent (Canterbury, Dover, Thanet and Folkestone and Hythe) are currently reconsidering their future partnership options through consultants. This presents the opportunity for each authority to adopt the same starting point, encouraging closer collaboration.
- 3.7 Adopting this strategy refresh will form part of the considerations for our new refuse, recycling and street cleansing service structure, as we begin to consider that later in 2019.

### **4 Alternative Options**

- 4.1 Not to adopt the refreshed Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and develop a stand-alone strategy for Swale. This would require a considerable amount of officer time and would not differ greatly as all authorities work towards national and EU directives. There is also a benefit as although we all have slightly different collection methods, the intended outcomes are the same.

### **5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed**

- 5.1 Consultation was undertaken over a 6 week period from 19 March – 27 April 2018 with the public, neighbouring County authorities, central government and industry specialists (key stakeholders included; Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC), Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM), Recycling of Used Plastics (RECOUP), Environmental Services Association (ESA), Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).
- 5.2 The feedback from the consultation appears at Appendix II.

## 6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	<p><b>A Borough to be proud of</b> – to inspire the borough to change behaviours and improve recycling rates</p> <p><b>A Community to be proud of</b> – working together to improve recycling levels and reduce waste</p>
Financial, Resource and Property	<p>Adoption of the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy will save on valuable resource and will provide support in meeting the government target of 50% recycling by 2020</p> <p>Swale’s contributions to the Kent Resource Partnership:            £5,000 – Swale BC’s annual contribution to KRP Core budget            £10,000 – Swale BC’s annual contribution to KRP Project budget</p> <p>However endorsing this strategy does not have any additional financial impact for the authority outside of the current waste and recycling contract.</p>
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	Local Authorities have a legal duty to collect waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
Crime and Disorder	None identified
Environment and Sustainability	Benefit to the environment in good management of resources by increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified
Equality and Diversity	None identified
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified

## 7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

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- Appendix I: Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (KJMWMS) 2018/19 to 2020/21
- Appendix II KJMWMS Consultation

## Appendix I

### Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (KJMWMS)

2018/19 to 2020/21

<b>Overarching Vision</b>	
<p>The Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) will lead the transformation to a circular economy, where the value of material resources flowing into and through Kent are retained, generating employment, skills and training opportunities, and realising wider economic, environmental, health and wellbeing benefits for the local and regional community and beyond.</p>	
<b>Strategy Mission Statement</b>	
<p>We are committed to delivering efficiency and quality in our resource management and waste services, with focus on: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximising the 'value' of resources that we manage from households, in terms of realising the social, environmental and economic opportunities;</li> <li>• Providing the best possible value for money service to the Kent taxpayer, taking into account whole service costs;</li> <li>• Realising opportunities to improve services now and in the future through engagement, collaboration and working in partnership with the supply chain; and</li> <li>• Supporting future thinking through ongoing research and evidence that will facilitate the transition into a circular economy for Kent.</li> </ul>	
<b>Policies &amp; Policy Objectives</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Maximising the Value of Resources</b>
1.1	Up until 2020/21, the KRP will achieve a year on year reduction to its Kent-wide residual household waste per household (kg/h'hold) tonnage. [Note: measured using the ex NI191 as published by Defra's waste statistics annually].
1.2	By 2020/21, the KRP will recycle and compost at least 50% of household waste tonnage. [Note: measured using the ex NI192 as published by Defra's waste statistics annually].
1.3	By 2020/21, the KRP will ensure no more than 2% of Kent's municipal waste ends at landfill. [Note: measured using the ex NI193 as published by Defra's waste statistics annually].
1.4	By 2020/21, the KRP will develop a joint approach to facilitate the procurement of third sector/reuse providers/charities in managing and delivering a reuse service for bulky waste.
1.5	The KRP will explore the possibility of implementing recycling on-the-go initiatives, and other similar activities aimed at recovering resources and help reduce litter. The KRP will also look to engage and work with the supply chain to deliver recycling on-the-go in key areas of high footfall e.g. towns, beaches etc.
1.6	The KRP will publish its Materials End Destinations Publication on an annual basis and continue its transparent approach to reflect where all material resources end up.

<b>2.</b>	<b>Value for Money for Kent Taxpayers</b>
2.1	The KRP will deliver value for money to Kent residents by maximising joint service delivery opportunities between its councils; cross-boundary working and ensuring all opportunities to realise economy of scale savings through procurement exercises are delivered.
2.2	The KRP will continue to build on its reputation as a leading resource partnership and work with the supply chain to deliver research projects, services and campaigns. As with previous successes, the KRP will continue to seek external funding opportunities, where possible.
2.3	The KRP will retain its focus on food waste as a priority waste stream and support, through the sharing of good practice and identification of joint opportunities, separate collection for discarded food waste on a weekly basis for all residents by 2020/21 where possible.
2.4	The KRP will develop a joint approach to tackling littering, fly-tipping and other related enviro-crimes which would be underpinned by creating a culture of sharing high quality intelligence within the KRP and with others where appropriate e.g. Highways England, Environment Agency, Kent Police, neighbouring local authorities and others.
2.5	The KRP will facilitate the sharing of resources both in terms of communication campaigns linked to priority actions and focus areas, and in terms of ensuring local intelligence and information can be shared across the County.
2.6	The KRP will support its councils in ensuring first class health and safety standards are maintained across the County. This includes employees (& potential employees) have the skills, training and competencies to meet the increasingly technical requirements of the resource management and waste sector.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Engagement, Collaboration and Partnership Working</b>
3.1	The KRP will identify opportunities for joint working and realise greater efficiency savings. This to be achieved by maximising on economies of scale and implementing good practice across all aspects of its resource management and waste services, in partnership with both its own councils and through developing new relationships across the supply chain.
3.2	The KRP will continue to maximise engagement with national and local government and those operating across the supply chain, and wider industry bodies through representation on forums, networks, working groups, and through its own Annual Conference.
3.3	The KRP will produce an Annual Report that reflects the focus and priorities of the previous financial year in delivering the KJMWMS, and any other activities within its remit.
3.4	The KRP will maintain a publically available Operating Framework that defines its scope, remit and procedures; review its continued operation at least in 2019 and 2024, or any other times as agreed by the KRP.
3.5	The KJMWMS will be fully reviewed in 2021/22; or at any other times as agreed by the KRP; or in accordance with any changes in legislation relating to such strategies.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Future Thinking</b>
4.1	<p>The KRP will research activities that will provide an evidence base to enable a more detailed review of the KJMWMS from 2021/22 onwards. This would include focus on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aligning with key policies such as the EU Circular Economy Package, 25 Year Environment Plan and the imminent Resource &amp; 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.</li><li>• Exploring the possibility of extending the partnership and reviewing potential opportunities for greater cross-boundary working;</li><li>• Considering requirements to secure infrastructure to enhance and develop the network of local resource management and waste facilities. This may include the development of consistent collection specifications across all councils as a means to attract future investment and infrastructure.</li><li>• Developing other metrics and means to focus on quality and value of resources as opposed to traditional weight based targets; and</li><li>• Target material streams and/or specific sectors in order to identify and implement management options within a more circular context.</li></ul>

## **Appendix II – KJWMS Consultation Summary**

During the KJWMS consultation period, 29 responses were received. They ranged from local Parish Councils, Kent councils, and key organisations across the supply chain the KRP have worked with over the years. All responses supported the KRP's decision to refresh its KJWMS with the following key themes:

### **Residual household waste per household tonnage**

Stakeholders welcomed the KRP's ambition to decrease the residual household waste per household tonnage across Kent. It was highlighted one of the optimum ways to achieve this was through reduced residual waste frequency or capacity. This was supported alongside the consistency in collections as outlined below.

### **Landfill performance**

Stakeholders noted the significant improvement to Kent's landfill performance where in 2012/13 performance was recorded at 21.0% 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.

### **'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 'on the go' recycling has a role to reducing litter too. As a starting point, it was suggested it might be best to focus on areas of high footfall or biggest emotive areas e.g. towns, beaches etc.

### **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 council's already (or expected to) offer a separate food recycling service to its residents. Consistency in collections & quality recyclates

Stakeholders highlighted how providing consistent recycling and waste services can result in high quality recyclates, as proven in Kent. Stakeholders 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.

### **Transition to other metrics (as opposed to traditional weight-based targets)**

Stakeholders welcomed the KRP's proactive approach to research alternative metrics on waste and resource efficiency in Kent. There was a particular sub-theme focused on using carbon and further work was needed on this nationally too. It was therefore highlighted the KRP may wish to reference in its refreshed KJWMS though wait upon further guidance as part of the Resource & Waste Strategy which is likely to be published later this year by Defra.

## **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 imminent 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.