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**TEES VALLEY JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Nick Wallis,  
Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio**

**Responsible Director - Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Cabinet approval for the adoption of the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy (TVJWMS 2008), attached as **Appendix 1**.

**Summary**

2. Darlington Borough Council joined the other four Tees Valley authorities, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Middlesbrough Borough Council, Hartlepool Borough Council and Stockton Borough Council, in the development of a Joint Waste Management Strategy for the Tees Valley authorities. Initial work on the production of the strategy commenced initially with the other four Borough Councils with Darlington joining the partnership midway through the process, although Darlington were involved as a stakeholder from the start. The strategy was developed by Entec Consultants, who were appointed to complete the strategy and supporting documentation in order to comply with the latest DEFRA guidance on Municipal Joint Waste Management Strategy. Funding of £80,000 over the two years was secured for the development of the strategy and supporting documentation from DEFRA's Direct Consultancy Support Scheme.
3. The Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy 2008:
  - (a) Updates the Tees Valley Joint Waste Strategy 2002 (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Middlesbrough Borough Council, Hartlepool Borough Council and Stockton Borough Council) and Darlington's Interim Waste Management Strategy from 2003.
  - (b) Recognises significant success in implementing the previous strategy, increasing recycling and diversion from landfill.
  - (c) Includes the requirement of the National Waste Strategy for England and Wales.
  - (d) Accounts for the new targets and considerations, including climate change and the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS).

- (e) Formalises Darlington Borough Council as an active member of the TVJMWS 2008.
  - (f) Runs to 2020, the date at which the energy from the waste disposal contract with Sita expires with the other Tees Valley authorities and Darlington Borough Council's new waste management contract also expires.
4. The TVJWMS 2008 has six agreed key principles:
- (a) To reduce waste generation
  - (b) To be achievable and affordable
  - (c) To work towards zero landfill
  - (d) To minimise the impact of climate change
  - (e) To have an accountable and deliverable structure
  - (f) To contribute towards economic regeneration
5. Each of the five local authorities will have individual implementation plans detailing how the policies in the strategy will be delivered for each individual Council.
6. Darlington's implementation plan will be developed in the coming months and refreshed annually. The implementation plan will be monitored through the Tees Valley Waste Management Group and an annual report presented to the Economy and Environment Scrutiny.

### **Recommendation**

7. It is recommended that:
- (a) Cabinet approve and adopt the TVJWMS 2008 and supporting documents.
  - (b) Officers produce an implementation plan during 2008 specific to Darlington Borough Council that will be refreshed annually.

### **Reasons**

8. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
- (a) To enable Darlington to continue to work in partnership with the other Tees Valley authorities on developing and delivering a sustainable waste management service.
  - (b) To enable Darlington, through its individual implementation plan, to deliver the policies within the TVJWMS 2008.

**Cliff Brown**  
**Director of Community Services**

### **Background Papers**

- (a) Background information and baseline
- (b) Review of waste awareness and minimisation techniques

- (c) Review of waste collection systems
- (d) Review of waste treatment technologies
- (e) Options appraisal

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S17 Crime and Disorder	It is not believed that there is a significant impact as a result of this strategy on crime and disorder within the Borough, although waste placed out for collection can result in secondary fires.
Health and Well Being	The collection and management of waste throughout the Borough does have a significant impact on the health and well being of individuals.
Sustainability	The purpose of the Joint Waste Management Strategy is to ensure that the Tees Valley authorities manage waste sustainably, having a positive impact on climate change.
Diversity	Policies in the waste strategy will be applied universally across the borough and will not unfairly discriminate against any individual.
Wards Affected	All Wards.
Groups Affected	The strategy affects all parts of the community.
Budget and Policy Framework	<p>The production of the strategy was funded through a DEFRA grant and therefore there is no financial impact on the authority. Delivery of the policies within the strategy will be through existing budgets and if additional resources are required, approval will be sought through the Council's budget process or Cabinet.</p> <p>The strategy sets out policies for the management of waste across the Tees Valley authorities but does not make any changes to the existing Council Policy Framework.</p>
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The TVJWMS 2008 sets out how the Council intends to manage waste until 2020 in partnership with the other Tees Valley authorities. This strategy will assist the Council in achieving the greener theme within the Sustainable Community Strategy, One Darlington: Perfectly Placed.

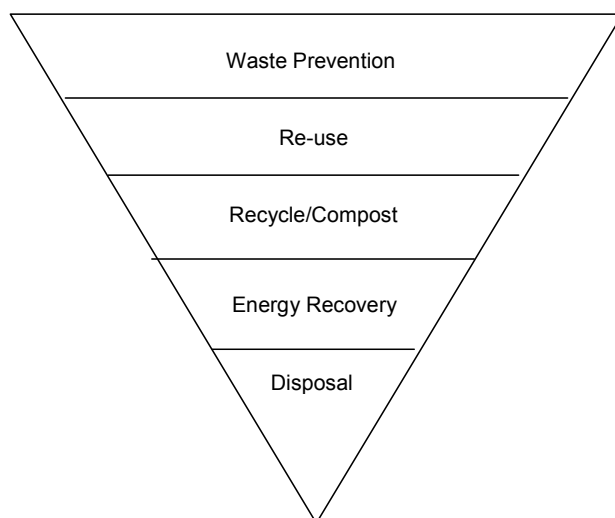
## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

9. For the past ten months, officers of Darlington Borough Council have been working with partner authorities across Tees Valley, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC), Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC), Middlesbrough Borough Council (MBC) and Stockton Borough Council (SBC) producing a Joint Waste Management Strategy. The other four authorities commenced the process of the production of the strategy with Darlington joining midway through the process. The new TVJWMS 2008 (attached as **Appendix 1**) replaces the previous Tees Valley Joint Waste Strategy and Darlington's Interim Waste Management Strategy. Funding for production of the strategy was secured through DEFRA's Direct Consultancy Support Scheme to the value of £80,000 over the two-year period.
10. The TVJWMS 2008 runs from 2008 through to 2020, at which point the existing contract that the other four Tees Valley authorities have with Sita and Darlington's new contract with Stonegrave Aggregates come to an end. The five authorities were assisted in the production of the TVJWMS 2008 and supporting documentation by Entec Consultants, who were appointed by DEFRA.
11. Each disposal authority has a duty to produce or participate in a municipal waste management strategy. The TVJWMS 2008 sets out how we will work together over the coming years to meet the requirements of the National Waste Strategy for England 2007 and to ensure a more sustainable future for local residents.
12. The strategy has been developed using the most recent guidance from the Department for Environment, Food and Local Affairs (DEFRA). It has been developed in tandem with a sustainability appraisal, which has shaped the content of the strategy. This incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.
13. The production of the TVJWMS 2008 included involvement from key stakeholders in the waste management sector and statutory bodies. In addition, consultation with residents was also carried out on the draft headline strategy, which is discussed later in this report.
14. The strategy focuses on municipal waste, which includes:
  - (a) Waste collected directly from households by the Tees Valley authorities. This includes waste for disposal to landfill and waste that is collected for recycling and composting. It also includes other collections including clinical collections and special bulky collections.
  - (b) Any waste that is collected by the authorities at their Household Waste Recycling Centres or bring sites.
  - (c) Other waste that is collected by the authorities from their own premises including their own offices and schools and waste generated by individual services, including parks and highways.

- (d) Waste collected by each authority through their street cleaning and litter picking operations and waste that is cleared from fly tipping incidents.
  - (e) Commercial waste that the local authorities have been requested to collect.
15. The TVJWMS 2008 is supported by a series of technical documents, which have been prepared to assist in the decision-making process. These include:
- (a) Background information and baseline
  - (b) Review of waste awareness and minimisation techniques
  - (c) Review of waste collection systems
  - (d) Review of waste treatment technologies
  - (e) Options appraisal
16. The delivery of the strategy is individual to each authority therefore there will be an implementation plan designed specifically for each local authority identifying how they will deliver the policies within their geographical boundaries. By adopting this process allows individual circumstances in each of the Borough Councils to be taken into consideration.
17. There are six key principles that have been developed as part of the strategy production:
- (a) To reduce waste generation
  - (b) To be achievable and affordable
  - (c) To work towards zero landfill
  - (d) To minimise the impact on climate change
  - (e) To have an accountable and deliverable structure
  - (f) To contribute towards economic regeneration
18. There are a number of key drivers for change that have been taken into account when producing the TVJWMS 2008;
- (a) European Waste Framework Directive

This directive introduced the concept of the waste hierarchy with waste prevention being the most desirable option through to disposal, the least desirable.



(b) The Landfill Directive

This directive was introduced by the European Union to minimise the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) going to landfill. Biodegradable waste is organic material that breaks down, producing a mixture of greenhouse gases that can contribute to climate change. The national targets are:

- (i) By 2010 to reduce the amount of BMW to landfill to 75% of that produced in 1995.
- (ii) By 2013 to reduce the amount of BMW to landfill to 50% of that produced in 1995.
- (iii) By 2020 to reduce the amount of BMW to landfill to 35% of that produced in 1995.

Through the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) each authority has annual targets to achieve.

(c) The Household Waste Recycling Act

This Act places a general duty on local authorities to ensure that by December 2010 they collect at least two recyclable wastes together or individually, separated from the rest of the household waste stream.

(d) National Waste Strategy

The Waste Strategy for England 2007 was published by DEFRA in May 2007. Among various targets sets, recycling and composting targets of:

- (i) At least 40% by 2010
- (ii) 45% by 2015
- (iii) 50% by 2020

18. At the time of the production of the strategy, existing targets in the Local Area Agreements of individual authorities were used. In Darlington's case, these have been reviewed in light of the new waste management contract and Cabinet report on the Recycling and Composting Strategy (8 July 2008). The option adopted by the Council now sets a recycling target of up to 60% by 2020.
19. Due to the complex nature of waste management, including collection, recycling, composting, reprocessing, treatment and disposal, the six key principles of the strategy could potentially be achieved through a large number of different options. A total of 81 potential options were considered against a range of screening criteria from which nine were shortlisted for further appraisal.
20. Following a more detailed appraisal of the shortlisted options that included assessment against sustainability criteria along with qualitative and quantitative testing, the most suitable high level option for which policies and actions were developed, providing a sustainable

future for the Tees Valley was:

- (a) A new approach to waste awareness and minimisation
- (b) A new approach to waste collection
- (c) Additional waste treatment facilities to divert additional waste from landfill
- (d) Continued use of the energy from waste facility for waste recovery for the other four Tees Valley authorities

21. This preferred option was used to inform the development of the policies that are common to both the headline strategy and individual implementation plans, which are as follows:

(a) **Policy 1**

We will continue to work together in partnership with other stakeholders in order to ensure sustainable waste management within the Tees Valley to protect the natural environment. We will strive for sub-regional self sufficiency and be mindful of the proximity principle.

(b) **Policy 2**

We will ensure that the services delivered by Tees Valley authorities implement methods of sustainable waste management in line with the waste hierarchy.

(c) **Policy 3**

We will work with partners to promote waste awareness and minimisation and encourage householders, schools and local businesses to reduce the impact of their behaviour with regard to their waste stream. We will work towards limiting the growth rate as agreed in the Regional Spatial Strategy.

(d) **Policy 4**

We will increase the proportion of material that is collected for recycling and composting through kerbside schemes, bring sites and household waste recycling centres.

(e) **Policy 5**

We will maximise the amount of material that is recycled, composted and recovered from the residual waste stream.

(f) **Policy 6**

We will minimise the amount of waste that is disposed of in line with our principle of working towards zero waste to landfill.

**(g) Policy 7**

We will regularly review this strategy in consultation with stakeholders and the public to ensure that it links with other plans and strategies.

22. It is intended to monitor the delivery of this strategy through the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Group. Darlington Borough Council's individual implementation plan will be monitored on an annual basis through the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

**Outcome of Consultation**

23. The development of the strategy has included consultation with key stakeholders in the waste management industry and statutory bodies.
24. Consultation has also taken place with Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 11 October 2007 and 28 February 2008 and the Darlington Environmental Forum on 3 December 2007.
25. In addition, public consultation was carried out across Tees Valley. In Darlington, this was through the Talking Together events and a questionnaire placed in key Council buildings and on the website.
26. In total, within Tees Valley 442 responses were received through the consultation exercise. Two key questions were asked of the public, the first one "How strongly do you agree or disagree that we should be aiming towards the key principles of the strategy?" Only 1% of the total responses received either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the principles.
27. The second question sought views from the public on the preferred option. In total 75 respondents provided comments, with the majority of these comments concerning waste collection.
28. The results of the public consultation are included in the supporting document, Public Consultation Responses.