

TEES VALLEY WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

**Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Nick Wallis, Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio**

**Responsible Director -
Ian Williams, Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval from Cabinet to adopt the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy (JWMS) following an eight-week consultation period, which closed on 3 December 2018.

Summary

2. The five Tees Valley Local Authorities are currently developing an outline business case for the options on the future of waste treatment/disposal post 2025 when existing contractual arrangements come to an end. As part of this process, the JWMS for Tees Valley has been reviewed, refreshed and updated to take account of current policy direction.
3. Cabinet at their meeting on 11 September 2018 approved the consultation exercise on the JWMS, which ran for an eight-week period from 1 October 2018. The other four Tees Valley Local Authorities have also carried out a similar consultation exercise with their residents.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) Members note the response to the consultation.
 - (b) Approve the adoption of the JWMS for Tees Valley covering the period 2020 to 2035.

Reasons

5. The recommendations are supported to adopt the JWMS enabling the Council to develop its own action plan to deliver the aims and objectives from the strategy.

**Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	The content of this report does not impact on crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	Effective safe management of waste can have a positive impact on the health and well being of residents.
Carbon Impact	As part of the production of the JWMS, the impact of carbon has been considered and modelled against the various options.
Diversity	There is no impact on diversity as a result of this report.
Wards Affected	There is no impact on any ward particularly as a result of this report, however should collection methods be changed in the future, it would impact on all Wards and all residents.
Groups Affected	No particular group is affected as a result of this report.
Budget and Policy Framework	This is not a change to the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	Yes as it affects all wards
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Waste management from collection to treatment/disposal has an impact on the Perfectly Placed agenda.
Efficiency	There is no impact on the Council's efficiency agenda as a result of this report.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

Background

6. Consultation has now taken place on the proposed JWMS across the five Tees Valley Local Authorities and the outcome of the consultation is covered later in this report.
7. The Council entered into a medium term contract with Stonegrave Aggregate in April 2009 for 11 years to run through to March 2020. The contract is for the treatment, recycling and disposal of all local authority waste. The intention at the outset was for the contract to be co-terminus with the other four Tees Valley Authorities who are currently under contract with Suez (formerly SITA) to then give the opportunity for a large-scale procurement post 2020. Since the award of the initial contract, both Darlington and the other four Tees Valley Authorities have extended their contracts to 2025; again remaining co-terminus.
8. In order to plan for the future and place the Tees Valley in the strongest position, the Tees Valley Chief Executives agreed to develop a strategic outline business case to progress options for post 2025. Key to this is providing not only a long-term solution for dealing with waste but also a tangible contribution to local economic growth, turning our waste into opportunity and supporting the circular economy.
9. Underlining the strategic outline business case, the following outcomes of this programme of work were agreed:
 - (a) Have a well-developed alternative option to contract extension giving the strong negotiating position in 2025 (with work beginning in 2017/18 in order to have enough development time for credible options).
 - (b) Have a well-developed long-term solution and Waste Strategy 2025-2045 and beyond to provide certainty and financial stability for each authority.
 - (c) Provide increased benefit from energy output of the Energy for Waste (EFW) where the current contract does not (relevant to the other four Tees Valley Authorities).
 - (d) Contribute positively to the local circular economy, for example helping local energy intensive industries or extracting useful materials to be used locally.
 - (e) Provide opportunities to increase recycling of our waste.
 - (f) Contribute positively to the future regeneration and infrastructure of key development sites.
 - (g) Promote jobs and growth.

Delivery of the Outline Business Case

10. One essential element to providing the Outline Business Case (OBC) is to ensure it is consistent with a valid waste management strategy, in this case one that is

adopted by all Tees Valley Authorities.

11. The existing JWMS only covers the period up to 2020 and so it needs to be refreshed and updated to take account of current policy direction. The Councils have agreed that the new refreshed JWMS will cover the period from 2020 to 2035.

Joint Waste Management Strategy for Tees Valley

12. The JWMS for the Tees Valley, attached as **Appendix 1**, sets out the Council's approach to the management of local authority collected waste over the period from 2020 to 2035. The strategy will be supported by action plans that will provide the detail of each individual Council's activities at a local level. These will be prepared separately by each individual Council.
13. The strategy document has been developed in conjunction with:
 - (a) An options appraisal, attached as **Appendix 2**, which considers a number of different ways to achieve the outcomes in this strategy, and
 - (b) A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), attached as **Appendix 3**, which has been carried out to assess if the proposed strategy is likely to have any adverse impact on the environment.
14. A review of existing and proposed policy at local, regional and national level has been carried out to inform the key themes of the JWMS. These were developed and agreed with Members (DBC representative Councillor Carson) and officers at a workshop in March 2018.
15. At the same time, the SEA scoping document was developed to ensure that the environmental issues most important to the Tees Valley area are included in the SEA.
16. The SEA scoping document was then subsequently sent out to the statutory consultees during June and July, and any responses received have been taken into account in the drafting of the SEA report that will accompany the JWMS for public consultation.
17. A second workshop was then held in May 2018 with officers to agree the evaluation criteria by which the strategy options were to be assessed together with weighting/prioritisation. This built on the earlier discussions with Members and officers at the March workshop. This process has now been completed and an options appraisal report produced.
18. The key stages in the options appraisal process have included:
 - (a) Firstly developing the waste strategy objectives through workshop sessions with officers and Elected Members from each of the representative Councils that included identifying key issues/drivers for the strategy and by considering the policy and legislative context.
 - (b) Identifying options for delivery of waste strategy objectives.

- (c) Agreed the options appraisal process, i.e. the assessment method scoring of evaluation criteria and weighting of the evaluation criteria.
- (d) Undertaking a detailed appraisal of each of the options based on the agreed evaluation criteria to help identify a preferred option.

19. The options considered were:

- (a) Do nothing
- (b) Residual waste solutions
 - (i) Further contract extensions
 - (ii) New built energy recovery facility
 - (iii) New built refuse derived fuel facility
 - (iv) Utilising third party energy recovery facility capacity
- (c) Collection solutions
 - (i) High efficiency
 - (ii) Higher recycling performance
 - (iii) Prevention, reuse and recycling initiatives
 - (iv) Combination of options

20. The preferred option selected was:

- (a) The adoption of prevention, reuse and recycling initiatives
- (b) The introduction of higher recycling performance collection
- (c) A new energy recovery facility with the ability to utilise the heat produced through the development of combined heat and power facility.

21. It should be noted that the options are consistent with the existing JWMS.

22. Essentially the new JWMS is an update version of the previous strategy. This strategy sets out the approach to the sustainable management of waste within the Tees Valley and the priorities for action over the next 15 years. It provides a framework for how the Councils will work towards reducing the amount of waste produced to recycle as much material as possible and find the most sustainable solution to deal with any waste that remains.

Tees Valley Vision for the Future – Sustainable Waste Management

23. The Tees Valley JWMS was built on the aims and objectives of the existing strategy and developed in conjunction with Members and officers. It aims to deliver:

A high quality, accessible and affordable waste management service that contributes to:

- (i) Economic regeneration including employment and a more circular economy**
- (ii) The protection of the environment and natural resources**
- (iii) Reducing the carbon impact of waste management**
- (iv) Delivers customer satisfaction**
- (v) Reduces the amount of waste generated by households in the Councils**
- (vi) Increases reuse and recycling**
- (vii) Maximises recovery of waste**
- (viii) Works towards zero waste to landfill**

24. The Tees Valley Authorities work in partnership and are committed to work towards this vision for waste management and support the necessary changes in behaviour and practice to make this happen, whilst at the same time balancing financial commitments and budgets, and delivering a high quality service, supporting local self-sufficiency.

Timescales

25. The timescales associated with developing a new treatment option to replace the current arrangements across Tees Valley are such that it is essential that the JWMS is adopted in January 2019 to allow for the future procurement exercise for a new waste treatment/disposal contract to take place.

Financial Implications

26. The Tees Valley Authorities outline business case for waste treatment and disposal 2025 is being funded by the Combined Authority.
27. Following the completion of the OBC in the next two/three months, depending on the outcome, a further report will be brought to Cabinet with regard to the financial implications for the next stages of the process, which will include the requirement to move to a procurement project for a waste management solution for the Tees Valley post 2025.

Consultation

28. Consultation has taken place across the Tees Valley to the relevant Scrutiny Committees as well as opening up to the public via the various Councils' websites.
29. With regard to Darlington, Place Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Joint Waste Management Strategy on 25 October 2018, receiving a presentation from Local Partnerships who are leading the work. The Committee resolved:

- (a) That the thanks of this Committee be extended to the Project Director for his informative presentation;
 - (b) That the Project Director be invited to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee prior to delivery of the draft outline business case in March 2019.
30. The public consultation was advertised on the Council's website, social media and local press. The same was also done across the other four Tees Valley Authorities. In the case of Darlington, only one response has been received.

I would like to see more solid initiatives to reduce waste generation in the area. This means working directly with retailers, and I have no idea how much local authorities are able to control what retailers sell, if at all. I saw some mentions of a 'smart shopping' initiative, but I couldn't find any more about this. Shoppers can only buy what local shops offer and in a price range that they can afford. Even shoppers who are aware of how to only buy enough food and essentials to use before they expire will produce a lot of waste due to the packaging.

Ideally, I would like to see a reduction of all packaging in shops. Currently Darlington has no bulk buying shops, where residents could go to pick up dry groceries such as pasta and rice in reusable containers, eliminating the need for plastic bags. Darlington made residents aware recently that they are no longer recycling tetrapaks. It would then follow that retailers in Darlington should avoid selling cartons made of this material and instead sell in cans or glass bottles. It would be great to see bottle return schemes make a comeback. I would also like other initiatives such as single use plastic cups being removed from water coolers in offices and encouraging businesses to provide more glasses and mugs. This may sound trivial, but to make a difference we need people to change their attitudes to single use items as well as retailers changing their packaging.

31. Through the new strategy, the Council will be working with the Tees Valley Authorities on the waste reduction agenda, working closely with residents and businesses. The Government previously legislated to reduce packaging and through the new National Waste Strategy will no doubt be looking to further incentivise businesses to reduce packaging or extend legislation. The Council is working within its own premises to reduce single use plastics and will look at further opportunities to reduce waste and increase recycling.