

This Draft Report will be made public on 8 April 2019

Report Number **C/18/59**

To: Cabinet
Date: 19 June 2019
Status: Non Key
Head of service: Roger Walton, Head of Environmental Services
Cabinet Member: Cllr Stuart Peall, Environment

SUBJECT: KENT JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REFRESH

SUMMARY: The 13 Kent Councils working together through the Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) adopted the first Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (KJMWMS) in 2007. The strategy was refreshed and adopted in 2012 and the KRP has been working over the past year to update the strategy further, this report seeks Cabinet agreement to adopt the refreshed KJMWMS objectives and policies. This is a common report being considered by each of the Kent authorities.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Kent Resource Partnership is a partnership between the 12 District Councils and the Kent County Council. District Councils collect discarded household materials in Kent and the County Council deal with what happens to it afterwards. Through the Kent Resource Partnership we look at how we can improve waste management in Kent, the KJMWMS form the foundations of this work.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report C/18/59.
2. That Members consider the refreshed KJMWMS objectives and policies 2018/19 to 2020/21 as at Appendix 2 and adopt these as being the policy for this Council.

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The 13 Kent Councils (12 Kent Districts and the County Council) who form the Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) has been in place since 2007 and is now recognised as a national peer leader in deriving firm benefits from partnership working between Councils and wider stakeholders.
- 1.2 The elected Members with responsibility for recycling and waste services form the KRP Members Board. Directors and Heads of Service form the KRP Officers Advisory Group. Each group meets three times a year to take forward all policies and issues relating to the 13 Councils recycling and waste functions.
- 1.3 The original KJMWMS was first adopted in 2007. The strategy sets out how Kent would manage its resource materials and household waste up to 2021. This was refreshed in 2012/13 with a view to refreshing the strategy again in 2016/17 if required.
- 1.4 In February 2016, the KRP Members Board agreed to delay the refresh for the following reasons:
 - KCC were developing their Waste Disposal Strategy for 2017 to 2035.
 - The European Commission had published details in December 2017 that would change the European Framework Directive 2008.
 - The current KJMWMS targets, policies and objectives remained valid up to 2020/21.
- 1.5 In February 2018 the KRP Members Board approved the consultation process to obtain views of KRP Stakeholders on the refresh of the KJMWMS. A copy of the consultation document is provided at Appendix 1.
- 1.6 On 6th July the KRP Members Board approved the refreshed strategy with a view to formally adopting the strategy by each of the 13 Councils that form the KRP.

2. THE REFRESHED KJMWMS

- 2.1 During the KJMWMS consultation period 29 responses were received. They ranged from local Parish Councils, Kent Councils and key organisations across the supply chain that the KRP have worked with over the years. All responses supported the KRPs decision to refresh its KJMWMS with the following themes:
- 2.2 **Residual Household Waste Per Household Tonnage** – Stakeholders welcomed the KRPs ambition to decrease the residual household waste tonnage across Kent. It was highlighted that one of the optimum ways to achieve this appeared to be through reduced residual waste collection frequency or capacity. This was supported alongside the consistency in collections as outlined below. Folkestone & Hythe DC reduced its refuse collection frequency some years ago and this did impact positively on the amount of residual waste collected.

- 2.3 Following the meeting of Cabinet on the 17th October 2018, it was agreed to continue with the same recycling and waste collection methodology as presently implemented across the district when the new service arrangements start in 2021, this decision supports the refreshed strategy policies.
- 2.4 **Landfill Performance** – Stakeholders noted the significant improvement to Kent's landfill performance where in 2012/13 performance was recorded at 21% 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.
- 2.5 **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 that policy 1.5 could be strengthened and reflect the role that 'on the go' recycling has on reducing litter too. As a starting point, it was suggested it might be best to focus on areas of high footfall or busiest areas e.g. towns, beaches etc.
- 2.6 **Food Recycling** – Stakeholders reflected how policy 2.3 would reinforce the KRPs recycling ambitions up to 2020 and beyond. This has proven to be the case already in Kent with the majority of Kent Councils already (or expected to) offer a separate food recycling service to its residents.
- 2.7 **Consistency in Collections & Quality Recycling** – Stakeholders highlighted how providing consistent recycling and waste services can result in high quality recyclates as proven in Kent. Stakeholder's 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.
- 2.8 Folkestone & Hythe DC changed to one of the preferred collection methods in WRAPs framework for greater consistency in household recycling in England in 2011, when the enhanced recycling and waste collection service was introduced. Along with the other three East Kent authorities of Canterbury, Dover and Thanet, Folkestone & Hythe are used as a positive case study within WRAPs framework, highlighting that collections are consistent across East Kent.
- 2.9 **Transition to Other Metrics** (as opposed to traditional weight based targets) – Stakeholders welcomed the KRPs proactive approach to research alternative metrics on waste and resource efficiency in Kent. There was a particular sub-theme focused on using carbon targets, further work is also being explored nationally. It was therefore highlighted that the KRP may wish to reference this in its refreshed KJMWMS, though it is thought that it would be prudent to wait upon further guidance when the Resource & Waste Strategy is published by Defra in December 2018.
- 2.10 **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.

2.11 Taking account of these themes, at Appendix 2 is the refreshed KJMWMS.

3. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

3.1 Legal Officer's Comments (DK)

There are no legal implications arising directly out of this report.

3.2 Finance Officer's Comments (RH)

There are no costs therefore no financial implications.

3.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

4. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

Mandy Pile, Waste Services Manager

Telephone: 07740560939

Email: mandy.pile@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1: KJMWMS Consultation Document

Appendix 2: Refreshed KJMWMS 2018/19 to 2020/21