

Report to	<b>Scrutiny Committee for Transport and Environment</b>
Date	<b>24 November 2010</b>
Report By	<b>Director of Transport and Environment</b>
Title of Report	<b>Joint Waste Management</b>
Purpose of Report	<b>To update the Committee on Joint Waste Management Initiatives.</b>

---

**RECOMMENDATION: To consider progress on a joint approach to waste management in East Sussex.**

---

## **1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 Waste Disposal is the biggest single area of spend within the Transport and Environment Department, with the PFI Contract payments amounting to around £26.3m annually. The net value of collection services across East Sussex exceeds £15m per annum giving a total value over a normal contractual 7-year period of £105m.

## **2 Background**

2.1 East Sussex County Council is the Planning Authority for the management of all waste and the Disposal Authority for household waste. This paper provides an update on joint initiatives within each of these roles.

## **3 Joint Initiatives**

3.1 The 3000 responses to the consultation on the Waste & Minerals Core Strategy, which we are developing jointly with Brighton & Hove City Council, highlighted the need for better communication and understanding on the part of the Councils. We have addressed this through a much more open dialogue with communities and individuals, including two fact sheets to date. The clear message from the consultation responses was that many people are opposed to land raise and landfill in principle and more specifically on the areas of land identified in the Preferred Strategy for these purposes. Our main focus is therefore on identifying alternatives to landfill, although any alternative plan will have to take account of emerging Government policies on waste and planning, which are unlikely to be finalised before next spring.

3.2 Earlier this year, the County Council entered into a Waste Recycling Cost Sharing Agreement (WRCSA) with the 5 Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) to provide further incentives to increase recycling. This replaced the previous system of recycling credits and incentivises additional recycling, whether it is delivered into the PFI contract or elsewhere. One key feature is joint decision-making by the East Sussex Waste Resource Strategy Group on changes to waste disposal arrangements to ensure that these reflect the collective interests of all six authorities. These arrangements are working well.

3.3 Three WCAs (Eastbourne, Hastings and Rother) currently have waste contracts delivered by three different private sector waste companies, whilst Lewes and Wealden operate their services with in-house teams. A joint project is examining the feasibility of a Joint Collection Contract, including the potential improvement in service to residents and financial savings to all East Sussex waste authorities. All six waste authorities are committed to a more collaborative approach to waste collection and disposal. This work on joint

procurement could deliver real benefits to all authorities and residents in East Sussex, and all WCAs apart from Lewes District Council are committed to taking part.

3.4 The current Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) for the county is being reviewed by all 6 East Sussex Waste Authorities. The aim of the review is to ensure that the JMWMS continues to provide the right strategic framework for the way we manage waste in East Sussex, in line with the Government's waste hierarchy, with the prevention of waste and minimisation of landfill as priorities. The full terms of reference are set out in Appendix 1.

3.5 The East Sussex Waste Resource Strategy Group oversees both the JMWMS and WRCSA between Waste Collection Authorities and the Waste Disposal Authority. It has been agreed that member governance will be delivered through the East Sussex Waste Portfolio Holders Group (WPHG), comprising the relevant portfolio holder from each of the district, borough and county councils in East Sussex. The Group will consider annual reports on the operation of the WRCSA and JMWMS and question officers on any aspect of the WRCSA or JMWMS, as well as being provided with any relevant audit or similar reports. Members have the discretion to call additional meetings between annual meetings if they identify matters of concern requiring urgent attention.

3.6 ESCC is actively involved in the SE7 waste workstream, led by Kent County Council. This workstream has included the waste planning role of upper tier authorities as well as the waste disposal role. Shorter term projects include possible collaboration on the management of closed landfill sites and waste prevention and minimisation. For the longer term work is in hand to assess the waste management capacity across the whole SE7 area against projected waste streams, including commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste. The aim is to identify the potential for long-term strategic collaboration on management of all waste across the SE7 area.

## **4 Conclusion**

4.1 Good progress has been made in joint working on waste with local authority partners in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove and the SE7 area. Scrutiny Committee is invited to note this report, ask for any further detail and consider progress.

RUPERT CLUBB  
Director of Transport and Environment

Contact Officer: Andy Robertson                      Tel. No: 01273 481722

Local Member: All

Background Documents  
None

**East Sussex Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Review 2010-2020  
Project Team Draft Terms of Reference**

1. To review the achievement of targets set out in the current Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (the Strategy) up to and including 2009/10
2. To forecast municipal waste arisings and municipal waste sent for recycling, composting, energy recovery and to landfill in the period 2010/11 to 2019/20 and to present this in the context of the waste forecast to be handled through the Integrated Waste Management Services Contract (IWMSC) through to 2033
3. To establish principles for future partnership working on waste, including financial savings, improved efficiency, improved performance, environmental sustainability (including carbon impacts), flexibility and reduced risks, and customer satisfaction
4. To determine the need for, frequency, timing and scope of waste composition analyses required to understand the make up of the residual municipal waste stream
5. To review the scope of the Strategy and identify:
  - a. any changes required as a result of the current or proposed definition of municipal waste
  - b. the extent and ways in which the levels of recycling and composting of materials currently collected by the Partnership could be increased
  - c. any other materials from the municipal waste stream (including food waste) which the revised strategy should target and how this should be done
  - d. the extent and ways in which the Strategy should be broadened to include commercial and industrial (C&I) waste and recommend targets for C&I waste reduction, recovery and diversion from landfill
  - e. How well the Strategy is aligned with the emerging East Sussex Waste and Minerals Core Strategy and the review of national Waste Policy.
6. To develop a waste prevention and waste awareness plan for the Partnership, with an action plan for the period 2011/12 to 2013/14, to include a cost-effective programme of activities to reduce waste arisings and increase the quantity and quality of recyclable and compostable materials collected throughout the Partnership area
7. To review, and where appropriate propose revisions to:

- a. the objectives of the current Strategy
  - b. the targets in the current Strategy relating to household waste for residual waste arisings, recycling and composting, energy recovery, and the amount of waste sent to landfill
8. To review the policies in the current Strategy and, where appropriate, recommend revised policies
  9. In conjunction with the East Sussex Joint Waste Procurement Project, to produce a business plan of the indicative tonnages and costs and benefits (including expected revenues) arising from the implementation of the revised Strategy
  10. To identify opportunities and flexibilities in the IWMSC for minimising costs and maximising benefits to the Partnership
  11. In conjunction with the East Sussex Joint Waste Procurement Project, to make recommendations for the future provision of, and shared use of, the assets of Partnership members (e.g. DSOs, Household Waste Recycling Sites, vehicles, MRFs) and private sector waste facilities in the most cost-effective, mutually beneficial ways
  12. To identify the further investigations and research required to fully implement the revised Strategy
  13. To recommend a vision for the management of waste resources in East Sussex to 2020 based on the likely outcomes of the targets, objectives and measures proposed for the revised Strategy
  14. To maintain effective links with the East Sussex Joint Waste Procurement Project Team and provide strategic advice and assistance to the group on ways in which the joint waste procurement project could best assist in the delivery of the vision, objectives and targets of the Partnership
  15. To provide progress reports to meetings of the East Sussex Waste Resource Partnership, Waste Resource Strategy Group and Sub Groups and provide interim updates as appropriate

To produce a revised draft Strategy, agreed by the Partnership, by 31 March 2011.