

RURAL ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

6TH MARCH 2013

REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

STRATEGIC JOINT WORKING (WASTE MANAGEMENT)

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the Leicestershire Waste Partnerships (LWP) proposal to consider Strategic Joint Working (SJW) opportunities for its partners as well as Melton Borough Councils own considerations for neighbour authority joint working opportunities.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That members note the method and direction proposed within the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP) Strategic Joint Working (SJW) Leicestershire Environment Board (LEB) report : 'Strategic joint Working in Waste – A Route Map' attached (in draft) as Appendix A.**
- 2.2 **That members note and support proposed direct outline discussions with Neighbouring Authorities in regards to joint working opportunities.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The opportunities to establish a SJW approach to waste management within the County has been raised a number of times during the past decade but to date has not been progressed. Members will recall supporting this approach at its meeting of 4th September 2012.
- 3.2 There are a number of potential opportunities expected to emerge over the next few years as various Local Authority waste management contracts reach end points, points of renewal, or points at which joint working might be possible.
- 3.3 The LWP has as part of its remit, a strategic commitment to consider opportunities for greater joint working / more efficient delivery of services, including greater harmonisation of collection services as reflected in its Action Plan for 2012/13 to 2013/14 through the action, "Seek opportunities to explore strategic joint working options".
- 3.4 To meet that LWP commitment its officer sub group the 'Waste & Street Scene' group have produced a report to be taken to the February 2013 Leicestershire Together Environment Board (LEB) meeting for its support .
- 3.5 The report 'Strategic Joint Working in Waste – Route Map' is attached as Appendix A. This report was presented to the LEB at its meeting on 27th February 2013 and the outcome will be reported verbally to the Committee.
- 3.6 In summary the report proposes what is considered to be a cost effective way to explore SJW opportunities by using - the 'Route Map' approach. That approach having been designed and produced by Improvement and Efficiency South East known as iESE.
- 3.7 The organisation 'iESE' was formerly the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership and is a national lead on waste issues and is well known for supporting partnership working, and has supported other partnerships in the development of their own strategic joint working programmes.

3.8 In addition to the LWP approach to joint working, MBC waste officers are shortly to carry out early outline discussion with Harborough DC Waste Officers with regards to any potential joint working opportunities that might emerge for the two authorities as they are the first authorities within the LWP with contracts end or renewal dates, close enough to realistically consider possible joint working opportunities.

3.9 Members are asked to note the commencement of these early discussions, the outcome of which will be reported in due course for consideration

4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct policy or corporate implications as a result of this report

5.0 **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct financial or other resource implications as a result of this report.

5.2 The funding of the 'iESE' route map approach, should it be agreed, will come from existing LWP funds.

5.3 Balancing the budget needs consideration if current year on year cuts in the Local Government funding from Central Government are to be managed and addressed. The reduction in support will inevitably put pressure on all the Council's services, increasing the demand to make and take all cost saving opportunities that arise. This is particularly relevant to Waste Management as one of councils highest areas of annual expenditure. Midterm contract savings are known to be difficult to achieve, therefore initial correct contract configuration is vital .

6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report

7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no direct community safety implications as a result of this report

8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 There are not expected to be any Equalities issues as a direct result of this report

9.0 **RISKS**

9.1 To consider and give any Risks related to this report and if there are risks to complete the tables below. If there are no risks identified, then delete the table

Probability
↓

Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D			2, 3, 4	
Very Low E			1	
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic

→
Impact

Risk No.	Description
1	Failure to fully consider Strategic joint working opportunities
2	Failure to deliver the most cost effective way of delivering waste services (that generally incur annual cost increases) in the short, medium and long term
3	Failure to explore independent joint working opportunities by focussing on achieving cost savings through LWP SJW discussions resulting in lost opportunities and lost potential savings
4	Inability to align service provision with all partners.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no direct climate change implications as a result of this report

11.0 CONSULTATION

The current revised LWP strategy which cites the requirement to undertake full exploration of possible SJW within Leicestershire has been subjected to a full public consultation process.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 Waste Management services are provided to all wards within the Borough and as such any decisions or changes made in regards to domestic waste management services are likely to affect all wards.

Contact Officer: Raman Selvon, Waste Management and Environmental Maintenance Manager

Date: 15.2.13

Appendices: Appendix A 'Strategic joint Working in Waste – A Route Map'

Background Papers: None

Reference: X: Committees\?