

DISSOLUTION OF BUCKS JOINT WASTE COMMITTEE

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Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider how the Joint Waste Strategy 2014-2020 will be progressed following the dissolution of the Joint Waste Committee for Buckinghamshire.

2 Recommendations/for decision

- 2.1 That the Joint Waste Committee for Buckinghamshire be dissolved when all of the constituent authorities have given their formal agreement to do so, and that the twelve months' notice required by the Committee's Constitution be waived;
- 2.2 that the Joint Waste Partnership be retained as an **informal** entity to carry out activities to support the delivery of the Joint Waste Strategy 2014-2020;
- 2.3 that a Memorandum of Understanding, as outlined in the report of the officers, be drawn up to regulate the activities of the Joint Waste Partnership with authority being delegated to the Interim Sector Lead, Customer Fulfilment, in consultation with the Council's legal advisers to agree the precise terms;
- 2.4 that the remaining funds in the approved budget of the Joint Waste Committee, once committed expenditure has been met, be used to fund a continued fly-tipping campaign across Buckinghamshire;
- 2.5 that the grant awarded by the Department for Communities and Local Government for the Fighting Food Waste project be used to support the activities described in the bid for funding;
- 2.6 that the partner Councils give consideration to making budgetary provision for the ongoing work of the Partnership once the remaining budget has been utilised, expected to be for the financial year 2018/19 and thereafter.

3 Supporting information

- 3.1 The JWC had originally been established in 2004 to deliver the aims and objectives of the county-wide Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The JWC received a report at its last meeting, 20 January 2016, to consider how the work of the Committee could best be progressed. The report set out the background to the JWC, including its achievements since its formation in 2004.
- 3.2 New collection services and procurement contracts in all authorities, a forecast underspend of a little over £125,000 at year end 2015/16 and the Waste Partnership Officer vacancy provided an opportunity for Members to review the current partnership arrangements in place.

- 3.3 The report set out a number of options for Members to consider. During the discussion a number of Members suggested that the JWC be streamlined to improve efficiency and replace the formal decision making structure that was no longer required. A distinction was made between the formal JWC decision making structure and the Buckinghamshire Waste Partnership that referred to activities carried out jointly by the Districts and County Council and the joint branding. Members recognised the benefits of working together and were keen to continue the sharing of knowledge between authorities within the Partnership. Members were also particularly keen to continue the successful fly-tipping campaign, DCLG funded activities, and reducing littering. It was agreed by the JWC that activities to reduce littering were best carried out by the Districts due to the close links with the waste collection and street cleansing arrangements delivered by the District Councils. During the discussion it was noted that joint officer groups would be needed to enable specific projects to continue to be delivered jointly by the Partnership.
- 3.4 Section 17 of the JWC Constitution enabled the JWC to be dissolved provided that a minimum of 12 months written notice was provided, to expire on 31 March in any year. Members noted that this notice period could be waived provided that there was agreement from each participating Council's Cabinet.
- 3.5 The JWC made the following recommendations, which are now incorporated into the recommendations in this report for consideration by the Cabinets of each constituent authority:

"1. That the Joint Waste Committee for Buckinghamshire be dissolved without a minimum 12 month notice period, subject to agreement from the Cabinet of each participating Council.

2. That the Joint Waste Partnership be retained as an informal entity to carry out specific joint activities on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council and the District Councils, including the fly-tipping campaign and activities relating to the funding received from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

3. That activities to reduce littering be carried out by the District Councils."

- 3.6 The County and District waste officers are developing a Memorandum of Understanding to provide adequate governance arrangements that will regulate the work of the informal Partnership and will replace the formal constitution of the JWC.

- 3.7 The MoU will address the following issues: Rationale and Scope of the informal waste partnership, goals and objectives, governance and delivery of initiatives, including spend of the DCLG funding
- 3.8 Activities based around the Joint Waste Strategy will be ongoing, with the initial meeting of the informal Waste Partnership expected to be scheduled for September 2016.
- 3.9 An annual report will be submitted to Members to keep them informed of progress against the objectives of the Joint Waste Strategy.
- 3.10 The actions under the Joint Waste Strategy will continue to be delivered under the operational powers of the relevant Sector Lead/Director/Head of Service in each constituent authority.

4 Options considered

- 4.1 The options available for continuing to deliver the joint Waste Strategy were considered at length by the JWC and it is their recommendations that are now presented.

5 Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 Now that the Joint Waste Strategy 2014-2020 is established and all of the Buckinghamshire district councils have rolled out new collection services, the Joint Waste Committee for Buckinghamshire (JWC) has decided, subject to the formal agreement of its constituent authorities, that the Strategy can be delivered in a more efficient manner by dissolving the formal joint committee and adopting a more streamlined and less formal structure.

6 Resource implications

- 6.1 The terms of the MoU for the informal Joint Waste Partnership will be finalised in readiness for the Partnership to continue to deliver the aims of the Joint Waste Strategy and delivery of the partnership programme related to the DCLG funding will continue to require officer and partner input.
- 6.2 The JWC hold a budget surplus of around £125,000 (subject to existing commitments) and activities will be funded from that surplus until the remaining budget has been utilised, expected to be 2018/19. This funding will primarily be used to deliver the flytipping enforcement work on behalf of the Partnership.
- 6.3 Beyond 2018/19 Further budgetary provision will need to be considered by each partner of the Joint Waste Partnership and agreed at an operational budgetary level by the appropriate delegated officer