

## **BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan**

### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR PLACE TO CABINET ON 1 NOVEMBER 2017**

#### **Adoption of the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report seeks elected Member approval for the adoption of the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy.

Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham MBCs and SCC are all Unitary Councils in South Yorkshire, this means that each of them has a statutory obligation to collect and dispose of municipal waste arising across South Yorkshire. The Authorities can choose how best to deliver waste services as long as they comply with Legislation. Each Authority has their own waste strategy that has shaped their services up to now. All of these strategies would benefit from a review. It is important to review waste strategies regularly to reflect on achievements and progress towards the aims and objectives. It also allows for consideration of changes to; legislation, government targets, local objectives, new technology and increased pressures on the service.

Austerity measures and budget cuts will undoubtedly continue to impact on local authority funding. Therefore, collaborative initiatives such as the SYMWS will allow for economies of scale, cost savings and improved efficiency across the four authorities, minimising the impacts on council services

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet approve:

- The South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy Vision:-  
"To reduce, re-use, recycle, and recover energy from 95% of South Yorkshire's waste".
- The adoption of the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy.
- The Key Strategic Priorities, Strategic Outcomes, Outputs and give Officers permission to implement the SYMWS.

#### **3. INTRODUCTION**

3.1 Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield as Unitary Councils, have responsibility for both the collection and disposal of municipal waste in their area. Their existing waste strategies (listed below) have served as guides to the development of current waste management policies and practices in the districts. These documents now require updating to reflect progress in waste management including; changes in legislation, advances in technology, budget pressures, public awareness and

perceptions, increased housing numbers and associated impacts on waste arisings. These factors need to be considered and actions taken to manage waste over the longer term.

- The existing waste management guidance documents are:
- Barnsley Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007 to 2030;
- Doncaster Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2009 to 2025;
- Rotherham Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005 to 2020; and
- Sheffield's Waste Management Strategy 2009-2020
- Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan 2012 to 2027

Working together towards an overarching strategy will set a framework for efficiencies, sharing of best practice, co-ordinated developments in infrastructure and preparation for Sheffield City Region in 2017.

2.2 The aim of the SYMWS is to deliver:

- Key stakeholder engagement
- Closer working relationships across South Yorkshire
- Improving efficiency and resources
- Sharing of best practice

2.3 The SYMWS has been developed to build on the existing waste strategies. It provides a long-term direction of travel for the local collection and disposal of waste within the South Yorkshire region. The priorities within the SYMWS have been subject to public scrutiny through a consultation process and reflect the results of that process.

2.4 For the South Yorkshire region, the future of waste management will include continuing to build on the relationships already established and the progress made in moving waste up the waste hierarchy, where top priority is given to the prevention of waste followed by re-use, recycling, recovery (including energy recovery) and lastly disposal.

2.5 Through the SYMWS the South Yorkshire Councils are agreeing a joint vision:

“To reduce, re-use, recycle, and recover energy from 95% of South Yorkshire’s waste”.

2.6 To deliver this vision five priorities have been developed from the corporate plans across the region (see Appendix 1). These priorities were subject to an eight week consultation during the summer of 2016. The priorities are listed below in order of the importance to the residents of South Yorkshire.

**Priority 1** - We aim to encourage and inspire children and adults across Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield to make less waste by reducing, re-using and recycling more.

**Priority 2** – We will work hard to deliver and maintain a dependable and reliable service to all our customers.

**Priority 3** –The four Councils will work together more closely to deliver value for money services.

**Priority 4** – We will continue to explore how technology can be used to improve recycling and waste services.

**Priority 5** – We will be pro-active to influence decision-making on waste at European, national and local level, to drive investment into infrastructure within the Sheffield City Region economy.

#### **4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION**

3.1 Local authorities are faced with ever-increasing challenges. They have to deal with escalating recycling and re-use targets (the Waste Framework Directive has a target of recycling 50% of household waste by 2020) and additional pressures to reduce landfilled waste tonnages. They also have to satisfy increased customer awareness, expectations and pressures from the public. All against a backdrop of severe public sector spending cuts.

3.2 All four Authorities have to comply with the same legislation and face austerity measures.

All four Authorities have a statutory duty to collect and dispose of household waste generated within their districts. Historically the authorities have developed their waste collection services in isolation and therefore all deliver their services in slightly different ways. It has been recognised that efficiencies can be made through collaborative working in service specific areas, investing in new technologies, and investigating new smart ways of working together.

When decisions are made at a local level the nearest neighbours can see an adverse impact on their services. For example, a closure of a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC), introduction of permit schemes or implementing a charge for a certain waste stream in one area can see an increase in use at another areas HWRCs. For these reasons, officers have worked together on the SYMWS as a stepping stone to ensure harmonisation across the region.

3.3 The neighbouring councils of Sheffield, Doncaster and Rotherham have a history of working together to address waste management issues concerning recycling, cross boundary movements, capacity shortfalls, health and safety, fly tipping and public awareness campaigns.

3.4 Historically, Sheffield City have worked more independently on waste matters as their waste disposal solution is a long term integrated contract with Veolia which is due to expire in August 2036.

3.5 The scope of the SYMWS is restricted to Local Authority collected municipal waste including:

- Household waste collected at the kerbside (recycling, composting and residual)
- Local authority collected commercial waste
- HWRC Waste
- Clinical Waste
- Household bulky waste
- Gulley emptyings (not in SCC)
- Street cleansing wastes (not in SCC)
- Fly-tipping (not in SCC)

3.6 The SYMWS is a high-level strategic document with the following deliverables:

- Key stakeholder engagement
- Consideration of engagement outcomes to inform strategy directions
- Closer working relationships across South Yorkshire
- Improving efficiency and resources
- Sharing of best practice

3.7 Some of the areas where the Authorities may work together could include:

- Joint procurement of goods and services
- Seeking funding for waste infrastructure e.g. multi-material recycling facilities or Transfer Stations
- Collaborating on communications campaigns
- Working collaboratively on waste prevention and re-use initiatives

#### **4. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES**

A number of options have been considered as follows:

##### **4.1 Option 1 - Do not adopt a SYMWS**

As there is no statutory requirement for Unitary Authorities to have a waste management strategy it would be possible not to review the waste management strategy for Rotherham or any of the other Partner Authorities.

As legislation has changed and austerity measures have been implemented driving a need for efficiencies since all four Strategies were produced, failing to review the Waste Management Strategies is not recommended.

##### **4.2 Option 2 – Review the Waste Management Strategies individually**

The individual Councils could review and update their Waste Management Strategies on an individual basis.

There is a risk that by doing this independently there may be an unforeseen negative impact on the nearest neighbours. This option is, therefore, not recommended.

Option 3 - Using the Key Strategic Priorities developed from the current waste management strategies adopt a Joint Strategy.

This option would allow for the development of efficiencies when preparing the strategy document and may support collaboration through the process.

##### **4.3 Option 3 is the recommended option.**

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS**

5.1 Any savings realised as a result of collaborative working will have a positive impact on budget pressures across the authorities.

- 5.2 Implementation of the SYMWS should have positive impacts for partners and other directorates, for example, improved service and use of technology could relieve pressure on call centre staff by reducing missed bin collection reports and other associated complaints. Other positive impacts could include increased customer awareness and care when disposing of waste, leading to increased recycling rates across the region.
- 5.3 There is potential that service changes, such as resident permits for HWRCs, more expensive bulky waste collections and paying increased costs for bins, could lead to fly tipping or increased littering which would have a negative impact on other teams in the Council

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The financial costs of producing the SYMWS are projected to be £41,000. The costs will be met by splitting the cost equally across all four Councils, therefore, the cost to Barnsley Council is £10,250.
- 7.2 The costs will be met from the Community Liaison and Education budget in Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham, which is part of the Waste PFI Budget.
- 7.3 The costs of delivering the outputs of the SYMWS will be managed within the existing Waste Management Budgets of the respective Authorities, with the aim that the Strategy will deliver savings to each Authority.

## **8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 None arising from the recommendations of this report

## **9. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Future communications regarding the strategy will be subject to established cross authority protocols. Internal resources will be required and our internal communications team are fully aware of the SYWS.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield Council's Waste Management Officers and Portfolio Holders have been consulted and the Priorities of the SYMWS were subject to an eight-week consultation period, the results of this consultation were built into the strategy and the action plans.

## **11. LIST OF APPENDICES**

1. Executive Summary of the SYMWS
2. SYMWS Technical Document
3. SYWS Equality Impact Assessment

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Barnsley MWMS (adopted April 2007);
- Doncaster Waste Strategy and Action Plan (adopted 2009)

- Rotherham MWMS (adopted February 2005) and
- Sheffield Waste Management Strategy (adopted 2009)

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