

REPORT TO: Environmental Services Portfolio Holder 26 November 2013
LEAD OFFICER: Mike Hill, Director of Health and Environmental Services

COLLABORATIVE WORKING IN WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICES: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Purpose

1. To enable the Portfolio Holder to consider a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) attached as Appendix 'A' between the Council and Cambridge City Council for development of collaborative working in the provision of waste and recycling services, initially at cross border developments.
2. This is not a key decision but has been brought for consideration.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder:
 - (a) agrees the draft MoU as presented, subject to any final comments being received from Cambridge City Council.
 - (b) delegates authority to the Director Health & Environmental Services to incorporate any agreed final comments received from Cambridge City Council into the MoU in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. Agreement of the draft MoU will provide a framework of principles under which collaborative working, initially for cross border waste and recycling services, can be developed.
5. Delegated authority will enable the principles contained in the MoU to be applied in the development of supporting Service Level Agreements without undue delay.

Background

6. As part of the RECAP (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Waste Partnership) Whole System Approach to waste and recycling services the Council and Cambridge City Council are keen to explore opportunities for collaborative working in order to provide more cost efficient and effective waste and recycling services to their residents.
7. A number of major developments currently planned or underway e.g. Trumpington Meadows, North West Cambridge, the Cambridge WING development, straddle both council areas. Both councils have been working together to explore opportunities for collaborative working across these developments.

Considerations

8. Work to date has centred on considering the principles of collaboration and cooperation outlined in the recently signed RECAP Charter, and expanding and applying these at the local level, initially to cross border working between the two councils.
9. The resulting MoU outlines how the two councils have agreed to work together to explore collaborative working opportunities where such working is in the best interests of their residents and the public purse.
10. In relation to cross border developments specifically there is the presumption that there should be a single council providing waste and recycling services where it makes operational and financial sense to do so, effectively treating the whole development as if it was within the area of that single council.
11. Any cost benefits achieved through collaborative working should be shared equally between the two councils. The detailed operational, financial and policy considerations of such collaborative working will be covered in a binding Service Level Agreement (SLA), which is under development.

Options

12. The Portfolio Holder has the option to:
 - (a) Agree or not agree the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) attached as Appendix 'A' between the Council and Cambridge City Council for development of collaborative working in the provision of waste and recycling services, initially at cross border developments, subject to any final comments being received from Cambridge City Council.
 - (b) Delegate or not delegate authority to the Director for Health & Environmental Services to incorporate any agreed final comments received from Cambridge City Council into the MoU, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

Implications

13. The MoU sets a framework for the development of collaborative working arrangements between the two councils. There are no direct financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety or other key issues arising out of agreeing to the MoU. These will be addressed as part of the development of specific collaborative SLAs which will be brought back to the Portfolio Holder for consideration and agreement.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

14. No consultations have been carried out, other than within both councils, at this time.

Effect on Strategic Aims

Aim 1 - We will listen to and engage with residents, parishes and businesses to ensure we deliver first class services and value for money: (A8) Work with RECAP waste partners to reduce council tax costs, carbon impacts and waste sent to landfill

15. The recommendations will contribute directly to the achievement of the council's strategic aim by creating the framework for collaborative working in waste and

recycling services, initially in cross border developments, in order to achieve, and share the benefits of, efficiencies from working together.

Background Papers

RECAP 'Advanced Partnership Working' Charter, incorporating additional
Schedule 2 'Governance Agreement' v: 1.2 – Cabinet Minute 23 (b) 12 September 2013

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