

Agenda Item 9



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

Report To: Leader and Cabinet

16 October 2014

Lead Officer: Director of Health and Environmental Services

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council Joint Waste Working

Purpose

1. This report sets out the work that has been done to assess the potential for a single shared waste service for South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council. Details relating to the proposals are outlined in **Appendix A**.
2. This is a key decision because it results in the authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to this Council's budget for the service of function to which the decision relates. It was first published in the June 2014 Forward Plan.

Recommendations

3. Cabinet is recommended to:
 - (a) Agree the creation of a single shared waste service, wholly owned and run by the local authorities, with a single management structure and workforce, located at the Waterbeach Depot using a single pool of vehicles for Cambridge City & South Cambridgeshire DC.
 - (b) Agree the relocation of the Cambridge City Waste Service to share the Waterbeach Depot; and the creation of a shared Head of Service for Waste and a single management team to deliver the single shared waste service, and to undertake full consultation with the staff and unions to deliver these changes.
 - (c) Agree the creation of a Shared Waste Board to oversee the delivery of the Single Shared Waste Service, to oversee performance within the budget and policy framework set by both Councils, and to provide advice and recommendations on waste policy matters to both Councils, and to deliver the Councils' objectives.
 - (d) Delegate the implementation of the proposals set out in (a), (b) and (c) above to the Cambridge City Director of Environment and South Cambridgeshire DC Director of Health & Environmental Services, in consultation with the South Cambridgeshire DC Cabinet Member, and the Cambridge City Executive Member, Chair of Executive Scrutiny and Opposition Spokespersons.

- (e) Develop further single shared waste service efficiency and cost-saving proposals as set out in the foregoing report.
- (f) Develop options and proposals for alternative joint delivery models (beyond the Lead Authority model) to operate the single shared waste service and to report back to Councillors in July 2015.
- (g) Instruct officers to prepare a detailed implementation plan with financial implications to be agreed with the Shared Waste Board to inform the future budget setting work of the two Councils.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The objectives of the recommendations contained within this report include:
- lower operational costs, particularly in the areas of premises, management, administration, fleet and equipment costs;
 - maintaining and improving service quality that residents can see and appreciate;
 - increased opportunities to market and compete for additional business, for instance in relation to trade waste;
 - new opportunities to reduce net costs in relation to fleet procurement and maintenance;
 - achievement of service improvements, greater resilience and better performance, through shared knowledge and experience; and
 - enhanced opportunities to work with other Cambridgeshire local authorities via the RECAP Waste Partnership to reduce waste collection and disposal costs, improve income and secure service improvements.

Background and Considerations

5. **Appendix A** sets out the detail of the proposals relating to the joint waste service, which is a document that has been published by both the City Council and District Council. It concludes that there are significant savings that can be achieved by creating a shared service with a Governance Board representing both Councils. The report recommends the creation of a single shared waste service at Waterbeach and that arrangements are now made to consult with staff and unions on detailed proposals. A further report is requested on a range of matters including options for the appropriate long term delivery model for the single shared waste service, and business cases for a shared trade waste service and also the possible re-location of the Cambridge City garage facility.

Options

6. Cabinet is invited to consider the proposals set out in this report and approve, reject or amend them. Any amendments will require further consultation with Cambridge City Council.

Implications

7. Implications considered in the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, are set out in paragraphs 6 and 11 – 17 of **Appendix A**.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

8. As part of the process, it will be important to ensure full engagement and consultation with both staff and trade unions moving forward. The lead HR officers from both Councils are currently working together to ensure a co-ordinated approach.
9. Regular joint communications have been put in place with staff in the areas directly affected by the proposals and will continue with the aim of keeping staff informed and updated. This has included a recent Informal Information Paper (Appendix 2) where staff in both Councils have been provided with a question and answer response to recent questions raised by them. Staff have been invited to comment on the proposals within a time scale to enable their comments to be raised with Councillors at this meeting.
10. Officers from the recognised trade unions have attended workplace briefings as well as meetings with management to discuss the proposals.

Effect on Strategic Aims

Work with partners to create opportunities for employment, enterprise, education and world-leading innovation

11. This work delivers the SCDC Corporate Plan commitment to development of joint operational waste arrangements with Cambridge City Council and to the delivery of waste efficiencies and improvements.

Background Papers: No background papers were relied upon in the writing of this report.

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