

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** Leader and Cabinet 9 October 2008  
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### REVISED JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

#### Purpose

1. To recommend to Cabinet that the RECAP (Recycling in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Waste Partnership) Revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough (The revised Strategy) be adopted as Council Policy.
2. This is a key decision because it is of such significance to a locality, the Council or the services, which it provides that the decision-taker is of the opinion that it should be treated as a key decision and it was published in the forward plan.

#### Background

3. The RECAP waste partnership, consisting of Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and the four other district council waste collection authorities submitted their Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) to DEFRA in 2002 (the 2002 Strategy). This was approved by DEFRA and subsequently adopted by this council in 2002.
4. DEFRA guidance on Municipal Waste Strategies states that strategies should be reviewed and revised every five years so that they reflect national, regional and local policies, legislation and targets. A review was subsequently undertaken, commencing in 2006, which has now been completed.

#### Considerations

5. Since its adoption, the partner authorities have been working towards voluntary targets laid down within the 2002 Strategy of recycling and composting: -  
  
45 - 50% of waste by 2010/11  
50 - 55% of waste by 2015/16  
55 – 60% of waste by 2020/21
6. The partnership's overall recycling and composting rate for 2007/08 was 50.5%. This is the first time that an overall partnership rate over 50% has been achieved. Cambridgeshire has been the highest performing shire county in the country for the last four years and this means that the 2010/11 strategy target has been achieved 3 years ahead of time.
7. This Council has played a leading part in this achievement, being the first partner to achieve an overall recycling and composting rate of over 50% in 2006/07 and consistently being one of the top performing councils nationally in both overall

recycling and composting. The overall recycling and composting rate in 2007/08 was over 53%.

8. As with the 2002 Strategy, the revised Strategy covers arrangements for the sustainable management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) controlled by the RECAP partners within the Joint Strategy Area (JSA) and is the framework for addressing waste prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery in line with the waste hierarchy. It covers the collection, treatment and disposal of MSW.
9. The revised strategy combines the original principles of the 2002 strategy and incorporates nine new themes that have emerged over the last five years, each of which has accompanying strategic objectives and actions. These themes were informed through extensive public consultation and are outlined below:
  - Underlying Strategic Principles for the Waste Strategy
  - Joint Working, Partnership;
  - Climate Change;
  - Environmental Protection;
  - Waste Prevention & Reuse;
  - Recycling & composting;
  - Management of Residual Waste;
  - Wider Waste Role; and
  - Stakeholder Engagement
10. The new Themes & Strategic Objectives are highlighted in Appendix 7 of the strategy (Foundation of the revised strategy from the original strategy), which also compares these with the 2002 Strategy.
11. The Strategic Objectives are then supported by an accompanying Action Plan (Chapter 5 and Appendix 9 of the strategy). The strategy also highlights what will be the partnerships main focus over the next few years. This will be on waste prevention; increasing the recycling of trade waste and improving performance of household dry waste recycling.
12. Members of the RECAP Waste & Environment Forum, at their meeting of 27 June 2008, considered the revised Strategy, approved its contents and recommended its adoption by the individual partner authorities.
13. The size of the strategy precludes it being reproduced here, however a hard copy is available for Members in the Members room. Alternatively, the original 2002 Strategy and revised Strategy documents can be viewed at: [http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/waste/about/policies/the\\_strategy.htm](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/waste/about/policies/the_strategy.htm)

### Implications

14.	Financial	There may be financial implications associated with meeting the revised strategy objectives, however these will continue to be addressed, as now, through the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Service Planning processes.
	Legal	No adverse legal implications have been identified at this time
	Staffing	No SCDC staffing implications have been identified at this time
	Risk Management	
	Equal Opportunities	No Equal Opportunities implications have been identified at this time

## Consultations

15. An extensive public consultation exercise was carried out in February and March 2007. The consultation was conducted throughout the Joint Strategy Area (JSA) and designed to ensure that all target audiences had been consulted. The comments and feedback were then taken into account to inform the process of revising the 2002 Strategy.

## Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

16. Work in partnership to manage growth to benefit everyone in South Cambridgeshire now and in the future	The revised Strategy provides a framework within which the council can seek to protect and enhance the environment, minimise climate change and promote sustainable waste management. Adopting the revised Strategy will contribute towards the council achieving all its corporate objectives.
Deliver high quality services that represent best value and are accessible to all our community	
Enhance quality of life and build a sustainable South Cambridgeshire where everyone is proud to live and work	

## Conclusions/Summary

17. The Strategy underpins the sustainable management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) by the RECAP partnership and provides the framework whereby waste prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery in line with the waste hierarchy can be addressed.
18. It is forward looking and clearly identifies the links between sustainable waste management and climate change. It aims to deliver the kind of services that customers requested both in the 2002 strategy and as a result of the extensive consultation in 2007, whilst achieving national and European waste diversion targets.
19. The Strategy supports through themes, objectives and actions environmental improvement and recognises the environmental benefits associated with waste prevention, reuse and recycling. It also recognises the impact waste collections have on carbon emissions from transport and identifies the need to constantly monitor and improve this aspect of sustainable waste management.

## Recommendation

20. It is recommended that Cabinet Adopts the RECAP Revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy as Council policy

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- The Strategy for dealing with Municipal Solid Waste 2002 – 2020 in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
- RECAP Joint Municipal Waste Strategy 2008

(These documents can be viewed at:

[http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/waste/about/policies/the\\_strategy.htm](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/waste/about/policies/the_strategy.htm)

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