

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Environmental Services Portfolio Holder 9th November 2009
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Operational Services) / Corporate Manager
(Health and Environmental Services)

CONSULTATION ON A STRATEGY FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT IN ENGLAND

Purpose

1. This report provides the Portfolio Holder with an overview of the Government's recent consultation on a strategy for hazardous waste management in England. The report outlines some of the key points in the consultation document and potential implications for the Authority. The Portfolio Holder is invited to agree with the RECAP response at Appendix 1.
2. joint RECAP consultation response is shown in Appendix 1.
3. This is not a key decision.

Background

4. The proposed Hazardous Waste Strategy for England is being developed because it is required as part of the process of implementing the revised European Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC (WFD).
5. The principle aim of the proposed strategy is to deliver sound, and where necessary, improved hazardous waste treatment. It is also hoped that the strategy will assist in encouraging the recovery of materials or energy from hazardous waste. This will in turn further reduce reliance on landfill in line with the Governments wider policies on resource recovery and tackling climate change.
6. The strategy comprises:
 - (a) Seven high level principles for the management of hazardous waste.
 - (b) A set of outline decision trees to assist waste producers and waste managers to make the right decision about the management of their waste and the investment in infrastructure to help move hazardous waste management up the waste hierarchy.
 - (c) A timeline of action on issues relating to the introduction and implementation of the strategy.
 - (d) A list of guidance relating to the treatment of hazardous waste.
7. The principles are set to encourage the continued investment in England in new and more effective technology to manage hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner.

Considerations

8. In terms of the types of waste that can be categorised as hazardous South Cambridgeshire, as a Waste Collection Authority (WCA), handle household items such as fridges and freezers and healthcare waste. South Cambridgeshire does not

generally handle other types of hazardous waste such as difficult industrial compounds and noxious substances.

9. The consultation ultimately looks at the onward fate of hazardous wastes in terms of the revised waste hierarchy and availability of facilities to handle hazardous waste in line with the hierarchy. Hazardous waste collected by the Authority is 'tipped' under the direction from Cambridgeshire County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA). The proposed strategy may affect the WDA in terms of where hazardous waste is tipped by WCAs for onward treatment. This may in turn affect tipping points for hazardous waste collected by South Cambridgeshire.
10. It will be necessary to discuss this with the County Council should this occur so that any revised tipping points do not pose operational problems or cause financial implications for the authority.
11. It will also be necessary to carefully consider the definition for materials to be included so that the collection of nappies from domestic properties is not inadvertently included in the need to be collected separately and continued to be co-mingled with other domestic waste.

Options

12. The closing date for responses was the 13th October 2009. RECAP, on behalf of partners, responded to the consultation as attached at Appendix 1.
13. The PFH has the option:
 - (a) To agree with the RECAP response
 - (b) Request amendment to the response

Implications

14. Financial	None anticipated
Legal	As contained in the report and consultation document
Staffing	None
Risk Management	None
Equal Opportunities	None

Consultations

15. Consultation was held with RECAP partners.

Effect on Strategic Aims

16.	Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.
	None
	Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.
	None – although the strategy would help to meet this objective
	Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.
	None
	Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.
	None
	Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.
	None

Recommendations

17. It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder agrees with the RECAP response as at Appendix 1.

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

RECAP response to the Consultation on a Strategy for Hazardous Waste Management in England (Appendix 1)
DEFRA. Consultation on a Strategy for Hazardous Waste Management in England – July 2009

Contact Officer: Dale Robinson – Corporate Manager Health & Environmental Services
Tel: 01954 713229