

**REPORT TO THE SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT
PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

30 APRIL 2021

REPORT OF: Colin Huntington, Project Director, South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership

SUBJECT: STWWMP Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the approval of the Joint Executive Committee for the publication of the refreshed South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The twenty-year Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) was agreed by each partner authority Cabinet in 2007. It covers the management of municipal waste including general (residual) waste collected from households; kerbside recycling collections; bulky waste collections; street sweepings; fly-tipped waste; and waste disposed at household waste and recycling centres.
- 2.2 Whilst there is no statutory requirement for STWWMP to produce a JMWMS, the Partnership considers it 'best practice' to do so and this includes a commitment to regularly reviewing its content. The first JMWMS review was published in January 2013.
- 2.3 However, as previously reported to the Joint Executive Committee, this review process has, unfortunately, been delayed for a number of reasons that were beyond the control of STWWMP. This includes significant delays to the publication of the new national resources and waste strategy (RaWS) and its subsequent consultation programme; the prolonged negotiations and implications of the UK leaving the EU ('Brexit'); the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on the further development of national waste policy; and the implications of the partner authority climate emergency declarations on all aspects of the services that they provide.

3. **JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021-2025**

3.1 The previous review of the JMWMS was undertaken during 2012 for publication at the beginning of 2013. Therefore, the current JMWMS can now be considered as significantly out-of-date, largely due to the significant successes that have been achieved in recent years, such as:

- Service commencement of the 25-year residual waste treatment contract following completion of the construction of the STWWMP energy-from-waste facility and associated waste transfer infrastructure;
- The development of complementary household kerbside recycling services across all three partner authorities, including the introduction of additional recyclable materials;
- The development and introduction of a dedicated community education and engagement programme delivered by third sector environmental regeneration charity Groundwork North East & Cumbria from the new visitor and education centre at Campground; and
- The establishment of a joint partnership team to provide the Waste Disposal Authority functions on behalf of the partner authorities through the day-to-day contract management functions for the range of waste treatment and recycling contracts with external service providers.

3.2 Therefore, it is important that STWWMP can ensure that the partner authorities have a relevant, top-level, waste management strategy available to them to ensure that the Partnership's key aims and aspirations are being met. Despite the challenges highlighted earlier, further reflection in recent months has enabled the refresh to be completed. This will now ensure that high-level guidance can be provided to support decisions on future service delivery issues and inform short-to-medium term budget planning cycles.

3.3 Attached at Appendix A, the JMWMS 2021-2025 has been designed to:

- Be easy to understand, follow, and enable progress to be monitored.
- Consider the context of partner authority waste services within the current financial climate and other restrictions on service delivery.
- Be clear about the priorities and not commit partner authorities to deliver actions with unknown external outcomes and/or influences.
- Be proportionate and realistic about issues that STWWMP can directly influence at different levels, e.g. nationally; within their own operational activities; and across other services within their own councils.

3.4 The structure for the refreshed JMWMS was agreed by the Joint Executive Committee on 16 March 2018. This also confirmed a new approach to the strategy's presentation which retained, yet simplified, the previous strategic

objectives, and replaced commitments to specific actions and activities with over-arching service delivery themes. This approach is aimed at ensuring that the partner authorities can still achieve STWWMP's aims and aspirations with flexibility in how services are delivered and within the resources that are available.

3.5 The new structure incorporates the following sections:

- Foreword
 - Chair, South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership, Joint Executive Committee
- Introduction
 - Waste Framework Directive
 - Waste Sector Issues
- Waste Services Across South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership
- Successes, Achievements, and Challenges
 - Residual Waste Treatment Contract
 - Improved Recycling Services
 - Community Education and Engagement
 - Joint Working
 - JMWMS Challenges
 - Next Steps
- The National Picture
 - Environment Plan
 - Resources and Waste Strategy
 - Environment Bill
- South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership 'Green Agenda' – Environmental Commitments
- South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025
 - Objectives
 - Themes
- Appendix 1: Waste Data
 - Waste Arisings 2019/20
 - Municipal Waste Landfilled 2019/20
 - Residual Waste Treatment Contract Performance 2014/15-2019/20
 - Residual Waste Treatment Contract Composition Analysis 2014-2020
 - MEL Research Ltd: Average EfW Materials Composition, February 2020
 - Residual Waste Forecasting 2020/21-2021/22
 - Household Waste Reuse, Recycling or Composting Performance 2019/20
 - Household Waste and Recycling Centres Contract Performance 2019/20
 - Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Contract Performance 2019/20
 - Bring Site Network Performance 2019/20

3.6 The previously agreed refreshed JMWMS structure was initially intended to provide strategic direction for the period 2018-2022, but in light of the delays highlighted above, it is now proposed that the refreshed JMWMS will cover the period 2021-2025.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The Joint Executive Committee is requested to:

- (i) Note the contents of this report;
- (ii) Agree the final design and content of the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025 as attached at Appendix A; and
- (iii) Agree that each partner authority publish online the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025.

Contacts:

Chris Wilson, Contract Manager (Policy), STWWMP

Tel: 433 7478