

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2002 AT 10:30 AM**

Agenda No.

4

JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Report of the Director of Environment

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Executive Member: Iris Tarry

1. Purpose of Report

This item has been requested for possible scrutiny by Brian York; the report will advise Members of progress being made in developing a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Hertfordshire and identify issues for the Cabinet to consider when adopting the strategy.

2. Summary

- 2.1 For the past two years, the County Council and the ten Hertfordshire District and Borough Councils have been working together to develop a municipal waste management strategy for the County. The process has been conducted through the Hertfordshire Waste Strategy Development Group (WSDG), which is a joint member group specifically formed for the purpose and chaired by Iris Tarry.
- 2.2 The work of WSDG culminated in the production of a Draft Strategy, which was considered by the Cabinet and Waste Panel before being adopted for consultation purposes. This draft has now been subjected to a full and intensive public consultation process that ended in May 2002. The results of this consultation will be reported to WSDG at its meeting of Monday 17 June, along with recommendations for preparation of a final version to be presented to each individual authority for adoption as the County's formal strategy. An update of WSDG's views will be reported to the Scrutiny Committee
- 2.3 The Cabinet will discuss the adoption of the Final Strategy at its meeting 22 July 2002, with the benefit of this Committee's views.

3. Conclusions

The Committee is invited to raise issues for the Cabinet to consider when adopting the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Hertfordshire.

4. Background

- 4.1 In October 1998 the County Council and the ten Hertfordshire District and Borough Councils signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at joint working towards the development and implementation of an effective and sustainable municipal waste strategy for the County. The objective was to develop a strategy that would provide the Councils with the means to achieve Government and European targets, to meet the needs of Hertfordshire's residents, at acceptable cost.
- 4.2 The process began with the appointment of consultants, Enviros Aspinwall & Co. Ltd., who were appointed to recommend a strategy for Hertfordshire that would cover a period of 25 years from 1999. The details of their recommended strategy were announced at a joint Member seminar in May 2000 and formally adopted by all eleven authorities as a starting point for further discussions during the following months.
- 4.3 The Waste Strategy Development Group (WSDG) was established in October 2000, and the County Council's Executive Member for Environment, Iris Tarry, was elected as Chairman.
- 4.4 An intensive programme of public meetings, presentations and member/officer workshops followed, during which a comprehensive set of strategy principles was established. From these principles, a Draft Strategy was produced as a basis for a full and extensive public consultation process.
- 4.5 At its meeting on 29 November 2001, the Waste Panel considered the Draft Strategy and made recommendations to the Cabinet when adoption of the final document for consultation purposes, was considered. The Cabinet meeting on 17 December 2001 subsequently gave its approval for consultation to proceed.
- 4.6 By the end of January 2002, all but Broxbourne Borough Council had formally adopted the Draft Strategy document for consultation purposes and the process was launched. A particular feature of the consultation process was the programme of roadshows that were staged at selected locations in all of the ten districts.
- 4.7 Questionnaires were distributed to all the households in Hertfordshire through the County Council's newsletter, *HertsDirect*, and handed out to all visitors to the roadshows. In all, more than 8,000 responses have been received and the results will be reported to the Waste Strategy Development Group, at its meeting on Monday 17 June. A copy of this report is attached as Appendix A.
- 4.8 In addition to consulting the residents of Hertfordshire, care was taken to ensure that all the other stakeholder groups that had expressed an interest during the development process were given the opportunity to express their views.

5. Issues for the County Council

- 5.1 At the time of drafting this item, it is not possible to report on whether WSDG will recommend any changes to the Strategy as a result of the consultation process. By the time the Environment Scrutiny Committee meets, however, WSDG will have met and the results of their deliberations will be known. Further papers covering the outcome of the meeting will therefore be distributed after the WSDG meeting and in advance of the Committee.
- 5.2 The general implications of the Strategy to the County Council were covered in Section 4 of the report that was presented to the Cabinet on 17 December 2001. A copy is attached as Appendix B.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The financial implications of the Strategy were covered in Section 5 of the Cabinet report that is attached as Appendix B, and are fully outlined in the Draft Strategy document.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The Environment Scrutiny Committee is invited to raise issues for the Cabinet to consider when deciding whether to adopt the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Hertfordshire.

Background information used by the author in compiling this report

Draft Strategy
MORI Report
WSDG papers
Cabinet Report 17 December 2001
Waste Panel papers 29 November 2001 and 6 February 2002