

Committee: Scrutiny Committee

Agenda Item

Date: 18 April 2013

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Title: Essex Joint Municipal Waste Strategy

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Item for information

Summary

1. This report responds to the request for information to assist the Committee in its scrutiny of the Essex Joint Municipal Waste Strategy. It addresses those aspects within the scope of the review that fall within the council's function as a waste collection authority.

Recommendations

2. None

Financial Implications

3. None

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report -None

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

6. The objectives of the Joint Strategy seek to reduce the consumption of, re-use and recycle as much material as possible and minimise the disposal of waste to landfill. Only material with which nothing else can be done should end up being tipped, and it should have no biodegradable content.
7. A key principle of the Joint Strategy is that Essex authorities will manage materials in accordance with the waste hierarchy, except where environmental or public health consequences are negative, or where financial costs are prohibitive.
8. The strategy is that Essex authorities will work towards reversing waste growth trends in order to meet national waste reduction targets. These national targets set in 2007 are that residual waste per head of population should not exceed: 310 kg in 2010; 270 kg in 2015 and 225 kg in 2020. Essex targets and this council's targets are expressed in terms of residual waste per household, but performance significantly exceeds the national targets. For example, the national target of 310kg per person in 2010 was bettered by achieving 382 kg per household in Uttlesford, with a further reduction to 370 kg per household in 2011/12. (382 kg per household equates to 153 kg per person, and 370 per household to 148 per person). The mean average for those Essex waste collection authorities participating in the Inter Authority Agreement was 439 kg per household in 2011/12. The top ranking Essex collection authority with the least residual waste per household was Harlow in 2011/12 (341 kg per household). Switching to alternate weekly collections of residual waste is a key factor in reducing volumes.
9. Uttlesford had the highest dry recycling rate amongst the Essex IAA authorities at 36.2% in 2011/12.
10. Uttlesford had a relatively low composting rate at 19.1%. The waste collection authority average was 21.3%. The highest rate (38.0%) was achieved in Rochford, which has free kerbside collection of garden waste for all households.
11. Budgeted waste management costs in Uttlesford of £1,871,000 for 2013/14 are less than the £2,225,000 estimated income generated, which includes charges for trade waste, payments from ECC under the IAA for collecting food waste, recycling credits, receipts for sale of dry recycling materials, subscriptions from households for kerbside garden waste collection, tipping away payments from ECC to offset some of the costs of transporting materials to tipping points outside Uttlesford as directed by ECC, and other miscellaneous charges. FY 2013/14 will be the first full year of operation of the new single pass household waste collection system introduced in September 2012.

Risk Analysis

12. There are no risks associated with this report.