

TO: THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CABINET

SOUTH YORKSHIRE MUNICIPAL WASTE STRATEGY ADOPTION

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr McGuinness	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 This report seeks approval for the adoption of the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy (SYMWS).
- 2 Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham MBC’s and Sheffield City Council are all Unitary Councils in South Yorkshire. This means each of them has a statutory obligation to collect and dispose of municipal waste arising across South Yorkshire. The Authorities can choose how best to deliver waste services as long as they comply with legislation. Each Authority has their own waste strategy that has shaped their services up to now, however, all of these strategies would benefit from a review. It is important to review waste strategies regularly to reflect on achievements and progress towards any aims and objectives. It also allows for consideration of changes to legislation, government targets, local objectives, new technology and increased pressures on the service.
- 3 Austerity measures and budget cuts will undoubtedly continue to impact on local authority funding. Therefore, collaborative initiatives such as the SYMWS will allow for economies of scale, cost savings and improved efficiency across the four Authorities, minimising the impacts on council services.

EXEMPT REPORT

- 4 No

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. It is recommended that Cabinet approve:
 - i. The South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy Vision:-

“To reduce, re-use, recycle, and recover energy from 95% of South Yorkshire’s waste”.

- ii. The adoption of the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy.
- iii. The Key Strategic Priorities, Strategic Outcomes, Outputs and give officers approval to implement the SYMWS.
- iv. The Director of Regeneration & Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, is delegated to make any changes to the strategy required following consideration by the other SY local authorities.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

- 6 Implementation of the SYMWS should have positive impacts for citizens and partners, for example, improved service through the use of technology will assist residents in reporting missed bin collections and other associated complaints.
- 7 Other positive impacts could include increased customer awareness and care when disposing of waste, leading to increased recycling rates across the region.
- 8 Any savings realised as a result of collaborative working will have a positive impact on budgets and services across the authorities. Some of the anticipated savings are identified later in this report.

BACKGROUND

- 9 Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield as Unitary Councils, have responsibility for both the collection and disposal of municipal waste in their areas. Their existing waste strategies (listed below) have served as guides to the development of current waste management policies and practices in the districts. These documents now require updating to reflect progress in waste management including: changes in legislation, advances in technology, budget pressures, public awareness and perceptions, increased housing numbers and associated impacts on waste arisings. These factors need to be considered and actions taken to manage waste over the longer term.
- 10 The existing waste management guidance documents are:
 - Barnsley Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007 to 2030;
 - Doncaster Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2009 to 2025;
 - Rotherham Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005 to 2020; and
 - Sheffield's Waste Management Strategy 2009-2020
 - Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan 2012 to 2027
- 11 Working together towards an overarching strategy will allow for efficiencies, sharing of best practice and co-ordinated developments in infrastructure.
- 12 The aim of the SYMWS is to deliver:
 - Key stakeholder engagement
 - Consideration of engagement outcomes to inform strategy directions
 - Closer working relationships across South Yorkshire

- Improving efficiency and resources
 - Sharing of best practice
- 13 The SYMWS has been developed to build on the existing waste strategies. It provides a long-term direction of travel for the local management of waste. The priorities within the strategy have been subject to public scrutiny and consultation process and reflect the results of that process.
- 14 For the South Yorkshire region, the future of waste management will include continuing to build on the relationships already established and the progress made in moving waste up the waste hierarchy, where top priority is given to the prevention of waste followed by re-use, recycling, recovery (including energy recovery) and lastly disposal.
- 15 Through the SYWMS the South Yorkshire Councils are agreeing a vision:
- “To reduce, re-use, recycle, and recover energy from 95% of South Yorkshire’s waste”.**
- 16 To deliver this vision five priorities have been developed from the corporate plans across the region (see appendix 2). These priorities were subject to an eight week consultation during the summer of 2016 and are listed below in order of the importance to the residents of South Yorkshire.

Priority 1 - We aim to encourage and inspire children and adults across Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield to make less waste by reducing, re-using and recycling more.

Priority 2 – We will work hard to deliver and maintain a dependable and reliable service to all our customers.

Priority 3 –The four Councils will work together more closely to deliver value for money services.

Priority 4 – We will continue to explore how technology can be used to improve recycling and waste services.

Priority 5 – We will be pro-active to influence decision-making on waste at European, national and local level, to drive investment into infrastructure across the region.

17 Key Issues

17.1 Local Authorities are faced with ever-increasing challenges as they attempt to deal with escalating recycling and re-use targets (the Waste Framework Directive has a target of recycling 50% of household waste by 2020) customer expectations and reduction in landfill tonnages against a backdrop of severe public sector spending cuts.

17.2 All four Authorities have to comply with the same legislation and face austerity measures.

All four Authorities have a statutory duty to collect and dispose of household waste generated within their districts. Historically the authorities have developed their waste collection services in isolation and therefore all deliver their services in slightly different ways. It has been recognised that efficiencies can be made through collaborative working in service specific areas, investing in new technologies, and investigating new smart ways of working together.

When decisions are made at a local level, the nearest neighbours can see an adverse impact on their services. For example, a closure of a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC), introduction of permit schemes or implementing a charge for a certain waste stream in one area can see an increase in use at another area's HWRCs. For these reasons, officers have worked together on the SYMWS as a stepping stone to try to ensure harmonisation across the region.

17.3 The neighbouring councils of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham (BDR) have a history of working together to address waste management issues concerning recycling, cross boundary movements, capacity shortfalls, health and safety, fly tipping and public awareness campaigns.

17.4 Historically, Sheffield City Council has worked more independently on waste matters as their waste disposal solution is a long term integrated contract with Veolia which is due to expire in August 2036.

17.6 The scope of the SYMWS is restricted to Local Authority collected municipal waste including:

- Household waste collected at the kerbside (recycling, composting and residual)
- Local authority collected commercial waste
- Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) waste
- Fly-tipping
- Clinical waste
- Household bulky waste
- Gulley emptying's
- Street cleansing wastes

17.7 The SYMWS is a high-level strategic document with the following deliverables:

- Key stakeholder engagement
- Consideration of engagement outcomes to inform strategy directions
- Closer working relationships across South Yorkshire
- Improving efficiency and resources
- Sharing of best practice

17.8 Some of the areas where the Authorities may work together could include:

- Joint procurement of goods and services
- Seeking funding for waste infrastructure, e.g. multi-material recycling facilities or Transfer Stations
- Collaborating on communications campaigns
- Working collaboratively on waste prevention and re-use initiatives

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

18 Option 1 - Do nothing and do not adopt a SYMWS

As there is no statutory requirement for Unitary Authorities to have a waste management strategy it would be possible not to review the waste management strategy for Doncaster or any of the other Partner Authorities.

As legislation has changed and austerity measures have been implemented driving a need for efficiencies since all four Strategies were produced, failing to review the Waste Management Strategies is not recommended.

19 Option 2 - Review the Waste Management Strategies individually

The individual Councils could review and update their Waste Management Strategies on an individual basis.

There is a risk that by doing this independently there may be an unforeseen negative impact on the nearest neighbours and there are opportunities for collaborative working which may be missed. This option is therefore, not recommended.

20 Option 3 - Using the Key Strategic Priorities developed from the current waste management strategies adopt a Joint Strategy

Option 3 is the recommended option.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

21 This option will allow for the development of efficiencies when preparing the strategy document and may support collaboration through the process.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

22

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> 	<p>The SYMWS covers the waste and recycling service which is used by all households and many commercial operations within the Borough and therefore helps to maintain a thriving economy which</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	residents benefit from.
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	Dealing with waste appropriately safeguards the environment from fly tipping and environmental nuisance.
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	The SYMWS will provide opportunities for efficiencies through collaborative working.
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	The SYMWS is a collaborative project ensuring the Authorities can establish greater links and improved governance.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

- 23 The SYMWS will outline a Headline Strategy. To protect the autonomy of the Partnership Councils it will be possible to develop individual action plans for certain aspects. It will be important to ensure that the individual action plans developed are consulted on between the partnership authorities and do not result in conflicts.
- 24 Failing to adhere to the Strategy could result in targets being missed and costs increasing.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 25 There is no statutory duty for Unitary Councils to produce a Waste Management Strategy.
- 26 Local Authorities have received encouragement from the government to promote collaboration and co-operation by working together, as evidenced by the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016, which amended the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act of 2009

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 27 The financial costs of producing the SYMWS are projected to be £41,000. This cost will be split equally across the four authorities.
- 28 The costs have been met from the Community Liaison and Education budget in Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham.
- 29 All new activities which have an impact on Doncaster need to be reported individually to ensure that any financial commitments can be met from existing Waste budgets or through additional budgets included in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The strategy recognises that all Councils need to identify savings and so any activities coming out of the strategy are likely to deliver savings to the Council. All decisions re additional costs or possible savings should follow the standard approval processes and adhere to Financial Procedure Rules.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 30 None

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

- 31 None

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 32 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the SYMWS.

CONSULTATION

- 33 Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield Council's Waste Management Officers and Portfolio Holders have been consulted and the Priorities of the SYMWS were subject to an eight-week consultation period, the results of this consultation were built into the strategy and the action plans.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

34 List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Executive Summary of the SYMWS
Appendix 2 Key Priorities aligned with corporate priorities

35 Background Papers

SYMWS Technical Document
Consultation paper
Doncaster Waste Strategy and Action Plan (adopted 2009)

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Lee Garrett
Head of Service Waste and Highways Infrastructure
Telephone: 01302 734499
Email : lee.garrett@doncaster.gov.uk

Beth Baxter
BDR Manager
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Telephone: 01709 255989
Email: Lisbeth.baxter@rotherham.gov.uk

Peter Dale
Director Regeneration and Environment