

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT CABINET PANEL

THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2018 at 10:00AM

HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

Report of the Chief Executive & Director of Environment

Author: James Holt, Waste Manager - Contract Development
Tel: 01992 556318

Executive Member: Terry Hone- Community Safety & Waste Management

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To present to the Cabinet Panel the 2016/17 Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's (HWP) annual report which is attached as Appendix A. This information note provides an overview from a Hertfordshire County Council ('the council') perspective of its own contribution to the countywide performance through the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) network and procurement of contracts in performing its function as Waste Disposal Authority.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Cabinet Panel is invited to note the 2016/2017 Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's (HWP) annual report.

3. Key points of note

3.1. *Recycling rates*

- 3.1.1 Overall the HWP's countywide recycling rate (all Waste Collection Authority and HWRC waste) improved in 2016/17 to 52.2% from 50.4% in the previous year. This compares favourably to the Eastern region figure of 49.4% and the England average of 43.7%.
- 3.1.2 From a council perspective overall HWRC performance remained high with 71% of all Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) being recycled. However, the household waste recycling rate for HWRCs decreased slightly to 60.8% from 62.9% in the previous year. This is primarily due to an increase in residual waste (an increase of 2,300 tonnes) which demonstrates the pressure being experienced through increased residents visits and may also be reflective of increased awareness of the 2015/16 service changes, i.e. when changes are introduced, there tends to be a significant initial effect but as residents better understand hours of operation or the van permit application, this initial effect tends to reverse slightly.

3.1.3 Across the HWP dry recycling and composting (i.e. green waste and food waste) increased in 2016/17 compared to the previous year. These increases reflect the implementation of new kerbside collection services, for example the full year impact of smaller residual waste bins and cardboard collections in Broxbourne (introduced in October 2015), and smaller residual waste bins, new partially commingled dry recycling collections and separate food waste collections in St Albans (introduced in July 2016). Composting also increased as a result of more favourable growing conditions, especially compared to the previous year which nationally saw less organic waste being presented for composting.

3.2. **Waste Minimisation**

3.2.1. A key measure of performance is the overall amount of household waste produced, with waste minimisation key in reducing overall costs. In 2016/17 the national database, Waste Data Flow, which the Authority has to keep updated, recorded the level of household waste produced per Hertfordshire household as 1,024kg, a reduction on the 1,031kg produced in the previous year.

3.2.2. Nationally and regionally household waste per household has declined although Hertfordshire has seen a greater reduction compared to the England and regional average. Hertfordshire saw a decline of 4.3% compared to England average reduction of 1.2% and a regional average reduction of 0.2%.

3.2.3. Overall total household waste in Hertfordshire increased in 2016/17 by circa 1,100 tonnes although total waste per household actually decreased as a result of an increase in the number of households within the County (an increase of 4,270).

3.3. **Recycling and Composting**

3.3.1. From a HWRC perspective dry recycling and composting remained relatively static in 2016/17 compared to the previous year. However, diversion of re-usable items through the network of “Pop Up” shops did increase (up 170 tonnes) as a result of an improvement in the management of the shops and increased resident awareness.

3.3.2. The amount of compostable material presented at the HWRCs did decline slightly in 2016/17 (a reduction of 192 tonnes) despite an overall increase of circa 4,200 tonnes across the partnership. This indicates that the majority of residents still prefer the convenience of the kerbside collection service. However, this is being closely monitored to understand the impact of green waste charging implemented by Thee Rivers in 2016/17 and Broxbourne and Welwyn Hatfield in 2017/18.

3.4. *Diversion from landfill*

- 3.4.1. 2016/17 saw the full year impact of the interim waste disposal contracts procured by HCC and as such resulted in the continued improvement in this area for the HWP. These contracts include Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities in Edmonton (North London), Ardley (Oxfordshire) and Greatmoor (Buckinghamshire), the latter of which became operational in 2015/16 further increasing the amount of material diverted from landfill. These contracts have been extended until March 2021 with the exception of Edmonton which will cease accepting Hertfordshire's waste in December 2020 at the latest as the facility will be redeveloped for the sole use of north London authorities.
- 3.4.2. The proportion of total local authority managed waste diverted from landfill increased from 81% in 2015/16 to 89% in 2016/17. However, some EfW facilities cannot process all types of material and therefore there is a need for alternative disposal routes.

3.5. *Anaerobic Digestion*

- 3.5.1. Improvement across all of the waste management performance indicators was made possible by exercising options in the existing contracts procured by HCC on behalf of the HWP that allow for the processing of separately collected food waste. Initially food waste collected by Dacorum and Three Rivers was processed at an Anaerobic Digestion facility near Chertsey. However, in January 2017 the new strategically important Anaerobic Digestion facility at Coursers Farm, near St Albans became operational making it possible for Broxbourne and St Albans to introduce separate food waste collections during 2016/17.
 - 3.5.2. This in-county disposal solution for food waste not only supports already established food waste collection services and provides opportunity for others to follow suit, it also disposes of Hertfordshire's waste locally and generates enough green electricity to meet the needs of 6,000 households. The process also creates a nutrient rich fertiliser which will be used by local farmers in Hertfordshire.
- 3.6 Members attention is drawn to section 3.5 of the Annual Report which discusses the potential implications of Brexit and the European Union's proposals for a Circular Economy. Whilst there remain a number of unknowns it is important to consider the potential impacts when considering future services / service changes (including the Household Waste Recycling Service) and the HWP will continue to monitor this situation closely.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report

5. Equalities implications

- 6.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equality implications of the decision that they are making.
- 6.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EQiA) produced by officers.
- 6.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the County Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.4 No equality implications have been identified in relation to this report.