

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT CABINET PANEL
THURSDAY 30 MARCH 2017 AT 2:00 PM****HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**Report of the Chief Executive & Director of Environment

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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To present to the Cabinet Panel the 2015/16 Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's (HWP) annual report which is attached as Appendix A. This information note provides an overview from a Hertfordshire County Council perspective of its own contribution, through the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) network and procurement of disposal contracts, to the countywide recycling performance.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Cabinet Panel is invited to note the 2015/2016 Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's (HWP) annual report and in particular Hertfordshire County Council's contribution to the countywide recycling programme via the Household Waste Recycling Centre network and procurement of disposal contracts.

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 slightly in 2015/16 to 50.4% from 49.4% in the previous year. This compares favourably to the Eastern region figure of 49.2% and the England average of 43.0%
- 3.1.2. From the County Council perspective, the recycling rate for HWRCs increased to 62.9% from 57.6% in the previous year. This reflects significant reductions in residual waste and increases in recycling. The increase in recycling is mainly due to changes in the way wood waste is managed ensuring that the majority now counts towards recycling as opposed to being sent for recovery processes e.g. biomass which is classified as residual waste, as was the case in 2014/15.

- 3.1.3. Across the HWP, composting (i.e. green waste and food waste) reduced in 2015/16 compared to the previous year. This reflects a national trend where growing conditions were less favourable resulting in less 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 2015/16, the national database, Waste Data Flow which the Authority has to keep updated, recorded the level of household waste produced per Hertfordshire household as 1,038kg, a reduction on the 1,046kg produced in the previous year.
- 3.2.2. Hertfordshire has bucked the national trend which has seen a rise in total household waste.

3.3. Recycling and Composting

- 3.3.1. In 2015/16, dry recycling continued to increase significantly both from the HWRCs and kerbside collection services. This increase can be attributed to the diversion of wood from recovery to dry recycling at the HWRCs and improved collection services at the kerbside, such as that introduced by Broxbourne Borough Council in October 2015 (reduced capacity for household waste by introducing a 180 litre wheelie bin and the diversion of cardboard from their organic waste collections into dry recycling).
- 3.3.2. Dry recycling at HWRCs has also increased as a result of a significant diversion of Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) from re-use to recycling. This is due to a national position adopted by Amey who are contracted to operate the County Council's 17 HWRCs to not accept items for electrical re-use due to concerns regarding duty of care. However, this is being reviewed as part of new initiatives for re-use shops.
- 3.3.3. The main area of interest for the Council relates to the continuing decline in the amount of composted / organic waste collected. 2015/16 again saw a reduction in the amount of material collected to 116,794 tonnes, a reduction of 5,174 tonnes on the previous year. As noted above this is primarily down to less favourable growing conditions when compared to 2014/15 but also due to the removal of cardboard and service changes (e.g. Three River's changing from a weekly to a fortnightly green waste collection service). As previously reported to this Panel, the Council continues to work closely with all Districts and Boroughs to minimise / reduce any impact on existing contractual arrangements.

3.4. Diversion from landfill

- 3.4.1. This continues to be an area of improvement for the HWP as a result of new interim waste disposal contracts procured by the Council. These contracts include two Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities in Ardley (Oxfordshire) and

Greatmoor (Buckinghamshire), the latter of which became operational in 2015/16 further increasing the amount of material diverted from landfill.

- 3.4.2. The proportion of total local authority managed waste diverted from landfill increased from 73.7% in 2014/15 to 81.4% in 2015/16. However, some EfW facilities cannot process all types of material and therefore there is a need for alternative disposal routes.

3.5. Street sweepings

- 3.5.1. Following a successful trial throughout 2015, the Council, on behalf of the HWP, procured two new contracts for the re-processing of street sweepings.
- 3.5.2. Sand and gravel collected in the street sweepings is cleaned and turned into a product used in the building trade. Organic material is reused to restore and cap landfill sites as well as used for energy generation (biomass).
- 3.5.3. The contracts commenced in January 2016 and as a result over a 20 week period including the latter half of quarter 4 - 2015/16, as well as the first quarter of 2016/17, 3,987 tonnes of street sweepings were collected and sent for reprocessing saving the HWP just over £186,000. Full year savings are anticipated to be in the region of £480,000 per annum the majority of which will be passed back to the boroughs and districts through the Partnership's Alternative Financial Model (AFM).

3.6. Anaerobic Digestion

- 3.6.1. As noted in section 3.5 of the HWP Annual Report, construction commenced on a strategically important Anaerobic Digestion facility at Coursers Farm, near St Albans. This in-county disposal solution for food waste was made possible by exercising options in the existing contracts procured by the Council on behalf of the HWP.
- 3.6.2. The development will support already established food waste collection services by allowing a number of authorities to direct deliver separately collected food waste as well as supporting other Hertfordshire boroughs and districts should they also wish to develop dedicated food waste services.

4. Financial implications

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

Background Documents

Hertfordshire Waste Partnership Annual Report 2015/16 attached at Appendix A