

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL

**AGENDA
ITEM NO**

20 FEBRUARY 2020

5

Report Title	GLOUCESTERSHIRE RESOURCES AND WASTE PARTNERSHIP			
Purpose of Report	To approve membership of the newly formed Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership.			
Decision(s)	Council RESOLVES to: a. Authorise Stroud District Council’s membership of the new Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership; and b. Delegate authority to the Head of Community Services to approve the final Terms of Reference in consultation with the Chair of Environment Committee.			
Consultation and Feedback	Options have been considered throughout 2019, alongside partner authorities in Gloucestershire.			
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Options	Members could choose for SDC to remain outside of the partnership arrangements. However, this may minimise opportunity for joint working and communications.			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	Appendix 1 - Gloucestershire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007-2020 https://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com/media/11218/jmwms-55580.pdf			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	No	No

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Prior to the formation of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee (GJWC) there had always been a less formal joint waste partnership, known latterly as the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership (GWP). This partnership didn’t have statutory or decision making powers but the voluntary structure was intended to maximise joint working. In 2007 all members of the GWP (Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Gloucester City Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and the Forest Of Dean District Council) developed and adopted the Gloucestershire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007-2020 (Appendix 1). All members of the GWP have been working since to deliver the objectives of this strategy.
- 1.2 In 2013 the GJWC was formally constituted between Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council and the Forest of Dean District Council, with Tewkesbury Borough Council joining later, in 2014.

- 1.3 The GJWC was set up to develop a more coordinated approach to waste collection and improve recycling performance. By working closer together and by sharing officer resources, it was thought greater efficiencies could be achieved, removing duplication. Staff from each member authority were transferred to a Joint Waste Team with an annual membership fee payable.
- 1.4 Stroud District Council and Gloucester City Council attended committee meetings as non-voting members, having decided not to join. Officers and members of Stroud District Council, whilst recognising the benefits of partnership working, were never convinced of the potential financial saving or the potential increases in performance likely to be gained from formally joining the GJWC.
- 1.5 As a result of the GJWC being set up the GWP was disbanded by agreement in 2014.
- 1.6 Stroud District Council regularly reviewed the potential benefits of joining the GJWC and in the autumn of 2018 the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) via a commissioned report, recommended that SDC re-consider joining once again. APSE felt this would ensure as impactful a voice as possible, particularly regarding the countywide waste finances and possible financial re-structure, including the payment of recycling credits and food waste incentive payments.
- 1.7 On 6th December 2018 however, Cheltenham Borough Council sent notice of its intention to leave the GJWC. This was due to concern over the cost of transfer of waste to the incinerator and the potential conflicts of interest between the GJWC and the collection authorities. This triggered the termination provisions, meaning that the GJWC ended on 13th December 2019.

2. NEW PARTNERSHIP PREPARTORY WORK TO DATE

- 2.1 GCC commissioned a report to review arrangements and to help consider future partnership options. The consultant conducted an interview with the Community Services Manager and Environment Committee Chair from SDC, alongside individuals from all other authorities in Gloucestershire. The consensus was there would be value in joint working and of the options generated, forming a new partnership with a less formal approach that encouraged all partners to join, was favoured.
- 2.2 Officers from across the county have developed draft terms of reference for the new Resources and Waste Partnership and these will be considered by the new board structure.
- 2.3 The purpose of the proposed new partnership will be to provide countywide leadership and a framework for joint working between Gloucestershire local authorities on resources and waste matters.
- 2.4 A principal function will be the development of a new joint Resources and Waste Strategy for Gloucestershire, setting out a clear plan for delivering sustainable and affordable services over the next decade. Once adopted, the proposed new partnership will coordinate and oversee the delivery of this strategy.

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 3.1 The proposed new partnership will not have any statutory powers. Statutory responsibility for waste management will remain with the individual local authorities following the dissolution of the GJWC. Each local authority will hold its own budgets, contracts and employ its own staff. Whilst this impacts the authorities that were in the GJWC, there is no change for SDC.
- 3.2 It is proposed that GCC shall employ a Partnership and Community Engagement officer from existing GCC revenue budget to support the proposed new partnership and coordinate joint communications and projects.
- 3.3 As part of the restructure of the food waste incentive payments, GCC have committed £120k p.a. to the partnership with the intention of running generic waste campaigns which SDC will be able to influence if it is part of the partnership.
- 3.4 Any further funding, for identified joint projects or similar, would require opt-in and therefore, the model generates no financial burden.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS AND WORK PLANNING

- 4.1 When decisions have been reached by each of the Gloucestershire local authorities (and assuming that the said authorities decide to join), an inaugural meeting of the new partnership will be convened at which it is anticipated the Terms of Reference will be considered and approved. Senior officers from around the county will present an outline partnership work plan for discussion and agreement by members. Nominations for the appointment of a chair and vice-chair of the partnership will also be sought at this meeting.
- 4.2 The future partnership meetings will provide an opportunity to develop a common understanding of the purpose and objectives of the new partnership and to discuss how members can best deliver its vision of responding to the climate emergency by working together to promote resource efficiency and sustainable, safe and cost effective waste management.
- 4.3 The proposed partnership also provides a forum for discussing and reaching consensus on current or emerging Resources and Waste issues; both locally and nationally. Consideration can also be given as to whether any external speakers should be invited to attend meetings, and if so, the subject areas that might be most beneficial to cover.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 SDC officers believe the new partnership will offer an excellent forum to discuss developments and changes in the industry and are enthused in particular at the prospect of improved countywide waste communications.
- 5.2 SDC will incur no financial cost and will not sacrifice any decision making powers. Officers recommend that SDC join the partnership.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

As detailed in paragraph 3.4 this model creates no financial implications for the Council. Future decisions around waste and recycling investment will be considered in the future as necessary.

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6.2 Legal Implications

This is an informal partnership to promote collaborative working around waste in the County. No functions are to be transferred to the proposed body by the Council, as such, there are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendations made in this report.

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6.3 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

6.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.