

# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

14 SEPTEMBER 2023

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership – Interim Resources and Waste Strategy</b>			
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	Seek approval to adopt the Gloucestershire Interim Resources and Waste Strategy.			
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Committee RESOLVES to adopt the Interim Resources and Waste Strategy</b>			
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	A public consultation exercise was undertaken seeking views from stakeholders. Themes were reported via the Officer Report presented at Environment Committee on 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2023.			
<b>Report Author</b>	Michael Towson, Community Services Manager Email: <a href="mailto:Michael.towson@stroud.gov.uk">Michael.towson@stroud.gov.uk</a>			
<b>Options</b>	Committee could opt to reject the Interim Resources and Waste Strategy. However, this would be at odds with county partners and would require further authorisation at the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership (GRWP).			
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#">Gloucestershire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007</a>			
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A – Gloucestershire Interim Resources and Waste Strategy			
<b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b>	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership (GRWP), is a partnership between County and District Councils in Gloucestershire.
- 1.2 It is an informal partnership that provides countywide leadership and a framework for joint working on resources and waste related matters. Elected Members from each authority provide representation and are supported by officers.
- 1.3 The interim strategy (Appendix A), is intended to succeed the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS), developed and adopted by each authority in 2007.
- 1.4 Since the adoption of the Gloucestershire JMWMS, many changes and improvements to waste services have been made. All authorities now offer a wide range of recycling options and the public response to these service changes has been positive. The Gloucestershire recycling rate stands at over 50%, with Stroud District Council currently recycling around 58% of all material collected.
- 1.5 The GRWP have been working on an updated strategy over the past twelve months. The process has been hampered somewhat by delays to national policy, fundamental to

subsequent action. For this reason, an interim strategy has been devised, pending finalisation of change.

- 1.6 An initial draft of the interim strategy was circulated to stakeholders in late 2022. Feedback from this process has been incorporated into the final draft.

## **2. STRATEGY UPDATES**

- 2.1 The interim strategy, incorporates the key priorities up to 2026 but remains adaptable to further change in the longer term. It aims to account for the likely changes at a national level in the near term. These include;

- Changes to the way that council waste services are funded, as a result of the introduction of extended producer responsibility for packaging waste and the potential new burden of free garden waste collections.
- Changes to kerbside recycling services as a result of national consistency standards and mandatory food waste collections from all households.
- Further development of policies, including the introduction of a deposit return scheme, to drive forward the circular economy, promoting waste prevention and reuse as a priority.
- An increased emphasis on materials quality as a result of the above, and greater consideration of reducing carbon impacts as a key outcome.

## **3. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Interim Strategy is intended to formalise parameters within the waste collection and disposal environment, whilst awaiting national policy updates. A further substantive update will be developed in line with the proposed timeframe.
- 3.2 As with the original, the interim strategy is being adopted across Gloucestershire, having been approved for adoption by the GRWP. Each Partner Authority is in the process of adopting the strategy through their own governance channels.
- 3.3 The officer recommendation is to approve SDC adoption.

## **4. IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications within this report as it is to adopt an interim waste strategy which is currently being adopted across Gloucestershire and approved by the GRWP. Any national policy update may implicate a future financial burden for the Council (2.1).

Adele Rudkin, Accountant

Tel: 01453 754109 Email: [adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk)

#### 4.2 **Legal Implications**

The Environment Act 2021 amended the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and created a number of additional obligations on Waste Collection Authorities (the Council is a Waste Collection Authority). The interim strategy appears to support the Council's compliance with current obligations under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended).

One Legal will support the implementation of any new and amended contractual arrangements that may arise out of the adoption of the interim Waste Strategy.

One Legal,

Email: [legalservices@onelegal.org.uk](mailto:legalservices@onelegal.org.uk)

#### 4.3 **Equality Implications**

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

#### 4.4 **Environmental Implications**

There are no immediate implications within this category. However, the GRWP recognise the environmental impacts, and the partnership continue to work with Climate Leadership Gloucestershire on waste as a key theme/work strand.