

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director - Environment

**SUBJECT:** Municipal Waste Management Strategy

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To seek adoption of an updated Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Halton following a recent public consultation exercise.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) **The Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Halton be adopted.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Following an extensive public consultation in the autumn of 2003, the Council's current Municipal Waste Management Strategy was approved by the Executive Board on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2004 and adopted as an enabling document to provide a set of aspirations and principles to guide the Council's actions and activities on waste management issues.

3.2 A draft updated strategy, which reflects present data, good practice and information with regard to waste arisings, performance, key projects, and the current procurement process, was considered by the Executive Board on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007. At the meeting Members approved the draft updated Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Halton for the purposes of public consultation. (Minute EXB70/2007 refers)

## **4.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

4.1 A consultation exercise was subsequently undertaken between 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007 and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2008. During this period the draft Strategy was made available on the Council's web site, at prominent Council buildings, and circulated to all elected members.

4.2 Responses to the consultation were received from both members of the public and elected Members and were generally supportive of the updated Strategy. The main comments received are summarised below:

- Responses indicated a desire by residents to be provided with improved recycling services across the borough.

- Comment was made on the provision of wheeled bins for kerbside recycling services to properties currently without such bins, and also the need to consider the type and capacity of receptacles provided for recycling.
- A number of comments regarding the wider role of food manufacturers and packaging waste were made.
- Comments regarding discrepancies in the number of recycling sites stated in the draft document were made
- Comments were made regarding the proper consideration of pre-treating residual waste in future procurement projects to avoid the potential effects of hazardous household waste items in future facilities.
- Suggestions were made to increase the number of neighbourhood bring sites in the borough.
- The current pilot multi-material recycling collection scheme was welcomed, as was the planned extension.
- It was suggested that consideration be given to recycling further types of plastic materials to those currently recycled in Halton.

4.3 Individuals who have provided comments have been responded to and in relation to the above Members are advised of the following;

- Concerning the number of neighbourhood recycling sites in Halton, the Strategy document has been amended accordingly. It is the intention to increase the current number, however, the provision of neighbourhood recycling facilities has to be balanced with the practicalities of finding suitable locations. Suggestions for potential new locations are welcomed and will always be investigated and, where feasible, introduced. The individual who made these comments has been advised of this and invited to provide potential locations for facilities within their area.
- In relation to the provision of recycling bins to properties currently without them, it is planned that such bins will be provided to all accessible properties in the coming 12 months, as detailed within the Council's Waste Action Plan that was agreed by the Executive Board in July 2007. The Council's plans for the provision of kerbside recycling services to properties with limited access or adequate storage facilities, and therefore not suitable for wheeled bins, is also contained within the Waste Action Plan.
- Within the current pilot multi-material recycling scheme, residents are provided with larger bins for recycling where necessary. Larger

bins will also be made available to residents with any future expansion to the recycling service.

- Regarding the recycling of plastics, the materials that are currently collected by the Council are dictated by current available markets for reprocessing of those materials. As opportunities arise, the Council will look to expand the types of plastics that can be recycled. Again, the individual who raised this question has been invited to suggest what types of plastics the Council should recycle that it currently does not.

4.3 Following the consultation no significant changes have been made to the draft Strategy document. It is now proposed that Members approve the updated Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Halton, which is attached as Appendix 1, and that the document is published in accordance with corporate guidelines.

4.4 The updated Strategy will be a headline document that will continue to guide the Council's actions and inform the future decision-making process. The aims, objectives and targets contained within the Strategy will be achieved through the delivery of services and initiatives contained within a number of supporting documents, including a Waste Action Plan (that was agreed by the Executive Board on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2007) and Waste Prevention Strategy.

4.5 Waste prevention is a vital element of the Council's Waste Strategy. The Council recognises that, whilst successful initiatives have already been introduced, more needs to be done to reduce the levels of waste produced in Halton. Accordingly, it is proposed that additional resources are provided to support the existing efforts and further promote waste reduction, and that a Waste Prevention Strategy for Halton is presented to Members for consideration in April 2008.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL, POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### Financial Implications

5.1 Members have previously been advised that financial modelling indicates that the cost of procuring facilities to deliver the Council's strategy is estimated to be £230m over the next 25 years. Members' attention is drawn to the fact that this is approximately £1m per year less than the projected costs of maintaining the status quo, and a continuing reliance upon landfill for the disposal of residual waste.

5.2 Increased recycling and higher levels of waste diversion from landfill will reduce future waste disposal bills and the Council's Strategy represents a planned investment to keep future costs down.

## Policy Implications

- 5.3 As the overall aims and objectives of the Council's adopted Strategy have remained unchanged, there are no new policy implications as a result of this report.

## Other Implications

- 5.4 There are no other implications as a result of this report

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None

### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

None

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

None

### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 The production of an updated Waste Management Strategy for Halton is a key Service Objective for the Waste Management Division. A strategic risk analysis has been carried out in relation to the Strategy and as result it has been identified as a key strategic risk to the Authority and is contained within the Environment Directorate Risk Register. Any failure to meet the commitments of the Strategy could severely impact upon the Authority's ability to meet future waste related targets and lead to severe financial consequences. Continual monitoring and periodic updating of the Council's Strategy has been identified as the key control measures necessary to mitigate such risks to the Authority.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

There are no specific equality or diversity issues as a result of this report.

## **9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

9.1 In order to work in partnership with the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) there was a need for Halton to update its current Waste Management Strategy (Executive Board Report 7.9.06 refers). Notwithstanding this requirement, there was also a need to ensure that the Council's Strategy document remained fit for purpose.

## **10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

10.1 The options that have been considered, and led to a decision to update the Council's current Strategy, are detailed in previous reports presented to the Executive Board.

## **11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

11.1 Implementation is expected by May 2008.

## **12.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>
<b>Working Documents</b>	<b>Lowerhouse Lane</b>	<b>Jimmy Unsworth Andy Horrocks</b>