

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	12 February 2020
Subject:	Gloucestershire Resource and Waste Partnership		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Environment		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	Yes	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	1. Terms of Reference including Partnership Objectives		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet of the formation of a Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership, whose membership shall be comprised of Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that Gloucester City Council join the new Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership and delegate authority to the Waste, Recycling and Streetscene Manager in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Council Solicitor to finalise and approve the Terms of Reference of the new Partnership

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 In 2013 the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee (GJWC) was formally constituted between, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council and Gloucestershire County Council. Tewkesbury Borough joined later in 2014. Stroud District and Gloucester City attended the meetings as non-voting members. Its purpose was to create closer joint working in waste, with responsibility for waste, recycling and street care services delegated to the GWJC.
- 3.2 On 6th December 2018, Cheltenham Borough Council sent notice of its intention to leave the GJWC. This triggered the Termination provisions within the Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) which governed the committee. Under the terms of the IAA, the GJWC was dissolved 12 months following such notice, unless two or more of the remaining partners serve a Continuance Notice. The deadline for such was 13th September and was not received, subsequently the GJWC ended on 13th December 2019.

- 3.3 However, both voting and non-voting members of the GJWC have expressed an interest in continued partnership working but in a less structured format. Accordingly, an informal partnership with countywide membership was proposed. A proposal for a future Resources and Waste Partnership was approved by the GJWC on 8th October 2019.
- 3.4 Officers from each district council and GCC drafted the terms of reference for the new partnership, these are to be finalised between December 2019 and March 2020. The proposed new partnership will provide countywide leadership and a framework for joint working on resources and waste matters. The principle 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. If adopted the proposed new partnership will coordinate and oversee the delivery of the strategy.
- 3.5 Membership of the new partnership will include Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Stroud District Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council.
- 3.6 The annual action plan will be approved by each member Council and may include commissioning work, research and surveys in addition to the communications and marketing around relevant agreed campaigns.
- 3.7 The proposed new partnership will not have any statutory powers, responsibility for waste management will be held by the individual authorities. Each local authority will hold its own budget, contracts and employ its own staff.
- 3.8 It is proposed that GCC will employ a Partnerships and Community Engagement officer, who will be responsible to the Head of Waste at GCC. This role will support the new partnership and coordinate joint communications and projects.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

- 4.1 Waste and recycling affects every community in Gloucester and indeed the county. A strong and resilient streetscene improves wellbeing and gives communities increased pride in their neighbourhoods.

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 Waste and recycling is a key factor in the climate change and wider environmental agenda. Much work has been done across Gloucestershire in the last decade to increase recycling and reduce the amount of residual waste produced. The new Waste and Resources Strategy will bring new challenges to local authorities and now is possibly the best time for greater partnership working.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 The following options were considered by the GJWC:

(i) Allow the GJWC to dissolve in December 2019 and do not develop any future working partnership arrangement.

(ii) Maintain the GJWC with the remaining partner councils

(iii) Form a new partnership that is less formal than the GJWC and which encourages all Gloucestershire local authorities to join.

6.2 Option (i) was discounted as it was agreed by each member (voting and non-voting) of the GJWC that there was value in continued joint working on waste matters. Option (ii) was discounted by the remaining voting members of the GJWC as it was felt that with reduced membership, the GJWC would no longer add sufficient value. Option (iii) is supported by members of GJWC and outline terms and of reference for a new partnership are agreed in principle. Accordingly, the officer recommendation is to form a new Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership between GCC and the district councils.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 To continue the long history of partnership working in waste management between GCC and the district councils in Gloucestershire. Government favours joined up services and there may be opportunities for further funding by working cohesively.

7.2 To ensure greater cohesion and communication across Gloucestershire, joining up services where applicable and benefitting from economies of scale.

7.3 To reduce waste at source and to continue to divert as much waste as possible to recycling, in line with the climate change and wider environmental agenda.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 A new joint Resources and Waste Strategy for Gloucestershire will be the principle function of the Senior Management Group (SMG); this will set out a clear plan for delivering sustainable and affordable services for the whole county, over the next decade.

8.2 It is anticipated that quarterly meetings of the proposed Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership will be hosted by member councils on a rotating annual programme. This may require some clerical support from the member councils.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 There are no direct costs relating to the formation of the proposed partnership. Each district authority will contribute £10,000 annually, which will be top sliced from an incentive payment which is paid to the city quarterly by GCC. It should be noted that this payment is discretionary and voluntary and has been given historically to

incentivise districts to reduce the amount of residual waste they send for disposal. Gloucester City has reduced waste 8% over the last 5 years and will not be adversely affected in terms of this incentive payment being top sliced.

- 9.2 Each £10,000 contribution by a district will be match funded by GCC giving a total communication and project budget of £120,000 a year.
- 9.3 There will be a Partnerships and Engagement officer role employed by GCC, funded from the existing waste revenue budget, any funding shortfall for this role may need to be topped up from the GCC £60,000 contribution to the partnership.
- 9.4 Clerical support from member councils at approximately £2000 a year, (£285 per member council), will be drawn from the proposed countywide communications and joint projects fund for the new partnership.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 As mentioned in the report the new Partnership is an informal arrangement with no delegated functions.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 Failure to agree a partnership working framework risks a loss of coordination on waste and resources matters. Both GCC (as Waste Disposal Authority) and district councils (as Waste Collection Authorities) have legal duties for the management of waste, with combined annual revenue expenditure in excess of £50 million. A lack of cohesion risks uninformed decision making and increased costs as a result.
- 11.2 In view that the Government supports partnership working in waste, future funding opportunities may be enhanced if it can be demonstrated that there is joint working taking place across Gloucestershire.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 There are no community safety implications.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 There are no staffing or Trade Union implications

Background Documents:

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference including the partnership objectives (produced by GCC)