

# ***Information/Discussion Paper***

## **Environment Committee - 2nd March 2011**

### **Joint Waste Governance Arrangements**

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed

#### **1. Why has this come to scrutiny?**

- 1.1 The committee requested an information paper before the issue is referred to Cabinet on 13 March 2011.

#### **2. Background and History**

- 2.1 On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010 Cabinet confirmed the council's participation in the development of the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership (GWP) and approved the Project Initiation Document for the development of a business case for shared depot services with a joint arrangement with Tewkesbury as a first step, recognising that the project scope may be subsequently amended to accommodate other partners as and when conditions were favourable.
- 2.2 At the same time similar confirmations were approved by Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Forest of Dean District Council and Cotswold District Council.
- 2.3 This report sets out the work undertaken by officers to implement the above mentioned resolutions and to progress joint working in waste and environmental services in Gloucestershire.

#### **3. Summary of the Issue**

- 3.1 Joint waste services may be divided into 3 parts or stages:
- (a) Interim arrangements for joint depot services between Tewkesbury and Cheltenham.
  - (b) Shared collection / depot services between Tewkesbury, Cheltenham and Cotswold District Council.
  - (c) Shared disposal and collection services for Gloucestershire but currently excluding Gloucestershire City Council and Stroud District Council.
- 3.2 The staged approach to the implementation of shared waste services within Gloucestershire enables Members to properly and carefully consider the implications for their Council before important decisions are made about these key frontline services.

#### **4. Interim arrangements for joint depot services between Tewkesbury**

## **and Cheltenham Borough Councils**

**4.1** Following the decision of Cabinet in September 2010 a project team was formed to deliver the project within the required timescale and to deliver the efficiency savings included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The draft business case for the interim joint working arrangements for depot services between Tewkesbury and Cheltenham is attached at Appendix A.

## **5. The collection/depot services between Tewkesbury , Cheltenham and Cotswold.**

**5.1** The three councils have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in which they commit to working together to see if an acceptable shared arrangement could be agreed. The options appraisal is ongoing but initial indications are that significant efficiency savings could be delivered to each authority if such an arrangement were to be implemented.

**5.2** The delivery vehicle for this arrangement could be through a Section 101 agreement, with one authority acting as the administrative authority for the joint arrangement, or via a jointly owned limited company.

## **6. The disposal/collection governance arrangements**

**6.1** Following the decision in September 2010 confirming the Council's participation in the development of the GWP a formal and detailed analysis is being undertaken of the governance options and legal form for the partnership.

**6.2** At strategic level the governance could be through the establishment of a joint committee. As the joint committee does not have any legal personality it is necessary to appoint an administrative authority to employ staff and to act as the contracting body. It is recognised that the most appropriate body to undertake this role is Gloucestershire County Council

**6.3** The key benefit of a joint committee is that responsibility for collection services (currently with district councils) and disposal services (currently with the county council) is delegated to one body which undertakes and takes responsibility for both disposal and collection services. This facilitates integrated service delivery and the potential to deliver improved quality services and value for money to the residents and businesses of Gloucestershire. It means that individual councils will no longer have responsibility for those matters delegated to the joint committee. It should be stressed that it is intended that certain key decisions would be retained (i.e. not delegated) to the joint committee and these have been identified as the annual financial plan and collection service design matters.

## **7. Next Steps - possible next steps for the committee to consider e.g. potential witnesses, further report, site visit etc.**

**7.1** The committee are invited to debate the issues identified in this paper and feedback to Cabinet prior to its meeting on 13 March 2011.

## 8. Appendices

### Appendix A - Draft Business case

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#### **Background Papers**

1. Cabinet 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010, Joint Working in Waste Services
2. Cabinet 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009, Joint Working in Waste Services.
3. Cabinet 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008, Joint Working in Waste and Environmental Services
4. Cabinet 30<sup>th</sup> October 2007, Gloucestershire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

#### **Contact Officer**

Rob Bell, Assistant Director, Operations

01242 264181, [rob.bel@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:rob.bel@cheltenham.gov.uk)

#### **Accountability**

Roger Whyborn, Cabinet Member Sustainability,  
01242 231458,  
[cllr.roger.whyborn@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.roger.whyborn@cheltenham.gov.uk)

#### **Scrutiny Function**

Environment