

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE & COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 12 April 2016 & 19 April 2016

Report of: Assistant Director Environment

Title: Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 This report informs the Council about the proposal to replace the Devon Authorities Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee (DAWRRC) with a new strategic waste management committee. It recommends that Exeter City Council elects to join this new committee, known as the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC).

2. Recommendations:

- (i) That Executive supports, and Council approves, Exeter City Council electing to join the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee from 29 June 2016;**
- (ii) That Executive supports, and Council approves, the Portfolio Holder for Health and Place representing Exeter City Council on the Committee;**
- (iii) That Executive supports, and Council approves, the Portfolio Holder for Health and Place nominating another elected member to attend on occasions when he or she is not available.**

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 This will enable Exeter City Council to continue to benefit from the sharing of good practice and from jointly funded projects that promote sustainable waste management in Devon.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

4.1 There are no changes in revenue or capital budget associated with this recommendation. For 2016/17, Exeter City Council is currently committed to contributing £9,467 towards the Committee's budget £175,630 to support Devon-wide projects. This contribution is in the form of a contribution from our projected recycling credit income.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

There are no additional financial implications contained within this report.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee (DASWC) will have no legal powers over the member authorities. DASWC will be able to make recommendations to the Devon Chief Executives' and Leaders' Group, and to exercise any powers that are delegated to it by the member authorities. DASWC's terms of reference are listed on Appendix i.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

This report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report details:

8.1 A committee involving all Devon local authorities (currently excluding the unitary Plymouth City Council) has existed since 1992, known initially as the Joint Recycling Committee and since 1999 as the Devon Authorities Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee (DAWRRC).

8.2 This period has seen Devon's recycling rate increase to over 50%, currently the third-highest in England. The Committee has also overseen the introduction of innovative projects such as furniture reuse credits, community composting, the Don't Let Devon Go To Waste campaign, the 'real nappy' campaign and waste education in schools.

8.3 However, with waste reduction and recycling performance having reached a plateau, members of the Committee agreed that a new body with a more strategic role was needed. In 2014 – 2015 the proposal for a formal Joint Waste Authority in Devon was investigated. Although the Devon authorities did not proceed with the proposal, this work did identify some of the potential cost savings and performance improvements that could result from more joint working. With a formal Joint Waste Authority ruled out, the DAWRRC agreed in October 2015 to form a new strategic waste authority to replace itself. The attached DAWRRC report (Appendix 1) explains the proposal in more detail.

8.4 In order to take part in the new Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee, the member authorities must confirm their agreement to join (see Recommendation (i) above). It is expected that each authority is represented at the new Committee by the appropriate Executive member (or equivalent), who will also nominate a deputy to attend in his or her place if required. Exeter City Council's member will be supported at this Committee by a senior officer, normally the Cleansing and Fleet Manager.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 A more strategic, joined up approach to waste and recycling in Devon is expected to help improve Exeter's recycling rate, optimise income and minimise the costs of waste management.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 Exeter City Council has enjoyed membership of a joint committee since 1992 with no adverse consequences. There are no new risks arising from membership of the new Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee, whereas there would be a risk from not being a members, as the Council would not be 'at the table' to help inform and influence the strategic direction of waste management.

11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

The impacts are beneficial - a more strategic, joined up approach to waste and recycling in Devon is expected to help improve Exeter's recycling rate, improving income, reducing our carbon footprint and reducing costs of waste disposal to citizens.. No negative impacts have been identified.

12. Are there any other options?

Exeter City Council could decline to join the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee. However, this would result in Exeter being unable to influence strategic waste policy and missing out on opportunities to make financial savings, attract external funding and achieve service improvements and higher recycling rates that are expected to result from participation in the new Committee.

Assistant Director: Robert Norley

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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