



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	CABINET - 2 NOVEMBER 2020
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 9
Subject	GLOUCESTERSHIRE RESOURCES AND WASTE PARTNERSHIP
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Andrew Doherty - Cabinet Member for Waste, Flooding and Environmental Health Email: Andrew.Doherty@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Scott Williams, Business Manager - Waste Email: scott.williams@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	In September 2019, Cabinet recommended to Council that support should be given to the Council entering a structured but less formal Joint Waste Partnership within Gloucestershire. The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with details of the new Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership, following the end of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Partnership in December 2019.
Annexes	Annex A - Gloucestershire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007-2020 Annex B - Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership, Terms of Reference
Recommendation/s	<i>It is recommended that Cabinet approves Cotswold District Council's membership of the new Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership.</i>
Corporate priorities	The Council being a member of the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership will contribute towards the corporate priority: Respond to the challenges presented by the Climate Change Emergency
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Cabinet Member and Senior Officers from the Council and Publica have been consulted on this report

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Prior to the formation of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee (GJWC) there had always been a less formal joint waste partnership, known latterly as the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership (GWP). This partnership did not have statutory or decision making powers but the voluntary structure was intended to maximise joint working. In 2007 all members of the GWP (Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest Of Dean District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council) developed and adopted the Gloucestershire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007-2020 (**Annex A**).
- 1.2. All members of the GWP have been working in partnership since that time to deliver the objectives of this strategy.
- 1.3. In 2013 the GJWC was formally constituted between Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council and Gloucestershire County Council, with Tewkesbury Borough Council joining later in 2014.
- 1.4. The GJWC was set up to develop a more coordinated approach to waste collection services and improve recycling performance. By working closer together and by sharing officer resources, it was thought greater efficiencies could be achieved by removing duplication. Staff from each member authority were transferred to a Joint Waste Team administered by Gloucestershire County Council, with an annual membership fee payable.
- 1.5. As a result of the GJWC being set up the GWP was disbanded by agreement in 2014. Gloucester City Council and Stroud District Council took the decision not to join the GJWC but attended the group as non-voting partners.
- 1.6. On 6th December 2018, Cheltenham Borough Council sent notice of its intention to leave the GJWC. This triggered the termination provisions, meaning that the GJWC would end on 13th December 2019.
- 1.7. On 2nd September 2019 Cabinet received a report on the 'Future Joint Waste Partnership and Waste Management Provision' and recommended to Council that the formal Gloucestershire Joint Waste Partnership end in December 2019 and a new partnership be created, which would be less formal.
- 1.8. On 25th September 2019 Council endorsed the Cabinet recommendation to end the formal Gloucestershire Joint Waste Partnership (GJWP) in December 2019 and for a new partnership to be created which would be less formal.
- 1.9. This report presents the steps which were undertaken to review the outgoing GJWC in order to shape the proposed Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1. In order to consider the options available, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) commissioned a report to review arrangements and to help consider future partnership options. The consultant conducted an interview with the Group Manager - Commissioning, alongside individuals from all other authorities in Gloucestershire. The consensus was there would be value in joint working and of

the options generated, forming a new partnership with a less formal approach that encouraged all partners to join, was favoured.

- 2.2. Officers from across the county have developed terms of reference (attached at **Annex B**) for the new Resources and Waste Partnership and these were considered and supported by the new board structure during its inception meeting on 1 October 2020.
- 2.3. The purpose of the new partnership will be to provide countywide leadership and a framework for joint working between Gloucestershire local authorities on resources and waste matters.
- 2.4. A principal 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. The new partnership will coordinate and oversee the delivery of this strategy which will replace the current Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007-2020 which is coming to an end.
- 2.5. The new partnership will not have any statutory powers. Statutory responsibility for waste management will remain with the individual local authorities. In addition, each local authority will hold its own budgets, contracts and employ its own staff.
- 2.6. It is proposed that Gloucestershire County Council will employ a Partnership and Community Engagement officer from the existing GCC revenue budget to support the proposed new partnership and coordinate joint communications and projects.
- 2.7. As part of the restructure of the food waste incentive payments, Gloucestershire County Council amended the payment mechanism and this resulted in a reduction in income to this Council, which has been reflected in our budget. However, the County Council has committed £120k p.a. to the new partnership by using £60k of this saving from all of the districts and allocating a further £60k to make the £120k. The intention is to use this fund to run generic waste communication campaigns, which as a member of the partnership, the Council will be able to both influence and take benefit from.
- 2.8. Any further funding, for identified joint projects or similar, would require opt-in and therefore, the model generates no financial burden.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. As detailed in paragraph 2.8 this model creates no financial implications for the Council.
- 3.2. Future decisions around waste and recycling investment will be considered by the Council as necessary.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. This is an informal partnership to promote collaborative working around waste services in the County. No functions are to be transferred to the proposed body by the Council, and therefore there are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendations made in this report.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. There are no identified risks associated with the Council being a member of the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership.
- 5.2. There are however risks if the Council is not a member of the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership, because it would be potentially unsighted on future opportunities and joint working, and possibly not gain the anticipated benefits from joint communication activities.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 6.1. There are no specific changes to the waste service delivery in the Cotswolds, connected with the Council being a member of the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS (IF REQUIRED)

- 7.1. There are no significant implications within this category, although the Council being a member of the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership will positively contribute towards the corporate priority in relation to climate change, by engaging in joint initiatives with the other Gloucestershire authorities such as shaping the new strategy and undertaking joint communications to inform on the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling waste.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 8.1. The Council could choose not to be a member of the new Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership however, that may hinder the Council from securing future improvements to waste services, and not realise the benefits from partnership working and joint communications on waste related areas.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1. None.

(END)

