

Dissolution of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee and formation of the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership

This Members Information Sheet is a pre-cursor to a report being taken to Council, providing detail of the proposed changes to strategic waste oversight in Gloucestershire. Whilst constitutionally a decision is required at Council, this information sheet specifically updates Environment Committee on the progress to date.

Background

The Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee (GJWC) was formally constituted between Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council. Stroud District Council and Gloucester City Council attended committee meetings as non-voting members, having previously decided not to join.

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 ended on 13th December 2019.

In light of this, GCC commissioned a report to review the arrangements and to help consider future options. The consultant conducted an interview with the Community Services Manager and Environment Committee Chair from Stroud District Council, alongside individuals from all other authorities in Gloucestershire. The consensus deemed there to 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.

Further to this, officers from each authority have developed draft terms of reference for the Resources and Waste Partnership, which will be further discussed and agreed at the first board meeting.

The purpose of the proposed new partnership will be to provide countywide leadership and a framework for joint working between Gloucestershire local authorities on resources and waste matters.

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. Once adopted, the proposed new partnership will coordinate and oversee the delivery of this strategy.

Michael Towson, Community Services Manager
Ext: 4336
Email: michael.towson@stroud.gov.uk

The proposed new partnership will not have any statutory powers, but rather the statutory responsibilities for waste management will be held by the individual local authorities following the dissolution of the GJWC. Each local authority will hold its own budgets, contracts and employ its own staff. In this regard there will be no change for SDC.

It is proposed that GCC shall employ a Partnership and Community Engagement officer from existing GCC revenue budget to support the proposed new partnership and coordinate joint communications and projects.

Summary

In summary the proposal will not impact how SDC deliver services, but offers potential to drive improvements. Officers believe the new partnership will be of benefit and are enthused at the prospect of enhanced countywide waste communications that will benefit cross boundaries.

Next Steps

A report will go to Council in February 2020 for a decision, whilst partner authorities will be doing likewise throughout Gloucestershire.