

Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Reasons for Decision

To meet the Council's statutory obligations through supporting the Surrey Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy which is consistent with the Council's Climate Change and Waste Strategy objectives to recycle 60% of its waste and to maximise the reduction of bio-degradable municipal waste being disposed of to landfill.

To revise the Council's waste plant proposals through the exclusion of gasification and pyrolysis technologies following the determination by Surrey County Council to rely solely upon mass burn incineration technology for the treatment of residual waste.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RECOMMEND That

- i) the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Surrey, as the primary strategy for managing municipal solid waste produced in the county, be approved and submitted to the Government Office South East and to the Secretary of State;
- ii) the Council acknowledges that despite its continued opposition to mass burn incineration the Waste Disposal Authority, on grounds of cost, has determined that residual waste will be processed through mass burn incineration;
- iii) the Council requests that the Waste Disposal Authority notes its continued objection to mass burn incineration and keep under review the evolving range of advanced thermal treatments, with demonstrable environmental benefits, with a view to using the best practical environmental option when it comes to implement its proposals for residual waste treatment;
- iv) the Council acknowledges that the difference in the environmental implications between the latest mass burn incineration technology and the gasification and pyrolysis technology to deliver energy from waste has narrowed over the last three years whilst the cost difference remains significant;
- v) the Council recognises that it is not in the local Council Tax taxpayers interest for it to continue with its own proposal, initially supported by both Surrey County Council and Surrey Waste Management Limited in submissions to DEFRA, to process residual waste through gasification or pyrolysis;
- vi) the Council will discontinue its efforts in respect of gasification or pyrolysis technologies for the treatment of residual waste at Heather Farm or elsewhere in the Borough; and
- vii) notwithstanding recommendation vi) above, the Council recognises that In-Vessel Composting of green waste and Anaerobic Digestion with gas capture to produce combined heat and power remains a viable technology for the recycling of organic waste and diversion from landfill and these proposals remain valid at Heather Farm or elsewhere in the Borough in the context of the JMWMS.

This item will need to be dealt with by way of a recommendation to the Council.