

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNCILS JOINT WASTE PARTNERSHIP  
(Report by the Head of Operations)**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of changes to the terms of reference and role of the Cambridgeshire Councils Association (CCA) Waste Forum and 2007/08 budget for the RECAP (Recycling Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) partnership.

**2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The CCA waste forum was established in 1998/99 with a remit to find integrated ways of working together to reduce and recycle across the area by developing an integrated approach to all waste management issues among partner authorities.
- 2.2 Shortly after it was formed, the waste forum established the RECAP partnership, funded jointly by all member authorities, as a vehicle to create a joint municipal waste strategy and bid for external funding. RECAP has been very successful in securing over £10 million from the DEFRA waste minimisation and recycling fund to establish wheeled bin collection systems and £1million from the landfill tax credit system. To date, HDC has received *in excess of £1.5 million* of those funds along with *over £0.5million* from other funding sources developed by the partnership.
- 2.3 Since its creation, the Forum has achieved significant successes which have led directly to the high recycling rates now being achieved by all member authorities. This success was recognised by government earlier this year with all partnership members being awarded Beacon Status for waste and recycling.
- 2.4 The joint municipal waste strategy produced by the partnership has been used extensively as an example of best practice nationally.
- 2.5 The close working links between member authorities created by the partnership enabled the development of a jointly supported PFI bid of £35million to enable the County, as the Waste Disposal Authority, to create new and more sustainable waste processing and disposal facilities for use by all member authorities. Elsewhere on this agenda, the formal partnering agreement that forms part of the process to secure that funding for the County is set out for members' information.

**Changes to Terms of Reference**

- 2.6 Having achieved many of the initial objectives set out in its original terms of reference, members of the CCA waste forum at their meeting in September 2006, attended by the Executive Councillor for Operations, considered a report on how the successful partnership working could be

continued to both build on the development of existing waste reduction and recycling initiatives, whilst addressing the new challenges emerging through new legislation such as the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act. These wider waste issues such as litter and fly tipping are currently being addressed by all member authorities and a joint approach to these issues, offers potential efficiencies along with the ability to make joint funding applications where appropriate.

- 2.7 Following consideration of that report, forum members agreed with, and approved changes to both the name and terms of reference of the group details of which are set out at annex 1 to this report. The change of name, from Waste Forum, to Waste and Environment Forum is a closer reflection of the widened service areas now being addressed by the forum and the RECAP partnership and the revised terms of reference introduce a performance management framework for the teams tasked with work by the forum.

### **Joint Waste Partnership Budget**

- 2.8 The Waste Partnership is funded by contributions from all member authorities. Current annual contribution levels are £39k from County, £20k from Peterborough City and £12k from each of the 5 districts. Although the partnership will, under the new terms of reference have an expanding workload; Forum members agreed that this should be delivered by re structuring the officer support arrangements to make economies and efficiency savings, in order to deliver this new agenda within the current budget framework. The Forum resolved that the partnership budget would remain unchanged for 2007/08, rising only by annual inflation of 2½%.
- 2.9 The inflation increase will raise Huntingdonshire District Councils contribution to the partnership budget by £292 to £11,942.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Cabinet are requested to
- a) Note the significant successes of the partnership and confirm this council's continued support of this area of joint working.
  - b) Note the change of name of the CCA Waste Forum to the CCA Waste and Environment Forum and approve the revised terms of reference.
  - c) Approve this council's continued contribution to the partnership budget as set out in 2.9 above.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Agendas and Minutes of CCA Waste Forum meetings.

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