

## **Governance Committee**

**20 January 2020**

**Part I**

### **Joint Work on Recycling Projects: Establishment of Joint Committee**

**Report by Director of Law and Assurance**

**Electoral Division(s): Not applicable**

### **Summary**

Funds have been set aside by the County Council to be available over two years to support trials with collection authorities of a new waste collection model. The proposal was built on modelling work which suggested significantly improved waste diversion from landfill, recycling performance and financial benefit could accrue from the new system. It was envisaged that the trial would test the modelling data and seek feedback from residents.

It was envisaged that trials would be governed through a joint working approach between participating districts and the County Council. Such a proposal for joint working is currently under discussion with officers and elected members at Mid Sussex District Council.

The governance of the implementation of this joint project is to include the establishment of a joint committee at which executive decisions would be taken together by the two Councils. It is proposed that the Director of Law be authorised to complete plans for the governance of such a joint committee for submission to the County Council for approval.

### **Recommendation**

That the Director of Law and Assurance be authorised to prepare a constitution and terms of reference for a joint executive committee between the County Council and one or more district and borough councils for use in connection with inter authority partnership work on recycling projects for submission to the County Council for approval.

## **Proposal**

### **1. Background and Context**

- 1.1 In 2018 the County Council set aside up to £200,000 of funding over two years to support trials, in partnership with the waste collection authorities, of a new recycling, food waste, absorbent hygiene product and residual waste collection model. The proposal was built on modelling work which suggested that adopting this approach across the county could collectively save up to £1.7m a year and boost the countywide recycling rate to around 58%.

- 1.2 The County Council has offered to use the funds for trialling the separate collection of food waste along with absorbent hygiene products and a reduced frequency of refuse collection based on a proposal. It has been agreed with Mid Sussex District Council that such a trial will be developed for part of its area from Spring 2020. The trial would implement a "1-2-3" system which is a scheme to separately collect food waste, absorbent hygiene products weekly, other recycle and with a reduction in residual waste frequency to three weekly.
- 1.3 Operating the trial and any further rolling out of the scheme would require the two councils agreeing important decisions on the implementation of the scheme and the most effective use of the available fund. Rather than require the two Councils to use their respective internal governance for these decisions to be taken separately it is proposed that a joint committee be established. This would include, as a minimum, the respective cabinet members from the two councils holding the relevant portfolios. Decisions would be taken unanimously. Administrative support will be shared between the two Councils.
- 1.4 It is proposed that the governance of such a committee be finalised by officers for consideration and approval by the County Council.

## **2. Consultation**

- 2.1 Members and officers of Mid Sussex District Council have been consulted on the proposal. A report is being prepared for consideration by the Cabinet at the District Council and proposals to match those for presentation to the County Council will be developed for approval by the District Council.

## **Factors taken into account**

### **3. Resources**

- 3.1 There are no additional resource implications for this proposal save that attention will need to be given to the resource required to service and support the meetings of the joint committee. The governance of decisions related to the use of the fund set aside will be covered in the report for consideration by the County Council.

### **4. Risk Management Implications**

- 4.1 None for this proposal.

### **5. Equality Duty, Human Rights and Crime and Disorder**

- 5.1 There are no implications for this proposal and no Equality Impact Review has been undertaken as this proposal relates only to internal council governance.

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**Background Papers:** None.