

	Committee Review of Future Options
Committee	Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee
Committee Date	18 June 2019
Significant Decision	No
Responsible Officers	Wayne Lewis, Head of Joint Waste Team, 01452 425504, wayne.lewis@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Main Consultees	Voting and non-voting members of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee.
Purpose of Report	The purpose of this report is to update members on the current work on a review of the joint committee that is being supported by Local Partnerships. The review aims to identify future requirements and approaches for continued partnership working in waste management.
Recommendations	<p><i>It is recommended that the Committee:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Notes the progress of the current review; b) Considers the draft recommendations; and if accepted, c) Tasks the Senior Managers Group to develop a draft governance framework for a future Gloucestershire wide waste partnership.
Resource Implications	None. Future budget implications will be considered as part of the development of any future partnership working arrangements.

1. Background

1.1 The Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee (GJWC) is formally constituted between:

- Cheltenham Borough Council;

- Cotswold District Council;
- Forest of Dean District Council;
- Gloucestershire County Council; and
- Tewkesbury Borough Council.

1.2 The remaining Gloucestershire districts of Stroud District Council and Gloucester City Council attend committee meetings as non-voting members.

1.3 On 6th December 2018 Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) sent notice of its intention to leave the GJWC. This triggers the Termination provisions within the Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) that governs the committee. This requires the GJWC to be dissolved in 12 months unless two or more of the remaining partners serve a Continuance Notice on all of the other partners no later than 3 months before the Dissolution Date.

1.4 CBC's notice has presented an opportunity for the partners within the GJWC to reflect on the current model and decide if any changes should be made. Local Partnerships has been commissioned to assist in reviewing the current partnership arrangements and considering future options. Following interviews with each Gloucestershire local authority, a workshop session with joint committee members (voting and non-voting) and the circulation of a draft report for comment, Local Partnerships will present their draft report findings to the GJWC meeting on 18th June.

2. Draft report findings

2.1 Some of the key report findings were that whilst the current governance arrangements are considered progressive and best practice, the partnership has not been wholly successful in reaching its intended goals (such as countywide service integration). This is largely attributable to the fact that not all Gloucestershire authorities have joined the partnership. Those that did have not relinquished control of services in the way that seems to have been originally intended, nor have they adequately resourced the partnership for anything more than "business as usual" functions. This has created difficulties for the Joint Waste Team (JWT), which has to manage a host of separate contracts and services, with sometimes unclear reporting lines. The result is that the impartiality of the JWT has been questioned and some concerns have been raised about potential conflicts of interest.

2.2 Despite these difficulties the report recommends the continuation of a partnership approach and the retention of an intelligent client function. The report confirms that the preference of GJWC members (voting and non-voting) remains a less formal partnership with countywide membership.

2.3 The scope and format of this partnership has not yet been developed, but a number of potential roles and themes are identified including: managing recyclate sales; marketing; seeking funding; lobbying government and fighting waste crime. The use of task and finish groups is also discussed which could be jointly funded by those directly involved or benefitting from the output.

2.4 There seems to be little consensus on the future role of the JWT; possibly as a result of the absence of a developed format or work plan at this stage for the future partnership.

3. Next Steps

3.1 Following the presentation of the report findings by Local Partnerships, it is recommended that the Senior Managers Group (SMG) is tasked with developing proposals for the future role and structure of a Gloucestershire wide waste partnership, and that a draft proposal be brought to the October meeting of the GJWC. The SMG will liaise as appropriate with all Gloucestershire local authorities in developing its proposals, with the current non-voting members of the GJWC invited to participate in the work.