

<b>BRIEFING</b>	<b>TO:</b>	Joint Waste Board
	<b>DATE:</b>	31/01/2025
	<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Paul Hutchinson / Carl Hewlett BDR PFI Waste Officers <a href="mailto:Paul.hutchinson@rotherham.gov.uk">Paul.hutchinson@rotherham.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Carl.Hewlett@rotherham.gov.uk">Carl.Hewlett@rotherham.gov.uk</a>
	<b>TITLE:</b>	South Yorkshire Waste Partnership – Waste Strategy Update

## 1. Background

1.1 In 2017 a Joint Waste Strategy for the Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield Councils was jointly produced and published (by some Councils). This strategy set out the municipal waste strategy, along with objectives and targets, for the South Yorkshire councils for the following five years until 2021.

1.2 The Strategies five main strategic priorities were:

- Educate and Inspire
- A Reliable Service
- Working Together
- Utilising Technology
- Influencing decision making

1.3 These priorities also included set targets that all parties would aim to meet as part of the joint strategy.

## 2. Key Issues

2.1 At the end of the previous Strategy creation process, one Council decided they could not adopt the strategy as they (believed) agreed joint objectives did not align to those of that council's individual Corporate Plan. So, although the strategy was not amended, and still adopted by three Councils, all did not unanimously adopt it.

2.2 The current strategy ended in 2021 and there has not been a new joint waste strategy produced between the four South Yorkshire Councils. This was due to the sensitivity of creating a joint strategy, but due to a large raft of new waste legislations being proposed by Government, and the delays in clarification and introduction of these laws.

2.3 Although it is not a legal requirement to produce a waste strategy, it is widely acknowledged that it is good practice to have one in place. It demonstrates to residents that their Councils are focused on reducing and managing waste produced by residents in the most ecological, and sustainable way possible with the resources of the council, whilst also demonstrating how we intend to do this with detailed information aligned to objectives and targets.

2.4 Recent changes in legislation and their effect on Councils waste policy, such as EPR payments being released, and introduction of DRS and Simpler Recycling, may still have a cause and effect on the development of the waste strategy. We aim to continue working on the strategy with a soft deadline of late 2025 for a final draft to be submitted for approval for commencement from 1/4/26 and a five year strategy.

2.5 Due to the Mayoral and Council elections in Doncaster in May 2025, and the need to observe Purdah requirements (starting later in Feb25), this will most likely cause a cessation on work on the Strategy until the outcome of those elections are known.

### 3. Key Actions and Timelines

**3.1** Using the previous waste strategy, along with other recent strategies from other councils and LAs across the UK, a new strategy will be researched and drafted with input from all four Councils Waste Teams of the waste partnership.

**3.2** A meeting with Officers from all four councils was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, where their input was taken, including what they feel the strategy needs to cover, issues arising in Waste, and where and what the strategy should deliver on.

**3.3** From the above joint meeting, the initial draft scope, to allow further discussion is outlined below. This is not an exhaustive list of actions and has no deadlines currently but gives an outline to work to. Below are listed the main categories that have been short listed to be included in the updated strategy:

- 1. Introduction / Foreword**
- 2. Our Achievements –**
  - a. Previous Waste Strategy outcomes
  - b. Individual Council Achievements (not just previous waste strategy)
- 3. Strategic Aims and Objectives**
  - a. Outlining Councils Strategy and policies.
  - b. Ensure compatibility from Councils Plan to Waste Strategy
- 4. National and Local Legislation, Policies, and requirements challenges - Changes since previous strategy**
  - a. Extender Producer Responsibility
  - b. Deposit Return Scheme
  - c. Simpler Recycling
  - d. Current Collections and disposal position / contracts
  - e. Circular economy
  - f. Budget constraints
- 5. National, Local and Individual Council Initiatives – Our objectives commitments, aims and targets.**
  - a. Waste Minimisation / resident education / reduce contamination.
  - b. Service Delivery – Statutory / aspirational?
  - c. Waste Treatment / waste hierarchy?
  - d. Efficiencies and effectiveness
  - e. Carbon Reduction
  - f. Fleet and Vehicles procurement.
  - g. Contracts & Procurement Synergies
- 6. Horizon Scanning**
  - a. Emissions Trading Scheme
  - b. Further legislation (re-definition of Municipal waste?)
  - c. Continued Public behaviour and engagement.
  - d. Future Procurement
- 7. Summary and Next Steps**
- 8. Action Plan and Monitoring**

**3.4** The above is not an exhaustive list and can be amended as needed to better fit with each individual councils needs as well as the South Yorkshire region.

**3.5** We are also aiming for this to be a five-year strategy covering 01/04/26 to 31/04/31 but this is subject to change as per the points raised above in section two. This was discussed at the first working group meeting with the waste teams but can be discussed further at Steering Committee and Joint Waste Board if needed.

#### 4. Recommendations

<b>4.1</b>	It is recommended that Members of the Joint Waste Board review the above proposal and give steer to allow understanding of each Council vision, position, and direction for the creation of a joint SY Waste Strategy 2026-31.
<b>4.2</b>	<p>And to approve the following action plan: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The working group that has been set up including waste officers across all four Councils be allowed to continue to share information and help direct the scope of the strategy.</li><li>2. Once steer is received as to the direction the production of the strategy needs to take (what should be included, what needs to be excluded and the level of the strategy detail), the Working Group create a draft strategy.</li><li>3. Once produced it will be reviewed internally by senior management at Steering Committee, with any changes required being implemented. This will be followed by the draft being submitted to Joint Waste Board for comment and discussion. Prior to the formal approval and adoption process for each Council being instigated</li></ol>