

Statement of Common Ground Between Surrey County Council and Suffolk County Council Concerning Strategic Policies for Waste Management

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1.0 Introduction and parties involved

- 1.1 National policy¹ states that: *“Local planning authorities and county councils (in two-tier areas) are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.”* and *“Strategic policy-making authorities should collaborate to identify the relevant strategic matters which they need to address in their plans.”*
- 1.2 National policy² expects that Local Plans will include ‘non-strategic’ and ‘strategic’ policies, and explains that strategic policies should.....*“set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for:.....infrastructure”* and this includes *“for.....waste management”* and *“wastewater”*.
- 1.3 National Policy states: *“In order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policy-making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these.”*
- 1.4 This document represents a **Statement of Common Ground between Surrey County Council (SCC) and Suffolk County Council (Suffolk CC)** and concerns the strategic matter of waste management and helps ensure that sufficient waste management capacity is planned for in each area.

¹ Paragraph 24 and 25 of the revised National Planning Policy Framework July 2018

² Paragraph 20 of the revised National Planning Policy Framework July 2018

- 1.5 SCC and Suffolk CC are waste planning authorities located in the south east England and east of England respectively (See Figure 1) with responsibility for planning for the future management of waste in their areas by including relevant strategic policies in their Local Plans. SCC adopted the Surrey Waste Plan in 2008 and Suffolk CC adopted its Waste Core Strategy in 2011. SCC is currently updating its planning policies on waste management by preparing the Surrey Waste Local Plan (plan period to 2033) and Suffolk CC is preparing a new Minerals and Waste Local Plan (plan period to 2036) that is currently at the independent examination stage.

2.0 Signatories

- 2.1 This statement is agreed by the Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport and Suffolk County Council's **Insert position**.

Councillor Mike Goodman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, Surrey County Council

Councillor **Insert name**, **Insert position**, Suffolk County Council

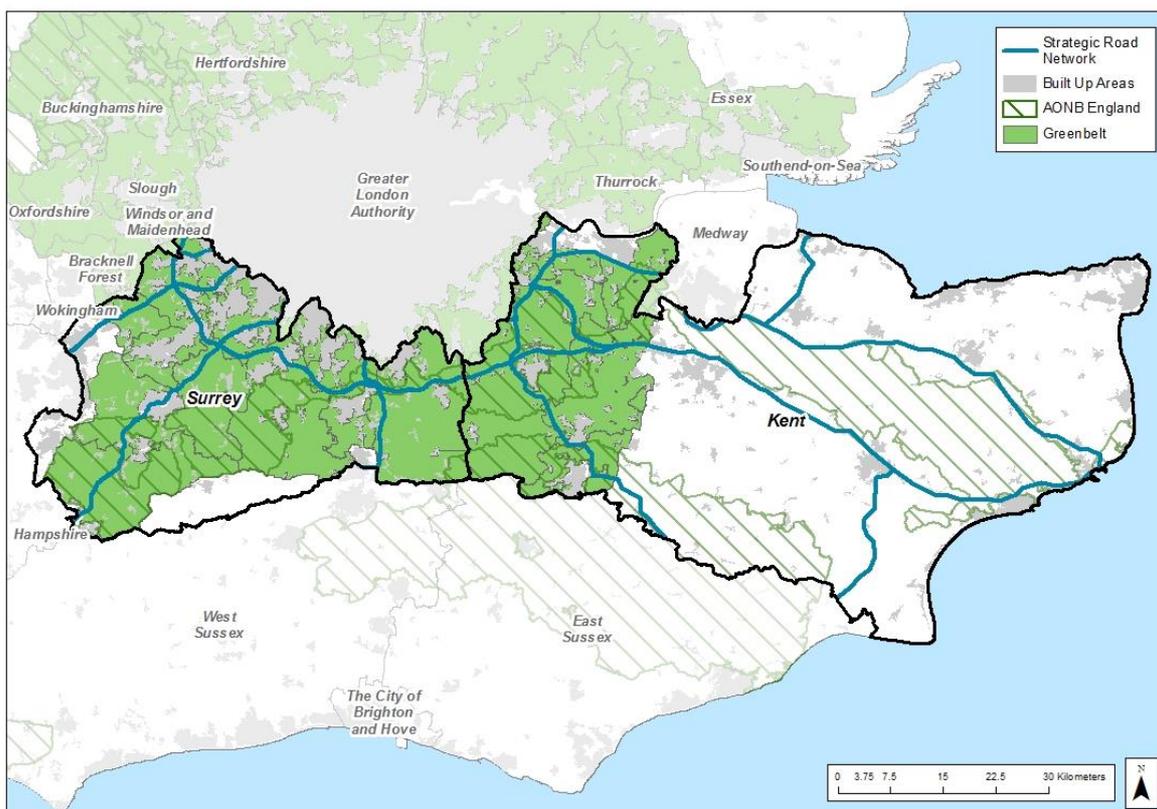
3.0 Strategic Geography

3.1 Surrey and Suffolk are located in the south east England and east of England respectively (see Figure 1). The two counties are quite distant from each other but there are good road connections between them, in particular the M25, M11, A11 and A14. Waste management data shows that a proportion of waste produced in Surrey is managed in Suffolk – the movements for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 are set out in Appendix 1. This cross boundary movement is typical of the way in which waste is managed, as it is subject to market forces, having no regard to administrative boundaries. This is recognised in National Planning Policy for Waste that expects waste planning authorities to: *“plan for the disposal of waste and the recovery of mixed municipal waste in line with the proximity principle, recognising that new facilities will need to serve catchment areas large enough to secure the economic viability of the plant;”*.

3.2 Movements of waste also take place between Surrey and Suffolk and other counties and areas.

Figure 1: Location of Surrey and Suffolk

Replace map below with similar one showing relative locations of Surrey and Suffolk



4.0 Strategic Matters

Net self sufficiency

4.1 Net self-sufficiency is a principle generally applied to waste planning that means an authority will plan for waste management facilities with sufficient capacity to manage an amount of waste that is equivalent to the amount predicted to arise within its area (irrespective of imports and exports). This helps ensure that sufficient waste management capacity is provided consistent with National Planning Policy for Waste.

4.2 The approach of net self-sufficiency in the south east was originally set out in the South East Plan and is now included in a Memorandum of Understanding³ between waste planning authorities in the South East which includes the following:

“The Parties recognise that there will be a degree of cross-boundary movement of waste. In light of this, the Parties will plan on the basis of net self-sufficiency which assumes that within each waste local plan area the planning authority or authorities will plan for the management of an amount of waste which is equivalent to the amount arising in that plan area. All parties accept that when using this principle to test policy, it may not be possible to meet this requirement in full, particularly for hazardous and other specialist waste streams.”

4.3 This approach is taken by Suffolk CC in its emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan and by SCC in the adopted Surrey Waste Plan (2008) and the emerging Surrey Waste Local Plan. Both plans provide for the development of facilities that will manage waste produced within, and beyond, each area based on net self-sufficiency and in accordance with the waste hierarchy. Application of the waste hierarchy in determining waste capacity requirements ensures that waste is managed in the following order of preference:

Most sustainable

1. Prepared for reuse;
2. Recycled and/or composted;
3. Recovered in ways other than recycling/composting;
4. Disposed.

Least sustainable

4.4 SCC and Suffolk CC recognise that the application of net self-sufficiency does not mean that an exact equivalent amount of waste, of the same type, will be transported in both directions between Surrey and Suffolk. It is possible that particular commercial conditions exist which mean more waste is transported to one authority than the other. However net self-sufficiency means that such a situation would, in principle, be broadly balanced by movements between other authorities.

³ Memorandum of Understanding between the Waste Planning Authorities of the South East of England, April 2017

4.5 Appendix 1 details reported movements of waste between Surrey and Suffolk and both authorities agree that there are no planning reasons why these movements cannot continue.

4.6 Currently more non-hazardous waste is exported from Surrey than is imported and a capacity gap therefore exists for recovery of residual waste. Policies, including the allocation of land for the management of waste, are included in the Surrey Waste Local Plan to address this matter. Suffolk County Council is planning to achieve net self-sufficiency. In light of this neither SCC or Suffolk CC are specifically planning to meet the waste management needs of the other area but neither are they placing restrictions on development which constrain the origin of waste which may be managed by such development.

Safeguarding

4.10 Each authority seeks to safeguard waste management capacity in its own area through robust policies in their respective development plans on waste management. This means the plans of both parties include a presumption against granting permission for other forms of development which could result in reductions in physical or operational capacity (either by reductions in numbers and size of sites or by reduction in site throughput or restrictions on operation). Where development is proposed that would result in a reduction in capacity the need for that capacity in meeting the needs of other areas will be taken into account.

5.0 Cooperation Activities

6.1 Activities undertaken when in the process of addressing the strategic cross-boundary matter of waste management, whilst cooperating, are summarised as follows:

- Input to draft proposals for planning policy concerning waste management in each other's area;
- Attendance and input to each respective Waste Technical Advisory Body where inter-regional movements may be discussed, and,
- ad-hoc exchange of information (via correspondence and meetings) related to the monitoring of waste movements and management capacity

6.0 Governance and Future Arrangements

7.1 The parties to this Statement have worked together in an ongoing and constructive manner. SCC and Suffolk CC will continue to cooperate and work together in a meaningful way and on an ongoing basis to ensure the effective strategic planning of waste management. Appropriate officers of each Party to this Statement will liaise formally through correspondence and meetings as and when required.

7.2 The parties will review this SoCG at least every 12 months and establish whether this SoCG requires updating. Specific matters likely to prompt updates of this SoCG include the following:

- Adoption of the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan (anticipated in Autumn 2019)
- Modifications to the Surrey Waste Local Plan resulting from its independent examination (anticipated in June/July 2019)
- Evidence which shows significant changes in the level of waste movements between the two authorities.

Appendix 1 - Reported movements of waste between Surrey and Suffolk

To be verified by SUFFOLK CC

Household, Industrial & Commercial (HIC) (Source: Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator)

Facility WPA	Facility Name	Operator	Exports from Surrey to Suffolk			Exports from Suffolk to Surrey		
			2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Suffolk	Old Chicory Factory	Murfitts Industries Ltd	N/A	1,000	3,000	N/A	N/A	N/A