

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 18 DECEMBER 2009

REPORT ON PROGRESS: “REVIEW OF THE WASTE RECYCLING POLICY/TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF THE KERBSIDE RECYCLING SCHEME”

Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To provide the Governance & Scrutiny Committee with an update on progress in implementing recommendations made within the “Review of the Waste Recycling Policy/Technical Evaluation of the Kerbside Recycling Scheme” published May 2008.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At a meeting held by the Governance and Scrutiny Committee on 26 October 2007 it was agreed to review the Waste Recycling Policy and to conduct a technical evaluation of the Council’s Kerbside Recycling Scheme.

2.2 The review commenced in November 2007 and was concluded by April 2008. The findings and recommendations from the review are detailed within the Review of the Waste Recycling Policy/Technical Evaluation of the Kerbside Recycling Scheme – published May 2008.

3. PROGRESS

3.1 Detail of the recommendations resulting from the review and technical evaluation alongside detail of action(s) taken to date are provided below.

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
That the current arrangements, providing the fortnightly collection of residual waste should continue.	No new action required.
To note that trials are underway in Scotland to evaluate the feasibility of food waste recycling and that the Council should await the outcome of these trials prior to considering further action in this respect.	7 food waste trials have been funded by the Scottish Government, with ReMade Scotland acting as Project Manager. Of the 7 trials, 4 focused on the separate collection of food waste with the remaining 3 providing a co-mingled food/garden waste collection. Early findings indicate that yields from

	<p>food only collections range from 1.3-2.6kg per household per week. Data for combined food and garden waste is limited at present as only one Council has started collections. Indications from WRAP trials in England indicate food only collections provide a higher participation and yield rates compared to co-mingled food and garden waste collections.</p> <p>Cabinet approval for a trial food waste and plastics kerbside collection service was obtained in November 2009 - detail of which is provided in paragraphs 3.2 – 3.4.</p>
<p>That additional drop points be provided at local “bring sites” for the collection of plastics and the availability of such facilities be suitably publicised.</p>	<p>The Council has continued to increase the number of local “bring sites” in addition to upgrading existing ones. There are now 31 Recycling Points (with 2 Recycling Centres) within the authority 27 of which have facilities for plastics recycling. This is an increase of 7 since May 2008.</p>
<p>That the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services investigate and report back to Members on the potential and means for the kerbside collection of plastics.</p>	<p>Cabinet approval for a trial food waste and plastics kerbside collection service was obtained in November 2009 - detail of which is provided in paragraphs 3.2 – 3.4.</p>
<p>That the kerbside garden waste collection continues to be provided during the winter months as at present.</p>	<p>No new action required.</p>
<p>That detailed proposals for the creation of 4 additional Recycling Centres at Galston, Stewarton, Dalmellington and Cumnock be prepared as a matter of priority in order to maximise any opportunity for funding of such facilities.</p>	<p>Detailed costings for the provision of 4 additional Recycling Centres as stated were previously submitted to the Scottish Executive as part of a Strategic Waste Fund bid (now superseded). Estimated costs indicated each Recycling Centre would cost in the region of £750k. The Council are continually identifying and implementing new opportunities to further waste diversion from landfill.</p>
<p>That the opening hours of the MRF at Western Road, Kilmarnock and the Recycling Centre at Garlaff be extended to include Saturday afternoons and late opening one evening per week during the summer</p>	<p>Summer opening hours (April-October) of the Recycling Centre at Western Road included extended hours on Thursday evenings (8.00am – 7.50pm). Saturday and Sunday opening times were 8.00am – 3.50pm</p>

months.	and 9.00am – 5.50pm respectively.
That the existing arrangements and charges for the collection of white goods be retained	No new action required.
That the revised charging structure for the collection of white goods be retained.	No new action required.
That the revised charging structure for the collection of commercial waste, as agreed by Cabinet in March 2008, be allowed to take effect and consideration of further action with regard to commercial waste be held in abeyance pending assessment of the outcome.	The Council will shortly inform commercial customers of uplift arrangements over the festive period, by letter, this will include a questionnaire designed to assist the Council towards identifying infrastructure requirements / amendments to service. Proposed changes to the commercial charging mechanism will be reported to Cabinet early 2010.
That the introduction of a charging policy for waste collection services be not pursued by the Council at this time.	No action required.
That there be a significant promotion/information campaign of the Council's recycling scheme and facilities, providing, through a range of appropriate media, site specific information	East Ayrshire Council continually promotes waste minimisation and recycling opportunities. There will be an increased promotion of existing and forthcoming recycling schemes within the authority throughout 2010 through a range of events and media. The Council are currently upgrading all Recycling Points, incorporating improved branding to containers designed to better highlight the range of materials that can be recycled – 60% complete. Additional funding to complete the upgrading of sites was approved by Cabinet last month.
That Officers continue to work with other Local Authorities to investigate the potential to achieve further significant increases in landfill diversion rates by the utilisation of incineration as a means of residual waste disposal.	East Ayrshire Council is working in partnership with South and North Ayrshire Council's towards the identification and development of a suitable energy from waste facility. Over the last few months, the Partners have appointed a Project Manager, who has responsibility for delivering the project requirements. The Partnership has also successfully appointed technical, legal and financial consultants. It is anticipated

	that the three authorities will have use of a residual waste treatment facility by 2013.
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- 3.2 In order to ascertain the composition of waste within the residual waste stream and identify potential recycling opportunities the Cleansing Service conducted a residual waste analysis earlier this year. Results from the study, as detailed within Appendix 1, indicated that the most prevalent material types within the residual waste stream consisted of organic kitchen waste (25.8%) and mixed plastics (20.5%). In response, Cabinet approved a series of proposals to improve and increase recycling activities in East Ayrshire including the introduction of a trial food waste and plastics collection. It is anticipated that the trial will cover 8/10,000 households within the authority. Detailed proposals for the trial will be submitted by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to Cabinet early in the New Year.
- 3.3 The service will comprise of an internal kitchen caddy with biodegradable liners, for the collection of kitchen wastes. Once full, liners would be placed into an external container and presented for uplift on a weekly basis. In addition, plastics will be collected via a kerbside box and placed alongside the food waste for collection.
- 3.4 The servicing of the containers will be carried out by a single collection vehicle, modified to collect food waste and plastics in separate compartments with a crew of 2 (1 driver + 1 loader). Food waste will be processed in accordance with animal by-products regulations through a heat treated process such as in-vessel composting or anaerobic digestion the output of which can be used for land restoration or as a soil improver. Plastics will be delivered to the Council's existing Material Recovery Facility where they will be processed and baled and dispatched for recycling.
- 3.5 A pilot for the collection of polystyrene, at the Western Road Recycling Centre, earlier this year diverted 1 tonne of polystyrene from landfill over 5 days. Funding for the purchase of a polystyrene compactor for the above site was approved by Cabinet last month.
- 3.6 In addition, Cabinet approved funding for the introduction of designated street recycling units, for Kilmarnock and Cumnock town centres, providing members of the public with increased recycling opportunities.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In terms of Community Planning in East Ayrshire, making a commitment to deliver short and long term waste minimisation and recycling opportunities is consistent with Aim 8 of the "Delivering Community Regeneration" Action Plan 2009-2011 – "To mitigate against and adapt to the negative effects of climate change".

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 East Ayrshire Council is obliged to comply with National Recycling/Composting Targets as set by the Scottish Government and the European Landfill Directive EC/1999/31/EC which places a requirement onto member states to minimise the quantity of biodegradable waste sent to landfill.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Failure to meet the targets for diverting waste from landfill may result in the Council facing significant financial penalties from the Scottish Government. In addition, the Council would be required to meet the increasing cost of landfill gate fees and taxation. The Councils allocation of Zero Waste Fund monies amounts to £0.468M in 2009/10 and will be sufficient to meet the costs of the proposals agreed by Cabinet on 18 November 2009.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 East Ayrshire Council has complied with and exceeded all European and national waste obligations to date, and has retained its position as 3rd highest recycling authority in Scotland. However, in order to achieve forthcoming waste related obligations, the Council must continue to identify and realise further waste minimisation and recycling opportunities.
- 7.2 It is anticipated that the food and plastics collection trial and potential further role will assist East Ayrshire Council towards its 2013 target of 50% recycling/composting and bio-waste diversion from landfill obligations. Detailed proposals for the introduction of a trial food and plastics collection scheme will be submitted to an early meeting of Cabinet.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Governance & Scrutiny Committee are invited to :-
- (i) note progress in addressing the recommendations arising from this Committee's Review of the Waste Recycling Policy/Technical Evaluation of the Kerbside Recycling Scheme as published in May 2008.
 - (ii) note that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services will submit detailed proposals for the introduction of a trial food and plastics collection scheme to Cabinet early in 2010 for elected members consideration.
 - (iii) Request that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services reports the outcomes of the trial food and plastic collection to this Committee on completion of the trial.

(iv) otherwise, note the details of this report

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

9 December 2009
CMCA/MR/DG

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

**Review of the Waste Recycling Policy / Technical Evaluation of the
Kerbside Recycling Scheme – May 2008**

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Appendix 1.

Kerbside Residual Waste Analysis

In order to ascertain the composition of waste within the domestic residual waste stream and identify waste minimisation and recycling opportunities within existing and future programmes the Cleansing Service conducted an analysis of waste presented at kerbside destined for landfill.

The study was based on waste arising from 100 representative households within the authority. Contents of the residual waste containers were separated into material types and weighed accordingly. Results from the analysis are detailed below.

Material	Quantity Collected (by weight)	Could this be collected for recycling via an existing service?
Organic Kitchen Waste	25.76%	X
Mixed Plastics	20.46%	✓
Other Putrescibles	9.87%	X
Textiles	5.89%	✓
Organic Garden Waste	5.31%	✓
Glass	4.7%	✓
Non-Recyclable Paper	3.78%	X
Cardboard	3.46%	✓
Cans & Aerosols	3.43%	✓
Miscellaneous	3.17%	X
Food & Drink Cartons	2.77%	✓
Recyclable Paper	2.25%	✓
Combustibles	2.02%	X
Newspapers & Mags	2.02%	✓
Non-Combustibles	1.47%	X
Wood	1.33%	✓
WEEE	0.81%	✓
Potential Hazardous	0.49%	X
Fines	0.46%	X
Paint	0.46%	✓
Oils	0.09%	✓