

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13 FEBRUARY 2009

REVIEW OF THE WASTE RECYCLING POLICY / TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF THE KERBSIDE RECYCLING SCHEME: PROGRESS UPDATE

Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Governance & Scrutiny Committee with an update following 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 the Governance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 October 2007, the Committee agreed to review the Waste Recycling Policy and conduct a technical evaluation of the Kerbside Recycling Scheme. The review commenced in November 2007 and was concluded by April 2008.
- 2.2 Having considered all information gathered from the review and following discussion between Members, a report was produced detailing conclusions and recommendations arising from the appraisal.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Details of the recommendations resulting from the review are highlighted below alongside detail of corresponding action(s) taken to date.

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
That the current arrangements, providing for 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.	National trials commenced during the current financial year, the outcomes from which have yet to be reported.
That additional drop points be provided at local “bring sites” for the collection of plastics and the	During the current financial year, 5 new additional Recycling Points have been introduced to key

<p>availability of such facilities be suitably publicised.</p>	<p>locations. 3 of these sites include provision for the collection of plastic bottles and carrier bags. In total, 23 of 30 Recycling Points facilitate the collection of plastic. In addition the Cleansing Services are evaluating and considering the introduction of street recycling containers.</p> <p>All new Recycling Points are advertised in the local media and through the local office and library network, local housing offices and points of community gathering such as community centres and local retail facilities. The Council website and national waste websites are updated accordingly.</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>Subject to the availability of funding Cleansing Services are currently investigating the feasibility of the Scottish Waste Aware Group (SWAG) compiling and undertaking a detailed householder survey which will determine both demand and preferred means of collection for additional plastics recycling. Survey outcomes will enable Cleansing Services to appropriately cost amendments to current service provision and identify infrastructure requirements.</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 costs 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). Cleansing Services are presently updating costs following recent announcements on the new Zero Waste Fund. Details on this fund are awaited.</p>
<p>That the opening hours of the MRF at Western Road, Kilmarnock and the Recycling Centre at Garlaff be extended to include Saturday</p>	<p>Proposal under consideration as part of 2009/10 budget process.</p>

<p>afternoons and late opening one evening per week during the summer months.</p>	
<p>That the existing arrangements and charges for the collection of white goods be retained</p>	<p>No new action required.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Subject to the availability of funding Cleansing Services are currently investigating the feasibility of the Scottish Waste Aware Group (SWAG) compiling and undertaking a detailed commercial waste survey which will determine the requirement for waste minimisation and recycling activities within the commercial base of East Ayrshire. The findings of this survey will aid and inform the compilation of an East Ayrshire Commercial Waste Strategy and will enable Cleansing Services to appropriately cost amendments to current service provision and identify infrastructure requirements.</p>
<p>That the introduction of a charging policy for waste collection services be not pursued by the Council at this time.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>As previously detailed, subject to the availability of funding, SWAG will undertake a detailed householder survey in early 2009. This survey which will involve a cross representation of households and householder types will invite comment from residents as how to best communicate the recycling and waste minimisation message to the wider community including hard to reach groups. This will inform and further aid the redevelopment of Cleansing Service's communication strategy.</p> <p>In addition, costs are currently being compiled regarding the upgrading of local Recycling Points, incorporating the branding of containers designed to highlight the range of materials which can be recycled, the</p>

	<p>identification of alternate container types, specifically to introduce the full complement of commodities at smaller recycling points, and directional signage for pedestrian and motorists.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>East Ayrshire Council, alongside North and South Ayrshire Councils is actively involved in the development of a long term waste treatment facility for the combined Ayrshire authorities. Part of the solution will be the provision of an energy recovery plant. Current activity is focussed on the procurement of Technical Consultancy Services to assist the Councils in the procurement process and subsequent commissioning of the energy from waste facility.</p>

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Making a commitment to deliver short and long term solutions is consistent with the aims of the Improving the Environment theme of the Community Plan.

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.
- 6.2 It is anticipated that additional expenditure will be incurred from the potential introduction of additional segregated kerbside uplifts, bring sites and associated processing costs, for materials such as plastics and food waste. Some of these costs should however be met through the Council's Zero Waste Fund (ZWF) allocation.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 East Ayrshire Council has complied with and exceeded all European and national waste obligations to date. In addition, since the production of the Review of the Waste Recycling Policy / Technical Evaluation of the Kerbside Recycling Scheme the Cleansing Service has introduced additional services as per the recommendations.
- 7.2 However, in order to meet future waste minimisation/landfill diversion targets and the remaining recommendations of the Review, the Council must retain its proactive approach towards maximising waste minimisation and recycling opportunities through the extension and enhancement of existing schemes and through the introduction of innovative recycling programmes to its residents and commercial base.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Governance & Scrutiny Committee are invited to:-
- (i) note the progress made by Cleansing Services to implement the recommendations arising from the earlier review of the Waste Recycling Policy.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

CMCA/MR/DG

30th January 2009

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 554876 and ask for Chris McAleavey, Head of Housing.

Implementation Officer: chris.mcaleavey@east-ayrshire.gov.uk