

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 1 FEBRUARY 2006

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of progress made by the three Ayrshire Councils to develop a Strategic Outline Case for future residual waste management needs in Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In a report on Landfill Allowance Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2005 to Community Services Committee on 14 September 2005 it was reported that a Joint-Ayrshire Member/Officer Working Group had been established to monitor the arrangements in place for taking forward a long-term waste treatment disposal solution for Ayrshire.
- 2.2 Since the earlier report, the Member/Officer Working Group has met on several occasions and heard presentations from Consultants appointed to finalise the Strategic Outline Case (SOC).
- 2.3 The Strategic Review Group of Officers (which includes Planning and Waste Management Officers from the three Ayrshire Councils; Ayrshire Joint-Structure Plan Officers; and SEPA) has also been meeting with the Consultants and these meetings have had representatives of the Scottish Executive in attendance.
- 2.4 At a meeting of the Member/Officer Working Group held in Ayr on 11th January 2006, it was agreed that:-
 - 2.4.1 A Memorandum of Understanding setting out the principles of joint-working be approved;
 - 2.4.2 Councillor Jim O'Neill, East Ayrshire Council be appointed Chair of the Member/Officer Working Group;
 - 2.4.3 Councillor Sam Taylor, North Ayrshire Council was appointed Vice- Chair.
 - 2.4.4 Interim support will be provided by South Ayrshire Council whose Senior Waste Management Officer will be Lead Officer for the Member/Officer Working Group.

- 2.5 The Member/Officer Working Group then agreed in principle to approve the draft Strategic Outline Case submitted by the Consultants subject to some minor modifications which were approved by the Chair and Vice-Chair prior to the document being submitted to the Scottish Executive.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Strategic Outline Case sets out proposals which are believed to be capable of ensuring that the three Ayrshire Councils can secure compliance with the waste diversion targets set out in the EU Directive on Landfill and other legislation.
- 3.2 The Strategic Outline Case has after approval by the Joint-Ayrshire Member/Officer Working Group, to be approved by the SEPA Chair of the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Area Waste Group. As SEPA Officers have been present during all the meetings of the Strategic Review Group with the consultants, it is thought that SEPA will support the final version.
- 3.3 The deadline for submission was 31st January and thereafter, it is anticipated that the Scottish Executive will take up to 6 months before requesting submission of an Outline Business Case.

It has been suggested however that the Executive may be prepared to provide partial funding to allow individual projects within the overall Strategic Outline Case to be progressed prior to approval of the final document.

- 3.4 *Although the Consultants' original work is now completed, the potential for earlier implementation of these proposals indicates the benefits of retaining the Consultants to undertake additional work as circumstances dictate.*

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The additional costs of implementing the proposals set out in the Strategic Outline Case have to be met by an award from the Strategic Waste Fund. The Strategic Outline Case includes a financial model which has been prepared by the Scottish Executive.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The EU Directive on Landfill.
- 5.2 Landfill Allowance Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2005.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Compliance with legislation requiring a reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill is consistent with the objectives of the Community Plan: Improving Environment, Aim 3 – Increase the amount of waste that is recycled and reused.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Joint-Ayrshire Member/Officer Working Group for the Strategic Review of Waste Management Needs met on 11th January 2006 and approved in principle a draft Strategic Outline Case which was submitted to the Scottish Executive by 31st January 2006.
- 7.2 The draft document required some minor modifications which are to be approved by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Joint Working Group prior to submission.
- 7.3 The Strategic Outline Case sets out a number of proposals which it is believed, will allow the three Ayrshire Councils to meet their statutory waste reduction, minimisation and diversion targets as set out in statute.
- 7.4 *There is merit in retaining the Consultants involved in developing the Strategic Outline Case for further work which may be required if partial funding becomes available.*

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Community Services Committee is invited to:-
- (i) note the progress which has been made in developing a Strategic Outline Case for the three Ayrshire Authorities;
 - (ii) note that further progress reports will be submitted for Committee consideration;
 - (iii) *note the Joint Working Group's intention to retain the Consultants meantime for additional ad hoc work if earlier funding opportunities arise; and*
 - (iii) otherwise, note the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JFC/KM
27th January 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. The Ayrshire Local Authorities Joint-Working and Waste Management Memorandum of Understanding.
2. Draft Strategic Outline Case prepared by ENTEC.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576111 and ask for John Crawford.

Implementation Officer: john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk