

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 24TH MARCH 2004

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 3 BIN SYSTEM: THE MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of matters dealt with and recommendations made by the Member/Officer Working Group for the 3 bin system of kerbside household waste recycling.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At a meeting of Community Services Committee on 17th September, it was agreed that a Member/Officer Working Group be set up to assist in managing the initial change and the further changes which will be required in successfully implementing the Area Waste Plan, and if agreed, remit to Council to agree.
- 2.2 The Member/Officer Group has met on 3 separate occasions and has now dealt with all imminent issues required to be addressed.
- 2.3 At the initial meeting of the Group held on 4th November 2003, the following matters were considered: -
- Procurement of wheeled bins, black boxes and specialist “kerbsider” recycle collection vehicles;
 - Organisation of an information seminar for Elected Members on 5th February 2004;
 - Organisation of a visit to an appropriate authority who has the 3 bin system in place;
 - Policy changes to the Council’s domestic refuse collection service; and
 - The financial implications and arrangements set out by the Scottish Executive as conditions to the award from the Strategic Waste Fund.
- 2.4 At the second meeting of the Group on 4th December, the following matters were considered: -
- Only organic green garden waste would be collected with no kitchen or catering waste being permitted;
 - The Director of Community Services being given a remit to make arrangements for the processing of compostable material (using windrowing procedures);
 - The contract to be for five years with a possible two year extension;
 - The Director to look into the possibility of amending the promotional literature; and
 - The Director to clarify the legal and contractual arrangements for recyclable waste.
- 2.5 At the third meeting of the Group on 25th February 2004, the following matters were considered: -

- Issues raised by Elected Members on 5th February 2004 were detailed and appropriate responses formulated;
- Authority for purchasing a tape recording for householders with sensory impairment;
- Noting a tendering exercise had been commenced for the composting of organic material; and
- Withdrawal of existing kerbside sack recycling services to minimise confusion for householders.

2.6 Arising from the above the following recommendations were made: -

- Procurement of bins and boxes by East Ayrshire Council; and the procurement of vehicles by South Ayrshire Council;
- Changes to Council policy on collection of recyclable, household and other waste;
- Procurement of short-term contracts for composting green waste and processing paper and cardboard waste;
- Enhancement of publicity and promotional material; and
- Reorganisation of existing kerbside services.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The decision to set up the Member/Officer Working Group to manage the changes demanded by the introduction of kerbside waste recycling has proved very effective and allowed Elected members to spend time considering in detail, the complex implications for both the Council and householders.
- 3.2 The presentation to Elected Members on 5th February also raised a number of additional issues which have since been addressed and where appropriate, will be incorporated in the Council's procedures and promotional material.

As individual collection routes are converted to the 3 bin system, staff will offer briefings to the local Member. Presentations will also be made to Community Councils. Exhibitions of the new system will be arranged to allow local communities to familiarise themselves with the system. A helpline has been set up to deal specifically with public concerns.

- 3.3 The Committee is now invited to endorse the recommendations and actions taken by the Member/Officer Working Group.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council has been awarded £14,890,000 from the Strategic Waste Fund to introduce source-separated kerbside waste recycling for all households within East Ayrshire.
- 4.2 Following the initial advice of the award in a letter from the Scottish Executive dated 18th August 2003, Council Officers (including the Community Services Financial Services Manager) met Scottish Executive Officials in Victoria Quay on 25th September 2003 at which a number of issues were raised. Thereafter a further letter of amendment was received from the Scottish Executive dated 10th October 2003.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The National Waste Strategy.

5.2 The EU Directive on Landfill.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 It is in the Council's best interests that the measures proposed by the Member/Officer Working Group be approved so that the introduction of the 3 bin system can be implemented to the highest professional standards.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The Member/Officer Working Group set up by Community Services Committee on 17th September has now met on three separate occasions and considered a number of matters which require to be addressed to ensure a successful implementation of the 3 bin system of kerbside household waste recycling.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is invited to: -

- i) approve and endorse the deliberations, considerations and recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group at its meetings; and
- iv) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

JFC/CAM

27th February 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Minutes of Member/Officer Working Group meeting held on 4th November 2003.
2. Minutes of Member/Officer Working Group meeting held on 4th December 200.
3. Minutes of Member/Officer Working Group meeting held on 25th February 2004.

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should contact John F Crawford on 01563 576111

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