

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2005

COMMERCIAL WASTE RECYCLING

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Community Services Committee with a progress report on the recycling of commercial waste arising within East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The introduction of the three bin system of kerbside waste recycling arose from the establishment of a target, set by the Scottish Executives, for all Scottish local authorities to recycle at least 25% of all household waste arising within their authorities by 2006.
- 2.2 Since 5th April 2004, 30,100 households have been converted to the three bin system in three phases. The remaining households (22,560) will adopt the service in three phases throughout 2005.
- 2.3 At the current rate of recycle collection, East Ayrshire Council is in a position to exceed the recycling target of 25% of household waste arisings by 2006, set by the Scottish Executive.
- 2.4 Subsequent to the 25% target for the recycling of household waste, the Scottish Executive has established a target for municipal waste, which includes waste generated by commercial premises. This target requires 30% of all municipal waste collected by the Council to be recycled by 2008.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 East Ayrshire Council Cleansing Services currently has a commercial waste collection service which extends to a customer base of 1,636 premises. These customers vary in their service requirements from premises requiring several 1280 litre bins serviced daily to customers with a single 240 litre container serviced weekly.
- 3.2 In addition to the collection of residual waste from commercial premises, Cleansing Services provide the separate collection of cardboard, glass and cans for the purposes of recycling. In the year 2004/2005 to date, 347 tonnes of cardboard and 107 tonnes of glass has been collected from commercial premises.

- 3.3 A funding application is currently being prepared by consultants for submission to the Scottish Executive. As well as targeting household waste, this application makes a request for funding to extend the recycling services which can be offered to commercial premises. However, the Scottish Executive's Strategic Waste Fund is currently not providing funding which specifically targets commercial waste and therefore, funding from this source cannot be guaranteed.
- 3.4 Upon the full implementation of the kerbside recycling service for households, it may become possible to extend the recycling services available to commercial premises.
- 3.5 It is proposed to extend the collection service for materials currently collected to include all areas within the authority's boundaries. It is also proposed to increase the range of material collected from premises to include clean paper products.
- 3.6 In the event of sufficient funding from the Strategic Waste Fund being secured, it is proposed to offer commercial customers a secure collection, shredding and disposal service for confidential waste paper. Similarly, if possible a collection service for the collection of plastic containers will also be introduced.
- 3.7 In order to meet the target set by the Scottish Executive of recycling 30% of municipal waste by 2008, it is necessary to maintain and increase the existing portfolio of customers. This may be achieved by maintaining the high level of service offered by Cleansing Services as well as offering a competitive service in an already well served market place.
- 3.8 Private commercial waste collectors are not obliged to recycle any waste collected and the associated lesser costs of collection may encourage an encroachment into the Council's customer base. The commercial waste service represents a significant income to the Council and uncompetitive pricing regimes may reduce this income as well as result in failure to achieve the Scottish Executive's recycling target.
- 3.9 With the exception of very large waste producers, commercial premises are under no legal obligation to recycle their waste arisings and therefore the service offered to these customers must offer premises a benefit for segregating waste for recycling. This may be achieved by offering more favourable rates for the collection of recyclate material segregated prior to collection.
- 3.10 It is necessary to undertake a marketing campaign to promote the commercial cleansing services available from the Council, in order to increase the customer base and maximise income.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Scottish Executive has indicated that intervention in the form of financial penalties may be applied to local authorities who fail to divert sufficient quantities of municipal waste from landfill.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 In order to increase the range of recycling services offered to commercial premises it is necessary to seek funding from the Scottish Executive's Strategic Waste Fund. Further, it is essential to increase the existing customer portfolio and the associated income generated.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 East Ayrshire Council is on target to achieve a recycling rate of at least 25% of household waste by 2006. However, to achieve a recycling rate of 30% of municipal waste arisings by 2008, it is necessary to increase the range of recycling services offered to commercial customers

7.2 Further financial resources are required to extend the existing commercial waste services provided by Cleansing Services. This may be sought from the Strategic Waste Fund and through an increased customer base within a competitive market environment.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Community Services Committee is invited to note the report.

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7 March 2005

WS/JS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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