

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 25 MAY 2005

KERBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICE

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Community Services Committee with a progress report on the introduction of the kerbside recycling service to households in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive has established a target for household waste recycling by local authorities of 25% of all household waste arisings by 2006. A further target has been set for local authorities to recycle at least 30% of all municipal solid waste (MSW), which includes household and commercial waste collected by each authority, by 2008.
- 2.2 The Scottish Executive's Strategic Waste Fund has made funding available to local authorities to assist in the delivery of services which have been required to be introduced to meet the established targets.
- 2.3 A joint application to the Strategic Waste Fund was made by the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Area Waste Group. East Ayrshire Council received £14.89 million in funding for the implementation of the three bin system of kerbside recycling.
- 2.4 Since April 2004, approximately 38,100 households have been converted to the three bin system of kerbside recycling over four phases. The remaining households (14,100) will adopt the service in two further phases in June and October 2005.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The kerbside collection service has resulted in over 6,400 tonnes of recyclable material being diverted from landfill since the introduction of the service in April 2004. This has comprised approximately 1,300 tonnes of glass and cans, 3,200 tonnes of paper and cardboard and nearly 2,000 tonnes of green garden waste.
- 3.2 Recyclable material is also collected from civic amenity sites and recycling points. This has resulted in a total household waste recycling rate for East

- Ayrshire Council of 19.2% in 2004/2005. This can be compared to a recycling rate of 7.3% in 2003/2004.
- 3.3 When the remaining 14,100 households are incorporated into the kerbside recycling service, it is anticipated that East Ayrshire Council will exceed the recycling target of 25% of household waste arisings by 2006 which has been set by the Scottish Executive.
 - 3.4 Since the introduction of the kerbside recycling service, the number of 'bring' recycling points has increased. In particular, there are now nine recycling points throughout East Ayrshire for the collection of a wide range of plastic containers.
 - 3.5 Twelve school premises are participating in the recycling of paper and cardboard as well as a number of schools who recycle drinks cans. The number of participating schools is increasing in conjunction with the introduction of the kerbside service to households in their area.
 - 3.6 The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) has undergone a considerable extension in order to accommodate the processing of increasing quantities of paper, cardboard, cans and plastics. The construction of the extension has been completed with an award of tender for the supply of equipment currently being issued. Staff employed within the MRF are now working a double shift system to maximise throughput.
 - 3.7 The total number of additional staff employed as a result of the introduction of kerbside recycling is 37.
 - 3.8 The approval of the Kerbside Recycling Service Policy by the Community Services Committee on 10 November 2004 has permitted increased flexibility for Cleansing Services to adapt the service to the needs of individual households including large families, medical circumstances and those with children in nappies.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The introduction of the kerbside recycling service is in line with the Aim 3 of the Improving Environment section of the Community Plan: to increase the amount of waste which is recycled or re-used.

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 household waste from landfill.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Funding provided by the Strategic Waste Fund represents only partial funding for the implementation of the kerbside recycling service until 2019. The remaining balance of funding must derive from savings in waste disposal and landfill tax as well as revenue from saleable recyclate.
- 6.2 Further funding will be sought from the Strategic Waste Fund in order to achieve the increasing targets for municipal and biodegradable waste diversion.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The implementation of kerbside recycling is progressing in accordance with the implementation programme approved by the Scottish Executive.
- 7.2 East Ayrshire Council currently recycles over 19% of household waste arisings and is on target to achieve a recycling rate of at least 25% by 2006.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

William Stafford

Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

27th April 2005

WS/MT

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 2003.
3. Minutes of Member/Officer Working Group meeting held on 25th February 2004.
4. Minutes of Emergency Powers Committee held on 31st March 2004.
5. Kerbside Recycling Service Policy – September 2004.

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

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