

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 25TH MAY 2005

WASTE DISPOSAL STRATEGY: PROGRESS REPORT

Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of progress made in developing a Strategy which will allow the Council to meet statutory waste recycling and landfill diversion targets.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Previous reports to Committee on 12th November 2003; 26th May 2004 and 10th November 2004 have recorded progress made in developing a strategy which would meet the Scottish Executive's target of 25% household waste recycling by 2006; 30% municipal waste recycling by 2008; 25% diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from Landfill by 2010; 50% diversion of biodegradable municipal waste by 2013; and 65% diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill by 2020. The targets are set against a 1995 baseline.
- 2.2 Community Services Committee also noted the responses to a consultation paper on the landfill allowance scheme regulations at the meeting held on 2nd February 2005.
- 2.3 In the November report it was noted that Waste Management and Planning Officers had been invited to a meeting to discuss the creation of an Ayrshire Strategic Review Group and since then a series of such meetings have taken place. As the meetings developed, it became clear that the Scottish Executive wish to see more joint working among the three Ayrshire Authorities and to this end the Chair of Community Services and the Vice-Chair of Development Services Committee attended a meeting hosted by South Ayrshire Council on 9th February 2005 to consider the feasibility of partnership working for the development of residual waste treatment and disposal facilities.
- 2.4 At the meeting it was agreed that the Planning and Waste Management Officers of the three Councils would continue to work together to explore the benefits of joint working and at subsequent meetings of the Ayrshire Waste Options Group, it was agreed that consultants would be appointed to prepare proposals which would allow the three Councils to meet their statutory waste recycling and diversion obligations. The tender

specification etc documentation is currently being costed by a number of bidders and the cost of the exercise will be met by the Scottish Executive. The successful bidder will be required to prepare a document which can be submitted to the Scottish Executive by the end of the year as part of a "strategic outline case". This information will then be used by Scottish Executive Officers to advise Ministers of the potential costs of securing compliance with the statutory diversion targets.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The anticipated report by the consultants should indicate the most advantageous method for the three Ayrshire Councils to secure compliance with waste recycling and diversion targets. As was stated previously, any subsequent proposal to develop residual waste treatment and disposal facilities will only be financed from the Strategic Waste Fund if it demonstrates partnership working, best value and is consistent with the aspirations of the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Area Waste Plan.
- 3.2 This procedure however will mean that it is virtually impossible for any new treatment and disposal facilities to be operational by May 2006 when the Council's existing Waste Transfer and Disposal Contract ends. It is therefore proposed that the Officers of the ad-hoc procurement group be authorised to procure a further short-term contract (e.g. three years plus three twelve month extensions) to bridge the gap between the end of the existing contract and the commissioning of whatever new treatment and disposal facilities emerge from the consultant's study. This new short-term contract would be more or less identical to that currently in place but would of course reflect the reduction of tonnages secured by successes of the introduction of the three bin system.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The funding of the consultant's study is being met by the Scottish Executive as will the additional cost of an agreed all Ayrshire residual solution. Any implications arising from the procurement of a new short-term Waste Transfer and Disposal Contract will only emerge after the completion of the procurement exercise.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposals are in accord with the Community Plan: Improving the Environment.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Following the Committee's approval of the development of a Waste Disposal Strategy at the meeting on 10th November 2004, Waste Management and Planning Officers of the Council have been attending meetings of the Ayrshire Waste Options Group and it has emerged that the Scottish Executive expects joint working between the three Ayrshire Authorities in the provision of residual waste treatment and disposal facilities.
- 7.2 The Chair of Community Services Committee and Vice-Chair of Development Services Committee have met colleagues in the other two Ayrshire Authorities and have been fully briefed on the route which the Executive expects the Council's Waste Disposal Strategy to take.
- 7.3 A development brief is currently being priced for the procurement of consultants who will prepare a paper setting out the more suitable method of ensuring that the three Ayrshire Councils meet their statutory obligations in terms of waste recycling and diversion targets.
- 7.4 The timescale arising from the direction given by the Scottish Executive is such that the Council needs to consider the procurement of a further short-term waste transfer and disposal contract when the existing contract terminates in May 2006.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Committee is invited to:-
- (i) authorise the Officers of the ad-hoc procurement group to secure a further short-term contract for waste transfer and disposal to span the period between 1st May 2006 and the anticipated commissioning of the new residual waste treatment and disposal facilities for Ayrshire and;
 - (ii) note that the Waste Management and Planning Officers of the three Ayrshire Councils continue to meet with Officials of the Scottish Executive and SEPA to consider waste options for the three Councils; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

3rd May 2005

WS/JFC/RRS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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