

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 10 NOVEMBER 2004

WASTE RECYCLING – AMENDED TARGETS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of amended targets for waste recycling recently announced by the Scottish Executive.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The decision to introduce three bin kerbside household waste recycling was taken to meet the First Minister's target of 25% household waste recycling by 2006. It was also felt that the new system would allow the Council to meet the bulk of the 25% municipal waste diversion targets for 2010 as set out in the EU Directive on Landfill.
- 2.2 The Scottish Executive has recently announced a new target of 28% municipal waste recycling by 2008.
- 2.3 It is anticipated that municipal waste will be defined in terms of the EU Directive on Landfill as "all waste collected by the Council which has characteristics similar to household waste." This definition therefore includes waste collected from non-domestic premises: e.g. commercial waste.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Since the adoption of the EU Directive on Landfill, a number of concerns have been expressed that for the first time in decades, waste is to be classified by its constituents (rather than its source).
- 3.2 The Council has a statutory duty to collect household waste and also provide a (chargeable) service for the collection and disposal of commercial waste. There is, however, no obligation on commercial undertakes to use the latter service and in turn, no obligation on our customers to recycle.

There is, however, legislation on larger commercial undertakings which requires them to recycle percentages of their waste and until now, such recycling arrangements have tended to be in-house.

- 3.3 The effect of the recent announcement by the Scottish Executive means that instead of the Council's recycling performance being computed solely on waste tonnages from domestic premises, the 2008 percentage has to be based on all municipal (as defined in the Directive) waste collected by the Council. This means that the present levels of household waste recycling need to be sustained if the 2008 municipal waste recycling targets are to be achieved.

3.4 Council staff will, however, continue to promote and encourage as much waste recycling as possible among the commercial waste customer base.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The additional costs arising from extending waste recycling to the Council's commercial waste customers have already been catered for in the award from the Strategic Waste Fund.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The current strategy to promote, encourage and maximise waste recycling throughout the Community in East Ayrshire is in accord with aim 3, improving the environment of the action plan in the Community Plan.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The Scottish Executive has recently announced additional recycling targets for municipal waste which will place additional burdens on the Council.

7.2 It is felt that if the current level of household waste recycling can be sustained, the Council will be able to meet the new targets.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is invited to:-

- i) Note that the new target of 28% municipal waste recycling will place an additional onus on the Council to sustain current levels of household waste recycling;
- ii) Note that the Department will continue to promote, encourage and maximise waste recycling throughout all sections of the Community; and
- iii) Otherwise note the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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WS/JFC/GW