

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 8 NOVEMBER 2006

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT NEEDS: PROGRESS REPORT

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of further progress made by the three Ayrshire Councils to develop a strategy for future residual waste management needs in Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 1 February 2006, Community Services Committee was advised of the progress made by a Joint-Ayrshire Member/Officer Working Group established to ensure that a long term waste treatment disposal solution for Ayrshire was in place to secure compliance with the diversion targets set out in the EU Directive on Landfill.
- 2.2 In a further report to Community Services Committee on 24 May 2006 it was explained that having met the Scottish Executive deadline for the submission of Strategic Outline Cases for residual waste treatment facilities, Councillor Jim O'Neill as Chair of the Member/Officer Working Group had participated in a studied tour to Denmark on 25-27th April to examine waste management centres and energy from waste facilities in that Country.
- 2.3 The Committee has already been advised that Officers of the three Ayrshire Councils' Cleansing Services accompanied by the Lead Officer for the Ayrshire Structure Plan had made a presentation to a panel of officials at the Scottish Executive on 25 August. The Ayrshire Officers were supported by Ms Ovens of ENTEC Ltd, Consultants to the Joint-Ayrshire Member/Officer Working Group.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Early feedback from the Scottish Executive indicates that the presentation of the Ayrshire Strategic Outline Case was well-received and since then, Councillor O'Neill (in the capacity of deputising for the COSLA spokesperson on waste management issues) has since taken several opportunities to request that the Minister make an early (favourable) decision on the Ayrshire SOC.
- 3.2 At a meeting of the Joint-Ayrshire Member/Officer Working Group held in Ayr on 21 September 2006, it was agreed to temporarily suspend the arrangement that the Chair and Vice Chair should alternate on a six monthly basis.

As a consequence, it was agreed that Councillor O'Neill would continue as Chair until the next meeting; Councillor Taylor, North Ayrshire Council would continue as Vice Chair and the Lead Officer function would transfer from South Ayrshire Council to North Ayrshire Council. The meeting also noted and recorded a briefing note on the meeting held in the Scottish Executive on 25 August 2006. It was agreed that if no decision had been received from the Minister by November 2006, an emergency meeting of the Group would be called by the Chair.

- 3.3 It was also agreed that procurement procedures be commenced to appoint Consultants to develop an Outline Business Case as soon as the Minister had approved the SOC.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Committee has already been advised that the additional cost of implementing the proposals set out in the Strategic Outline Case have to be met by an award from the Strategic Waste Fund (Phase 2). The Strategic Outline Case includes a financial model which has been prepared by the Scottish Executive.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The EU Directive on Landfill.
- 5.2 Landfill Allowance Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2005.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Compliance with legislation requiring a reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill is consistent with the objectives of the Community Plan: Improving Environment, Aim 3 – increase the amount of waste that is recycled and reused.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Following the lodgement of a Strategic Outline Case on behalf of the three Council's by the due date of 31 January 2006, Waste Management Officers and the Lead Officer for the Ayrshire Structure Plan supported by a representative of the Consultant, made a presentation to Senior Officials at the Scottish Executive on 25 August 2006.
- 7.2 Feedback from the presentation appears to be positive and has since been noted by the Joint-Ayrshire Member/Officer Working Group.
- 7.3 Although it was originally agreed that the Chair of the Officers Working Group would alternate, it has since been agreed that Councillor O'Neill will continue as Chair until the next meeting of the Working Group.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee are recommended to:-

- (i) note the continued progress by the Joint-Ayrshire Member/Officer Working Group in complying with all deadlines prescribed by the Scottish Executive to accommodate compliance with the EU Directive on Landfill;
- (ii) note that Councillor Jim O'Neill will continue as Chair of the Joint Working Group until the next meeting; and
- (iii) otherwise note the report.

W Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JFC/SD

16 October 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Integrated Waste Management – The Future.
2. Report to Community Services Committee by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services dated 10 May 2006.
3. Strategic Review of Waste Management Needs – Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services: dated 27 January 2006.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576111 and ask for John Crawford.

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