

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 10TH APRIL 2002

NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY: PROGRESS REPORT

**Report by the Director of Community Services and the Director of
Development Services**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise and update the Committee of a number of meetings concerning the progression of the National Waste Strategy and the intention of the SEPA Waste Co-ordinator to publish a draft Plan for consultation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The National Waste Strategy has previously been considered at meetings of the Community Services Committee on 7th June 2000 and 7th February 2001.
- 2.2 Officers from the Council's Planning and Waste Management Services have been participating with colleagues in the two other Ayrshire Councils and Dumfries and Galloway Council with officers of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency.
- 2.3 Elected Members of the four Councils have also participated in meetings held in September 2001 and December 2001.
- 2.4 Parallel to the development of the draft Plan, the Council's future waste disposal requirements have been the subject of an exercise to develop a specification for a new long-term Waste Disposal Contract to commence when the existing extended contract comes to an end in May 2003.
- 2.5 The Area Waste Strategy Group has now completed a three part public consultation paper which is to be exhibited on the SEPA website and will invite comments from all interested parties including waste producers, carriers, processors and disposers.
- 2.6 The draft public consultation on the waste management options for municipal solid waste comprises the following:-
- Part 1: Section 1 – How the Process is Built and Operates;
Section 2 – The Issues and Broad Options Considered;
 - Part 2: Section 3 – Determine of the Proposed BPEO (Best Practical Environmental Option);
Section 4 – Local Authorities proposed BPEO Implementation;
 - Part 3: Section 5 – Draft Area Waste Plan;

Section 6 – Questionnaire;

Summary Document: “Shaping the Future of Wastes Management in Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway (Waste Strategy Area 9).

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 At the meeting attended by Members in September 2001, it was confirmed that it would be appropriate for each of the four Authorities within the Waste Strategy Area to develop independent long-term waste treatment and disposal facilities provided that these meet (or exceeded) the objectives set out in the EC Directive on Landfill.
- 3.2 As far as East Ayrshire is concerned, the tender documentation for the new Waste Treatment and Disposal Contract acknowledge this situation and requires potential bidders to be able to demonstrate BPEO (Best Practical Environmental Option) best value and commitment to consolidating and developing the Council’s existing waste minimisation, recycling, treatment and disposal policies.
- 3.3 It is particularly important that the Council’s long-term waste treatment and disposal facilities comply with the philosophies of the National Waste Strategy as it has been made clear from the Scottish Executive that financial support from the Strategic Waste Fund will only be given in future to Councils whose strategies have been approved as part of the Area Waste Planning process. As East Ayrshire Council will require financial support from the Strategic Waste Fund in 2003, detailed discussions have been held with SEPA Officers on a form of words for the three part public consultation paper which will satisfy the Scottish Executive’s conditions.

The Scottish Executive has been advised on a number of occasions that the Council’s ability to award a long-term Waste Disposal Contract in 2003 is dependent on access to the Strategic Waste Fund.

- 3.4 While at first sight the draft three part public consultation paper suggests that the four Councils will be working independently, there is an ongoing commitment to promote and encourage as much inter-authority working as possible.
- 3.5 Following public consultation, the draft Area Waste Plan may be amended in the light of comments received and will then be the subject of an integrated exercise carried out by SEPA to compile the National Waste Strategy for Scotland.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It has already been recognised that the cost of meeting the Waste Diversion Targets set out in the EC Landfill Directive cannot be met from the existing resources available to Local Authorities. The Scottish Executive has allocated £50.4 million over the next three years to allow some Councils to begin work towards implementing the Area Waste Plans.

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The Ayrshires, Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area Group has now held sixteen meetings and has compiled comprehensive documentation for public consultation on the waste management options for municipal solid waste.
- 6.2 The documentation is due to be displayed on a SEPA/Scottish Executive website and comments will be invited from all sections of the community.
- 6.3 Following consultation, the draft documentation will then be the subject of an integration exercise by SEPA where the Ayrshires, Dumfries and Galloway Plan will be incorporated with ten other plans covering the remainder of Scotland. The resultant document will effectively form the National Waste Strategy for Scotland.
- 6.4 The draft public consultation document takes cognisance of East Ayrshire Council's proposals to invite tenders from private contractors during 2002 for a long-term waste treatment and disposal contract commencing in May 2003. The Council's tender documentation acknowledges the requirements of the Area Waste Strategy Planning process, the Council's commitment to best value, the Council's existing waste minimisation, recycling, treatment and disposal arrangements, and the criteria associated with the allocation of monies from the Strategic Waste Fund.
- 6.5 Officers from Community Services and Development Services have participated in all sixteen of the Ayrshires, Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area Group and Elected Members also participated in meetings held in September and December 2001.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee is invited to note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

22nd March 2002

WS/SC/JFC/RRS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Public Consultation on: The Waste Management Options for Municipal Solid Waste – Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, Summary Document, Questionnaire

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AGENDA