

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 13 NOVEMBER 2002

NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY - THE STRATEGIC WASTE FUND

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of an application to the Strategic Waste Fund to promote more source segregation of household waste throughout Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Committee has considered and noted a number of previous reports setting out the Council's contribution to the development of the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area Plan. This contribution has included the involvement of Officers and Elected Members of the Council at a number of meetings.
- 2.2 The Scottish Executive has recently advised the Chair of the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area Group that the current proposals did not demonstrate sufficient partnership working among the four Councils and convened an informal meeting of Waste Management Officers at Victoria Quay on 3rd October 2002.
- 2.3 At the meeting the Officers explained that the four Councils had diverse strategies for the treatment and disposal of household waste but there was scope for greater partnership working if funds could be made available for the introduction of a "three bin" system of household waste separation and collection.
- 2.4 The Scottish Executive and SEPA Officials at the meeting confirmed that such a proposal was consistent with the aims of the National Waste Strategy and that there was scope for funding the proposal from the Strategic Waste Fund.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Committee has previously been advised that by the end of October 2002 some 8,000 households in East Ayrshire will be offered a kerbside waste recycling service. Householders involved will be given a special sack for the separation of paper, cardboard, pamphlets etc which should be placed beside the wheeled bin on the regular day of collection.
- 3.2 In North Ayrshire, all households will shortly be provided with a second wheeled bin which is for the deposit of "green" garden waste.

- 3.3 It is proposed that the “three bin” system proposed for Ayrshire would be one bin for paper, cardboard, pamphlets etc; one bin for “green” garden waste; and one bin for the remaining weekly household waste.
- 3.4 These bins would be serviced separately by dedicated vehicles and crews allowing the Councils to negotiate with recognised companies handling and processing the separated waste (i.e. “green” waste; paper, cardboard, pamphlets etc).
- 3.5 Professor Baird of the Caledonian Shanks Centre for Waste Management has agreed to co-ordinate the relevant technical and financial information and prepare a bid on behalf of the three Ayrshire Councils for submission for funding from the Strategic Waste Fund. The centre is responsible for delivery of the REMADE project which is supported by COSLA and in turn East Ayrshire Council. (The REMADE project is working towards the identification of new markets for municipal recycle).

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is understood that any monies allocated from the Strategic Waste Fund will provide for all capital and revenue costs associated with a project of this nature and in subsequent years, the Council’s GAE will be adjusted to reflect this additional new burden.
- 4.2 The application for funding will also make it clear that the Council still requires monies from the Strategic Waste Fund to finance the new Waste Treatment and Disposal Contract which is due to commence in May 2003.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any proposal submitted by Professor Baird will be the subject of detailed scrutiny by the Scottish Executive’s Auditors and will take account of Council’s existing performances. To this end Professor Baird has been given access to the Account Commission’s report on refuse collection services published in 2000.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 While the introduction of a “three bin” system throughout Ayrshire will obviously provide greater uniformity in the Waste Collection Policies of the three Councils, there will be sufficient flexibility for each Council to adopt individual strategies (i.e. provision of more than three bins; fortnightly waste collections etc).
- 6.2 In the case of East Ayrshire, the first objective will be to maximise the amount of waste diversion by encouraging householders to separate all “green” waste, papers, cardboard, pamphlets etc. The tender documentation for the new waste disposal contract has alerted potential bidders that the Council was considering introducing source separation in the early life of the contract.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Council is now presented with an opportunity to accelerate its development of source separation of household waste by the introduction of a “three bin” household waste collection system.
- 7.2 The project would allow the three Ayrshire Councils to move towards a more harmonised Policy of waste separation and collection and could be funded by a successful application to the Strategic Waste Fund.
- 7.3 If successful, funding would be continued in years to come via adjustments to the GAE.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Committee is invited to:-
- (i) note that a co-ordinated application for monies from the Strategic Waste Fund is being made by Professor Baird of the Caledonian Shanks Centre for Wastes Management on behalf of the three Ayrshire Authorities;
 - (ii) request a progress report on the application when appropriate; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

14th October 2002

WS/JFC/RRS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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AGENDA