

# **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE: 7 MAY 2002**

### **PROVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES**

#### **Report by Director of Development Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** To update the Committee on planning issues relating to the provision of waste management facilities.

#### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1** The Scottish Environment Protection Agency in December 1999 published its National Waste Strategy, in response to a set of European Commission directives relating to waste planning, management and disposal. Under Article 7 of the Commission's Waste Framework Directive, authorities are required to prepare Waste Management Plans and, in this regard, an Area Waste plan for the Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area is currently being prepared by the four constituent authorities for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW).
- 2.2** A key principle of the national waste strategy is that disposal of waste generated from a waste strategy area should generally be disposed of within that same area. There should generally therefore be no requirement within any area to dispose of waste from elsewhere except by agreement between the relevant authorities. There is currently no such agreement involving any of the authorities in the South West Waste Strategy Area and any authorities elsewhere.
- 2.3** Based on the provisions of the draft Area Waste Plan and the Council's own Best Value and Environmental Strategies, the Council will require to consider its future waste disposal requirements. Central to these considerations will be the concept of Best Practicable Environment Option which has been incorporated into the National Waste Strategy. Based on this concept and on the provisions of the Area Waste Plan and the European Directives, the Community Services Department is currently conducting an exercise to develop a specification for a new, long term Waste Disposal Contract to commence when the existing contract comes to an end in May 2003.
- 2.4** Sites required for waste operations will require planning permission (unless they already have a suitable consent). This will require individual proposals to be subject to full planning procedures, including the provision of environmental impact information and for larger sites a full Environmental Impact Assessment.

### **3. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

**3.1** The new waste disposal contract is designed to allow the Council to comply with an EC Directive which requires a 25% reduction in waste landfilled by 2010; a 50% reduction by 2013; and a 65% reduction by 2020. Some of the procedures which are being considered by potential contractors offer a more substantial reduction in landfill by earlier dates. All proposals will result in an increase in the volume of waste which is recycled or composted for productive purposes. The new contract will therefore be supportive of core objectives of the development plan by promoting sustainable development and reducing the nuisance involved in certain disposal operations such as landfill. The local amenity implications of new sites required, however, will require careful consideration.

**3.2** Potential contractors have all been invited to give initial presentations to officers setting out their proposed approach to meeting the Council's waste disposal requirements. The following significant points in relation to land use considerations have become clear:

- All the potential contractors have accepted that no further landfill site will be required in East Ayrshire beyond the two existing sites – these sites are at Garlaff near Skares and Darnconner near Auchinleck;
- SEPA nationally has made it clear that they are not in favour of incineration in the early years of the National Waste Strategy (before 2010);
- Most proposals will require one or more large scale recycling facility involving a range of mechanised sorting and reprocessing systems. These facilities are likely to be enclosed in large industrial sheds, which may be visually intrusive but which will limit dust, noise and smell pollution in the surrounding area;
- The Council will itself require the potential contractor to operate two replacement civic amenity sites. These will provide for private individuals to dump separated waste within suitable facilities. Well managed facilities, with adequate screening from surrounding neighbourhoods, need not create significant nuisance;
- The successful contractor may require one or two waste transfer stations. These facilities would bulk together waste from the Council's refuse disposal vehicles and other sources, possibly with an element of crude separation of types of waste for transfer to a central recycling facility. There may be limited nuisance from noise, smell and dust, although these may be mitigated by enclosure. Contractors may choose to locate waste transfer facilities within the same areas as the civic amenity sites or other facilities required for delivery of the contract.

One of the potential contractors proposes a more community orientated approach involving more small scale locations to which members of the public may bring segregated waste, and less "industrialised" recycling facilities. The individual facilities in such schemes may be smaller scale, but they would still have the potential for localised nuisance through noise, dust and smell.

- 3.3** A major consideration in considering siting proposals will be the Scottish Executive Development Department's Planning Advice Note 63: Waste Management Planning, issued in February 2002. The Planning Advice Note details good practice in Waste Management Planning and, in particular, addresses site assessment in relation to selected waste management developments such as Waste Collection, Separation & Recycling Facilities, Waste Transfer Stations, Civic Amenity Sites, Composting Facilities etc.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** There are no financial implications for the Council directly arising from this report.

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** Some changes may require to be made to the Waste Disposal Policies of the East Ayrshire Local Plan to accommodate modifications to the plan that may be recommended by the Reporter appointed for the Local Plan Inquiry. In addition, some further amendment and expansion of the existing Waste Disposal Policies may be required to reflect the provisions of the recently approved PAN63: Waste Management Planning. If a full review of the Waste Policies contained in the local plan cannot be achieved through the local plan inquiry process, a non-statutory interim policy statement may need to be agreed by the Council to provide an adequate and up-to-date policy base for assessing any waste management applications which may be lodged with the Council prior to any formal review of the plan being concluded. A further report on this matter will be presented to Committee at a future date should such a course of action be considered necessary.

#### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** In considering future applications for waste disposal facilities, the Council must ensure that it complies fully with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Acts and does not allow its responsibilities as a waste disposal authority to materially influence its decisions, except insofar as its proposed waste disposal arrangements are themselves supportive of the Council's development plan policies.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1** It is recommended that the Committee note the planning implications of the emerging Area Waste Strategy as set out in Section 3 of the report.

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services**

JL/MS  
FV-AN  
2 May 2002

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 1. Planning Advice Note, PAN63: Waste Management Planning**
- 2. Briefing Note by Head of Protective Services, Dated 5 April 2002 entitled: East Ayrshire Council Waste Disposal Strategy and its Relationship with the National Waste Strategy.**

For further information on the contents of this report contact John Lilley, Principal Planning Officer. Telephone 01563 576790.

**Implementation Officer: Alan Neish**

**AGENDA**