

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 31st OCTOBER 2001

PILOT RECYCLING SCHEME IN FENWICK, EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S RECYCLING PROPOSALS AND THE NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Local Committee of progress in local and national waste management issues.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In November 1999, a pilot kerbside waste recycling scheme was launched in Fenwick. Householders were provided with opaque plastic bags into which paper, cardboard, plastics, textiles and cans were to be placed. The material is to be placed on the kerbside each Monday (the normal day for domestic refuse collection) and is collected by a special team from the Environmental Health and Waste Management Service.

This material is then taken to the Western Road Depot and passed through the materials recycling facility where the various streams are separated, contrary material rejected and recycle packaged for onward transport to appropriate recycling plants.

- 2.2 Following the success of the Fenwick initiative, a second scheme was introduced in Mauchline in February. As resources for separate collection of kerbside recycle are limited, the Mauchline material is collected on a Saturday morning.
- 2.3 The National Waste Strategy was launched by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency in 1999 and East Ayrshire was allocated to the Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area Group. This group comprises of three Ayrshire Councils and Dumfries and Galloway. The National Waste Strategy is designed to ensure that Scotland is able to meet the requirements of the EC Directive on Landfill which requires that by 2010, 25% of the waste landfilled in 1995 will be diverted to other waste treatment routes; 50% by 2013 and 65% by 2020.
- 2.4 Council Officers have been meeting regularly with colleagues in North and South Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Councils to agree actual tonnages of waste generated at the present time and examine options which will allow the Waste Strategy Area Group to prepare proposals which will meet the objectives set out in the Directive.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 The Fenwick Kerbside Recycling Scheme has proved very successful with 75% of the potential households participating and approximately 50% presenting material each week. This scheme (covering 404 houses) generates approximately 1 tonne of material per week which overall means a 10% reduction in the household waste tonnage anticipated from all the houses in the scheme. This performance compares well with other schemes currently being operated in the UK.

3.2 So far the Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area Group has agreed the waste arisings figure for the area and at the present time is examining options for meeting the diversion targets set out in the Landfill Directive.

SEPA have held a series of public meetings in the waste strategy area and have compiled a list of individuals who wish to be consulted on future proposals.

Given the fact the four Councils involved have entirely different waste collection and disposal arrangements, it has been agreed that the eventual plan will provide for four separate sub-plans.

As the current East Ayrshire contract for waste disposal expires in May 2003, Council staff are already preparing a specification which will invite tenders from the private sector to submit proposals which will ensure that the Council meets its statutory obligations over the life of the directive.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 In terms of domestic refuse collection, East Ayrshire measures well in providing a very efficient cost-effective service. It is recognised, however, that compliance with the EC Directive on Landfill will mean significant increased costs.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 At the present time the Scottish Parliament is preparing legislation to translate the requirements of the Landfill Directive into Scottish Law.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council is committed to meeting its environmental objectives.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 East Ayrshire Council is committed to the concept of encouraging more waste recycling and is participating in the development of the National Waste Strategy via the Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area Group.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Local Committee is invited to note the report

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JFC/SAM

13th September 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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AGENDA