

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE –
28 NOVEMBER 2002**

**NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY: THE AYRSHIRE, DUMFRIES AND
GALLOWAY WASTE STRATEGY AREA PLAN**

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To invite the Committee to approve the final version of the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The National Waste Strategy was launched by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) in 1999 and East Ayrshire Council was incorporated in a Waste Strategy Area with North Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

A series of regular meetings was convened by a SEPA-appointed Chair and waste management and planning Officers of the four Councils attended these meetings on a regular basis. Representatives of the Ayrshire Structure Plan Unit also attended and participated at the meetings.

- 2.2 Progress reports on the development of the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area Plan have been considered and noted by Community Services Committee in reports dated 7th June 2000; 7th February 2001; 10th April 2002; 18th September 2002.

At the last meeting (18th September 2002) it was reported that a draft version of the Waste Strategy Area Plan had been launched for public consultation on 7th August and (after amendment in the light of any constructive representations) a final version of the Plan would be placed before the Council for formal approval.

- 2.3 The finalised version of the Plan was circulated by the SEPA Area Waste Co-ordinator on 11th November 2002 and a copy has been placed in the members information point for inspection.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 At meetings of the Waste Strategy Area Group in September and December 2001, elected members of the four Councils took the opportunity to make it clear to SEPA and representatives from the Scottish Executive that in the short term, the scope for mutual working in terms of waste disposal was very limited. Each of the four Councils had differing waste collection, treatment and disposal policies and the intention would be to compile a document which recognised the individual circumstances of each Council. This philosophy has been followed through and is set out in the final version of the document.

3.2 As the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area Plan is one of 11 similar Plans under preparation throughout Scotland at the present time, SEPA have insisted on the inclusion of certain standardised phraseology which has given some cause for concern among the officers of the four Councils. These concerns have been formerly raised with SEPA, and have been recorded in both the minutes of meetings and in other correspondence. The SEPA response has been that these are standardised phrases and must be incorporated in the final version of the document.

3.3 The final version of the Plan approved by the four Councils will become the yardstick for considering subsequent applications for monies from the Strategic Waste Fund. East Ayrshire Council is currently evaluating bids for a new Waste Treatment/Disposal Contract which is due to run from May 2003 until at least May 2018.

It is anticipated that the additional costs arising from the award of the new contract will require additional support from the Scottish Executive (i.e. the Strategic Waste Fund). To this end, the contract specification for the New Waste Treatment/Disposal Contract requires the successful bidder to ensure that their proposals are in accord with the finalised version of the Area Waste Plan.

3.4 The Scottish Executive have raised some concerns about the apparent lack of partnership working among the four Councils. These concerns have been addressed by the preparation of a joint bid from the 3 Ayrshire Councils to the Strategic Waste Fund for additional monies to introduce wide scale source/separation waste recycling services throughout Ayrshire (i.e. the "3 bin" system).

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** While there are no direct financial implications arising from the approval of the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Waste Plan, there will be significant financial consequences arising from the award of the New Waste Treatment/Disposal Contract. These additional financial burdens will require to be met from the Strategic Waste Fund.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The National Waste Strategy is a consequence of the EU Directive on Landfill which sets out specific diversion targets for municipal waste by 2020.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** East Ayrshire Council is committed to meeting its statutory, environmental and other obligations.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1** Following detailed work by the waste management and planning officers of the three Ayrshire Councils and Dumfries and Galloway, a draft Waste Strategy Area Plan has now been completed (following widespread consultation) and is submitted to the Council for formal approval.

- 7.2.1.1** The document appears to meet the expressed wishes of the elected members of the four Councils in that it allows each Council to initially promote and develop individual Waste Strategies with a view to more closer working towards source-separation in the early years of the Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** The Committee is invited to: -
- 8.1.1** approve the final version of the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Area Waste Plan; and
 - 8.1.2** otherwise note the report.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Reports to Committee Services Committee dated 7th June 2000; 7th February 2001; 10th April 2002; and 18th September 2002
2. Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Area Waste Plan issued December 2002

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JFC/CAM
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