

Report

Report to:	Community Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 June 2008
Report by:	Executive Director (Community Resources)

Subject:	Waste Management Framework to work towards the Scottish Government Waste Policy
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ propose a framework based on an incremental approach to meeting short, medium and long term waste targets and on consideration recommend a phased approach within a broad waste management framework.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the blue bins, glass recycling, tenemented and flatted properties management framework based on an incremental approach, as outlined, is approved to assist the Council in working towards both landfill diversion targets and the aims of the Scottish Government Waste Policy.
- (2) that fully costed proposals for the schemes will be presented to a future committee.

3. Background

- 3.1. Since 2000 the Council has taken a very proactive approach to achieving both recycling/composting and landfill diversion targets in its approach to waste management resulting in a current recycling/composting performance of approximately 37%.
- 3.2. To meet future EU landfill diversion targets for biodegradable waste, the Council had been working with North Lanarkshire Council to provide waste treatment infrastructure for Lanarkshire and in March 2007 the Scottish Executive announced an indicative Strategic Waste Fund allocation of £8.4 million a year to the Lanarkshire project.
- 3.3. On 24 January 2008 the Scottish Government announced their new waste policy resulting in the indicative allocation of £8.4 million per year for the Lanarkshire authorities being withdrawn.

4. Waste Targets

- 4.1. There are now two definitive sets of targets which local authorities require to meet in Scotland: -
 - i. EU landfill diversion targets for biodegradable waste; and

ii. Scottish Government Waste Policy targets.

4.2. EU Landfill Diversion Targets for Biodegradable Waste

From a baseline of 1995, the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste allowed to landfill is as follows: -

- ◆ 75% of 1995 levels by 2010 – 77,835 tonnes
- ◆ 50% of 1995 levels by 2013 – 51,900 tonnes
- ◆ 35% of 1995 levels by 2020 – 36,330 tonnes

4.3. Scottish Government Waste Policy Targets

- ◆ Recycling and composting targets are: -
 - 70% by 2025
 - 60% by 2020
 - 50% by 2013
 - 40% by 2010
- ◆ Residual waste treatment should be at a level of no more than 25% by 2025 and this will be reflected in the new National Planning Framework.
- ◆ Landfill will only account for 5% by 2025.
- ◆ Aim to prevent growth of municipal waste by 2010.

5. Considerations

- 5.1. It is important to recognise that the recycling and composting targets are completely different to the landfill diversion targets for municipal waste. Whilst certain actions will result in 2010 recycling/composting targets being met it may not be sufficient to meet the landfill diversion target. It is therefore essential that the waste management framework is multi-faceted with a degree of flexibility incorporated to ensure that both sets of targets are being addressed.
- 5.2. At present there are no penalties associated with not meeting the Scottish Government recycling/composting targets, however, if the UK fails to meet the EU landfill diversion targets the Government will be fined and these fines will be passed onto failing local authorities.
- 5.3. Whereas the Lanarkshire Project was based on a single large waste treatment infrastructure solution, the new Scottish Government policy lends itself to an incremental and flexible approach which addresses targets in a phased manner.

6. Proposals

- 6.1. It is proposed that the waste management framework should use the 2007/08 recycling/composting performance of the Council as a baseline. The un-audited figure is in the region of 37%. Whilst this seems close to the 2010 target of 40% it should be recognised that the Council has rolled out all of its recycling and composting plans which had been financed through the Strategic Waste Fund. Furthermore, waste is presently growing at 1.5% per annum which would result in the recycling/composting rate reducing without further investment in additional recycling/composting schemes.
- 6.2. It is proposed that a glass collection scheme is offered to households who can accommodate a dedicated container for collecting glass.
- 6.3. A number of properties, approximately 20%, do not participate in the 'blue bin' recycling scheme. It is therefore proposed to extend the 'blue bin' scheme where possible and provide alternative facilities to flats and other properties not

conductive to accommodating blue bins. This will maximise the number of properties in South Lanarkshire participating in a kerbside recycling system.

- 6.4. Whilst it is anticipated that these measures would achieve the Scottish Government's 2010 recycling/composting target by 2010 it may not be sufficient to meet the 2010 EU landfill diversion target and will not be sufficient to meet the Scottish Government 2013 recycling/composting target of 50%. Some form of treatment will be required to meet these targets and it is proposed that discussions take place with the Council's existing waste disposal contractors to explore the potential of recycling, composting and diverting from landfill residual waste which is presently accepted and landfilled by them. A successful small scale solution will assist the Council in meeting both the 50% recycling/composting target for 2013 and the EU landfill diversion target for municipal waste. Other initiatives to deal with biodegradable waste may also require consideration.
- 6.5. The longer term targets for 2020 and 2025 will require the use of some form of waste treatment infrastructure. The Scottish Government have established a 'Task Force' to look into this issue. It is evident that a novel approach will be required in relation to both the technology and financing of waste treatment infrastructure for the longer term and it is proposed that a corporate group be formed to establish the most advantageous solution for the Council.
- 6.6. The framework outlined in paragraphs 6.1 to 6.5 represent a realistic and practical programme for the Council to take incremental actions to meet short, medium and longer term targets.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1. There are no specific employee implications at present.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. Each of the incremental stages will incur costs. Fully costed proposals will be the subject of individual reports in the future.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. Working with others to develop a Lanarkshire Sustainable Waste Management System.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. No equality impact assessment was required in respect of the proposals contained in this report.
- 10.2. No consultation has been required at this stage in the process.

Norrie Anderson
Executive Director (Community Resources)

6 May 2008

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- ◆ Sustainable Development

Previous References

- ◆ Report dated 12 March 2008 to the Executive Committee

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Scottish Government Waste Policy Statement

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Robert Howe, Head of Environmental and Strategic Services

Ext: 5629 (Tel: 01698 455629)

E-mail: robert.howe@southlanarkshire.gov.uk