

REPORT TO: BEST VALUE SUB-COMMITTEE - 7 NOVEMBER 2006

REPORT ON: BEST VALUE REVIEW OF RECYCLING

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 592-2006

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval to implement the proposals arising from the best value review of recycling.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the improvement proposals set out in section 7 of this report be implemented.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any new initiatives which follow on from the review will be reported separately to the relevant Committees.

4. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

This report has an impact on the following key themes - resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. BACKGROUND

6.1 At its meeting on 19 August 2003, the Sub-Committee agreed a programme of best value reviews which included a review of recycling. A review group was established under the chairmanship of the Chief Executive, which included representatives of the administration and opposition groups, a representative from Community Recycling Network Scotland, and officers from the Waste Management, Finance, Economic Development and Education departments.

6.2 The review group noted that recycling issues had already been largely addressed in the development of the Area Waste Plan, so the key focus of the review was on the following issues:

- scrutiny of progress against the recycling targets included in the strategy
- internal waste recycling
- potential for the establishment of businesses linked to recycling

6.3 Presentations on each of these topics were made by officers, as follows:

6.3.1 Stewart Ball, Waste Policy Manager, gave a presentation on waste strategy, outlining the funding made available by the Scottish Executive and the major recycling projects

which had been developed. The presentation covered the number of properties served by collections of paper, garden waste and mixed recyclates (glass, aluminium cans and plastic) and the amounts of waste recycled. Recycling points, recycling centres and awareness-raising campaigns were also covered. The result of all the initiatives developed was that the rate of recycling had increased from 21% in 2003/04 to a projected figure of 31% in 2005/06, exceeding the national target of 25%. Future strategy will include:

- continued local growth through the established schemes
- increased partnerships with other local authorities and the community sector
- continued commitment to the National Waste Strategy process, including participation in the Phase 2 Strategic Waste Fund bidding process as part of the Tayside Local Authorities Strategic Options Group

Options to be considered include an in-vessel composting system to treat all organic waste, including food waste; a new or expanded materials reclamation facility; and a pre-sort facility to increase efficiency at the DERL plant.

Challenges include funding, availability of sites for waste treatment facilities, planning issues, contractual obligations and public acceptance, all against the background of a projected increase in municipal waste arisings of 2% per annum. To address these challenges and keep Dundee at the forefront of local authority recyclers, there will require to be a culture change, with the emphasis on 'resource efficiency' rather than 'waste disposal' and a fundamental review of the way in which the waste management service is delivered, addressing issues such as:

- separate collection of food waste
- collection of recyclates from tenement properties
- collection frequencies for residual waste

6.3.2 Ham Sayeed, Team Leader (Policy/Europe), gave a presentation on stimulating the green business sector, which covered the policy, economic and local context and focused on the following topics:

- furniture recycling company model
- sustainable growth park
- social enterprise development
- sun city central

6.3.3 Andy Malcolm, Waste Strategy Officer, gave a presentation on the review of internal waste management. An audit towards the end of 2003 identified that the Council generated approximately 8% of the city's waste but there was no co-ordinated approach to encouraging internal waste minimisation and recycling. Following the audit, recommendations were agreed under the following themes:

- mechanisms to be established for recovery and recycling of key waste streams

- infrastructure to be provided for separate collection of key waste streams
- more co-ordinated corporate approach to be adopted to in-house waste issues
- waste minimisation opportunities to be investigated
- inter-departmental working relationships to be encouraged

A working group including representatives from all departments then developed an Action Plan to progress the recommendations, with funding from the Scottish Executive being used to implement the Plan. The key actions taken were:

- Contract Services waste is now predominantly segregated then recycled
- systems are in place to recover the majority of 'green' Parks waste in-house
- aluminium can and plastic bottle collections have been offered to all Council sites
- procedure adopted for disposal of fluorescent tubes
- strategy adopted for sustainable procurement, management and ethical disposal of furniture
- paper recycling collection offered to all Council sites, using desk-side blue boxes
- waste paper minimisation campaign to be launched
- information and guidance being cascaded through network of 'waste aware champions'
- schools recycling campaign and waste education programme

The result of these initiatives has been a significant improvement in the way the Council minimises and manages its own waste, with procedures and infrastructure in place for recycling the majority of waste and enthusiastic feedback from departments. Waste minimisation ideas and practices will continue to be promoted and progress will continue to be monitored.

6.3.4 Questions and discussion followed each of the presentations, leading to the development of improvement proposals as set out in section 7 below.

7. **IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS**

The following proposals were agreed:

- 7.1 The Head of Waste Management should continue to develop strategies and practices to maintain Dundee's good progress in relation to national recycling targets.
- 7.2 The Head of Waste Management should consider proposals on the frequency of collections of residual waste once the blue bin, brown bin and box collection schemes have been fully implemented and evaluated.

- 7.3 The Head of Waste Management should continue to investigate the feasibility of acquiring anaerobic digestion equipment to allow food waste to be recycled, so that the Council is in a position to act quickly if funding from the Scottish Executive becomes available for this.
- 7.4 The Chief Executive should liaise with his colleagues in the other cities to keep in touch with their recycling initiatives, including any changes to collection frequencies.
- 7.5 The Director of Planning and Transportation should require the provision of recycling facilities at new supermarket developments and at any other existing stores owned by the same operator within the city and should also continue to encourage established operators to develop these facilities at their sites.
- 7.6 The Head of Waste Management should arrange for figures on internal waste recycled by departments to be reported to the Chief Executive's Management Team so that effective participation in the agreed internal waste strategy can be monitored.
- 7.7 The Director of Economic Development should investigate sources of funding for a feasibility study on the development of a Sustainable Business Park, which may involve working in partnership (eg with voluntary organisations) to meet the bidding criteria of funders.
- 7.8 The Director of Economic Development should continue to work with the Recycling Institute on the idea of a business incubator facility to support businesses linked to recycling.
- 7.9 The Director of Economic Development should continue to explore possibilities for the development of community enterprises and the green social economy, and, in particular, to progress ideas relating to a wood fuel project and the involvement of Ardler Village Trust in furniture recycling, including discussions with the Depute Chief Executive (Finance) about the potential for a contract with the Council.

8. **CONSULTATIONS**

The Depute Chief Executives, Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning), Directors of Economic Development and Planning and Transportation and the Head of Waste Management have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report 551-2003 to Best Value Sub Committee, 19 August 2003
4 year Best Value Programme

Alex Stephen
Chief Executive

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03/11/2006