

**REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE –  
21 OCTOBER 2002  
PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE –  
28 OCTOBER 2002**

**REPORT ON: FINALISED TAYSIDE AREA WASTE PLAN**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

**REPORT NO: 703-2002**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is primarily to advise the Committees of the key provisions of the Draft Finalised Area Waste Plan for Tayside and to seek their agreement to the Plan prior to its submission to the Scottish Executive. The Report also describes the progress made on the Plan since it was last brought to the Committees' attention and outlines the next steps in the area waste planning process. Finally, the report seeks agreement in principle for the submission of a joint bid for funding from the Strategic Waste Fund.
- 1.2 Copies of the Draft Finalised Area Waste Plan have been made available for inspection in the Members Lounges.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a agree the Finalised Area Waste Plan on behalf of the Dundee City Council;
  - b agree to reflect the relevant provisions of the Finalised Area Waste Plan in the Dundee Local Plan Review;
  - c commend the Area Waste Plan to the Development Quality Committee as a material consideration when determining relevant planning applications;
  - d agree in principle to the submission of a joint bid to the Strategic Waste Fund with the other local authority partners to secure funding for a recycling initiative involving the provision of infrastructure for the collection of material suitable for composting;
  - e remit the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection to report back in due course to the Environmental and Consumer Protection Committee with details of the joint bid; and
  - f remit the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection to bring forward further reports to the Environmental and Consumer Protection Committee, detailing arrangements for implementation of the Plan as these are agreed by the Area Waste Group.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications for the City Council associated with the approval of this Report. Nevertheless, the implementation of the Area Waste Plan will have significant financial implications. The full details of these, together with potential funding mechanisms will be further explored as the implementation elements of the Plan are more fully developed. These matters will be the subject of future reports to Members, which will set out the potential implications for capital and revenue budgets.

3.2 In the first instance, it is recommended that authority is given for a joint bid to secure funding within the current financial year from the Scottish Executive's Strategic Waste Fund for the provision of composting infrastructure. A successful bid would secure funding to allow the Council to purchase equipment and to meet ongoing revenue costs.

3.3 Costs associated with the publication of the Finalised Plan will be met by SEPA.

#### **4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Report involves the following key themes:

- Resources are used efficiently and waste minimised (the main tenet of the Area Waste Plan is to use the resources of this area to best deal with the waste produced in this area and encourage the minimisation of waste);
- Health is protected by creating safe and pleasant environments; and
- Pollution is limited to levels at which natural systems can cope.

#### **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no equal opportunities implications.

#### **6 BACKGROUND**

6.1 The Tayside Area Waste Group (AWG) was established in April 2000 with the remit of developing the Area Waste Plan for Tayside. The AWG is comprised of representatives of the local authorities (waste managers and land use planners), SEPA (group chairperson and area waste co-ordinator) and a representative of the not for profit sector. The Tayside Area Waste Plan will be one of eleven such plans covering Scotland as a whole. Together, these will allow Scotland to meet the objectives of the National Waste Strategy, which provides the broad policy framework for the individual Area Waste Plans.

6.2 The last Report on this subject (No 189-2002) was considered by the Environmental and Consumer Protection and Planning and Transportation Committees in March of this year. At that stage, Members agreed the terms of the Draft Area Waste Plan for consultation purposes and remitted the respective Directors to report the Finalised Plan for joint approval by the Committees in due course. This Report addresses that remit and outlines the results of the stakeholder consultation exercise completed in July of this year.

#### **7 PROGRESS TO DATE**

7.1 At their meetings in March of this year, the Environmental and Consumer Protection (18 March) and Planning and Transportation (25 March) Committees were advised of the progress which had been made in developing the Tayside Area Waste Plan (Report No 189-2002 refers). The main stages completed by that stage were as follows :

- a preparation of the Strategic Waste Management Baseline Assessment (SWMBA) setting out existing arrangements for the management of waste within Tayside and estimating the future levels of waste arising within the area.
- b definition of the decision criteria to be used in deciding the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) for the future management of waste in the area.
- c the profiling of eight options for future waste management – shortlisted to three options following initial appraisal.
- d refinement of shortlisted options prior to inclusion in Waste Issues Paper providing the basis for extensive stakeholder consultation.

- e selection of waste management option providing the BPEO and incorporation into Draft Area Waste Plan. Key elements of the BPEO involve securing the following changes over the period up to 2020 (over the Waste Strategy Area as a whole):
- an increase in the proportion of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) which is composted – from 6% to 13%;
  - an increase in the proportion of MSW converted to energy – from 7% to 27%;
  - an increase in the proportion of MSW which is recycled – from 5% to 35%; and
  - a reduction in the proportion of MSW sent to landfill – from 82% to 25%.
- f production of Draft Area Waste Plan incorporating the BPEO for the management of municipal solid waste.

7.2 Since then, the Area Waste Group has made further significant progress on the Plan and the following key stages have now been completed:

- a Stakeholder consultation on the Draft Area Waste Plan.
- b Production of Draft Finalised Area Waste Plan.

The following sections of the Report provide further details of these additional stages and outline the next steps towards final approval of the Plan.

## **8 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT PLAN**

- 8.1 Consultation was undertaken on the Draft Area Waste Plan between May and July of this year. Fuller details of this are contained in Appendix 1 to this Report. The consultation exercise elicited very positive feedback, with 61 questionnaire responses indicating satisfaction with the Draft Plan, 12 indicating dissatisfaction and the remaining 2 responses indicating “yes” and “no” and “don’t know”. Positive comments focused on aspects such as the increases in recycling and composting and on the proposed increases in segregated kerbside collections and mini recycling centres. The structure and content of the Plan also attracted favourable comment.
- 8.2 The Plan was criticised, among other things, for being too heavily reliant on the DERL energy from waste plant and therefore liable in future years to channel wastes to the plant, which could be more appropriately processed in other ways. This criticism was not accepted and it was noted that the proposal for the three local authorities to share the capacity of the DERL plant would in fact allow for more selective channelling of wastes to this facility. Three comments criticised the clarity and level of detail of the Plan. These have been taken into account in revisions to the Plan. A number of responses sought the inclusion of matters, which are in fact already incorporated in the Plan. The rewriting of the Plan has sought to address this issue by expanding the text in certain sections and presenting future actions in a clearer, more explicit fashion.

## **9 THE DRAFT FINALISED AREA WASTE PLAN**

- 9.1 In the light of the predominantly favourable consultation responses received on the Draft Area Waste Plan, its fundamental approach has been carried forward into the Finalised Plan. However, the format, structure and content of the Plan have been revised somewhat in order to improve presentation and provide a briefer and more focused document. A number of revisions have also been introduced to assist the clarity of the Plan (eg in relation to Landfill Tax and Landfill Permits) and to firm up on the action points identified for its implementation, together with their timing. There is also a fuller description of the Best Practicable Environmental Option for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in Tayside and further explanation of the measures, which will be undertaken in pursuit of waste prevention. Bearing in mind that

the present Plan deals only with MSW, the Finalised Plan also sets out recommendations for future local and national actions in respect of non-MSW wastes.

## **10 NEXT STEPS**

10.1 Assuming satisfactory endorsement by the Scottish Executive, the next major stage in the Area Waste Plan process will be the implementation phase. The Plan sets out a range of short, medium and longer term actions to achieve the waste management targets set for Tayside. It acknowledges that success will depend on securing partnerships with public agencies, the waste industry, private and voluntary organisations and the community as a whole. It is also important to note that the Area Waste Plan will provide a framework for investment and for other plans and initiatives involving partner agencies and organisations.

10.2 Key future actions include the following:

- defining the future role and membership of the Area Waste Strategy Group and local fora;
- implementing the Area Waste Plan action plan;
- funding the Area Waste Plan;
- monitoring the implementation of the Area Waste Plan;
- linking the Area Waste Plan to the development planning system; and
- supporting and responding to national initiatives as set out in the National Waste Plan.

10.3 The Plan recognises that considerable capital investment in new infrastructure will be required to implement the BPEO. In addition, there will be increases in year on year revenue costs. The cost and potential funding mechanisms will require serious detailed investigation. The achievement of the BPEO will depend on securing sufficient additional levels of funding.

10.4 As an early step in the implementation process, there is merit in looking to the scope offered by the Scottish Executive's Strategic Waste Fund. This allows local authorities to bid for funds to assist implementation of the BPEO. Given the current stage of the AWP there would be advantage in pursuing a joint bid on behalf of the Tayside local authorities to fund a suitable initiative. The preferred option identified by the Area Waste Group is for a bid to secure funding to support a significant increase in composting activity within Tayside. This could include provision for the purchase of green waste bins, new collection vehicles and other associated infrastructure. A fuller breakdown of the bid, including costs and technical details, would be reported to the Environmental and Consumer Protection Committee at a later stage.

10.5 Precise details of the bid criteria have not yet been made available, however it is intended that this bid should clearly meet any such criteria. However, it is felt that failure to make a bid in the current year may result in the loss of a funding opportunity for the partner authorities.

## **11 CONSULTATIONS**

11.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Support Services, Director of Corporate Planning and Director of Economic Development have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

**12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1 Draft Tayside Area Waste Plan.

12.2 Draft Finalised Tayside Area Waste Plan (copies placed in Members' lounges).

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Director of Planning & Transportation

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Ron Gabriel  
Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection

IJ/AB/EJ

9 October 2002

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## APPENDIX 1

### SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

The Tayside Draft Area Waste Plan was consulted on between 10 May 2002 and 5 July 2002. The purpose of the consultation was to inform the development of the Final Plan by gathering comments from all key stakeholders. A summary of the methods of consultation used is given below:

- 240 copies of the full Tayside Draft Area Waste Plan circulated to stakeholders with a technical knowledge of waste management and strategy. This included the waste industry within Tayside, representative waste producers and pressure groups. Attached to each copy of the Full Plan was a questionnaire with prepaid return envelope.
- 3400 copies of a summary version of the Tayside Draft Area Waste Plan circulated to a wide range of stakeholders who did not have a technical knowledge of waste management or waste strategy. Copies were sent to addresses across Tayside and made available in Local Authority public access points. Attached to each copy of the summary plan was a questionnaire with prepaid return envelope.
- A public meeting was organised by Friends of the Earth Tayside and attended by around 25 individuals from across Tayside.

A number of press releases and newspaper articles publicised the consultation process.

It should be noted that an earlier, much more extensive consultation took place during the development of the plan.

#### 2 SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

The total number of questionnaires returned was 75. There were 6 other responses, which were all written responses, in addition to the questionnaires.

#### 3 SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Responses to each of the questions in the questionnaire are summarised as follows:

##### **Are you happy with the Draft Tayside Area Waste Plan?**

Yes	61
No	12
Yes and No	1
Don't Know	1

##### **If not why not?**

Of the no answers, there were a variety of reasons why individuals did not like the plan. These include comments such as: too much EfW, no cost benefit analysis and that the plan was not a plan. Comments such as these did not lead to any changes in the final plan. There were 3 comments, which related to the level of detail and clarity of the plan. These comments have been taken into account and the plan is now more detailed, logically structured and reviewed, in order to identify and remove any ambiguities.

**What do you like about the Draft Plan?**

There were 61 responses to this question. Most of the responses liked the increases in recycling and composting. There were also a number of positive comments regarding the increasing use of segregated kerbside collections and increasing the number of mini recycling centres. A few responses expressed an opinion in favour of the increased producer responsibility the plan sets out, particularly the increased responsibility on householders. Several responses made comment on the layout and structure stating that the layout was easy to follow and the plan comprehensive.

The comments in this section were encouraging both in terms of the number of positive comments and what they related to. Most of the comments expressed support for fundamental parts of the plan such as increasing recycling and composting and segregated collections of materials. It was also encouraging to note the positive comments relating to the structure and content of the plan.

**Are there any other actions you would like to see included?**

There were 55 responses to this question. Almost all the responses to this question related to actions people would like to see included, which were in fact already in the plan. On closer analysis of the plan, it became apparent that some of these actions were not obvious. As part of the rewriting of the plan, many of the sections have been expanded and the actions made more obvious. This includes the sections on education and awareness raising and recycling. In addition, all the actions have been represented in a tabular format, which more clearly illustrates what the actions are, what they will achieve and how they will be measured.

Many of the responses to this question suggested actions of a detailed nature, which will be communicated to those undertaking detailed implementation planning.

**Are there any general comments on the draft plan?**

Again in this section many comments were received which were related to detailed implementation planning rather than a strategic plan. Several responses to this question related to litter and fly tipping which are not dealt with in any detail in the plan. It is recognised that strategies to counter fly tipping will require to be developed in the future, as the cost of waste management rises. Most of the rest of the comments in this section related to education and awareness and recycling. Many responses intimated the plan did not focus enough on these aspects. These sections of the plan have been rewritten to clarify and expand the description of activity in these areas.

**4 CONCLUSIONS**

The response to the draft plan has been overwhelmingly positive. There have, however, been several changes to the draft plan, including clarification of text and inclusion of further detail on recycling, education and awareness raising.