



REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SERVICES & LICENSING COMMITTEE

DATE: 27 NOVEMBER 2008

HEAD OF SERVICE: ENVIRONMENT

REPORTING OFFICER: HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT
Phil Long

SUBJECT: YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE WASTE
PARTNERSHIP – PERFORMANCE REPORT

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update Members on the current work being undertaken by the York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership (the Partnership).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Members endorse the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership comprises two Waste Disposal Authorities, namely North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York Council, as well as seven Waste Collection Authorities at District level, namely Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby Councils.

3.2 The Partnership has been operating for ten years, albeit under different names.

4.0 INTRODUCTION

4.1 Representatives from each authority, at member and officer level, meet regularly to discuss issues regarding waste management across York and NY County area. The aim of the Partnership is to provide a more strategic approach in finding solutions to deal with municipal waste arisings across the Partnership area.

4.2 The Partnership discusses issues surrounding waste collection and disposal, as well as initiatives such as public consultation, waste minimisation and communications campaigns.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT

5.1 Joint working and partnerships in 2-tier authority areas

6.0 REPORT

6.1 Public Consultation

There have been two major public consultation exercises carried out across York and North Yorkshire. The first was in 2001 and the second in 2006. Householders across the Partnership area were asked various questions regarding waste disposal and collection methods, appropriate levels of recycling, costs and environmental impacts.

The purpose of these consultations was to inform the Partnership's waste strategy document. Both consultations were well responded to.

6.2 Strategy

Following the comprehensive public consultation exercises the Partnership produced a Waste Management Strategy, the first of which was produced in 2002.

The updated, current Strategy is entitled 'Let's Talk Less Rubbish' and is a Municipal Waste Management Strategy covering the Partnership area for 2006 to 2026.

6.3 Statement of Agreed Principles

In January 2005 a Statement of Agreed Principles was endorsed by the Partnership, which set out a common approach to delivering the aims of the Strategy. This common approach was formalised further with the implementation of a Service Level Agreement.

6.4 Service Level Agreement

In order to achieve the recycling and composting targets set out in the Strategy document, a Service Level Agreement between the seven District Councils and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) was signed by all relevant authorities in February 2008.

Amongst other things, this Agreement commits each council to minimum recycling and composting standards, to ensure delivery of Waste Strategy targets. The Agreement also requires that councils in the Partnership work together on areas of common interest, such as waste minimisation and communication campaigns, education and promotions.

6.5 Waste Classification

The Government introduced national waste legislation back in 1992, informing local authorities of the types of waste they were under a duty to collect and dispose of.

The Partnership (with NYCC as the lead authority) has recently produced a waste classification document further clarifying the above legislation, with particular regard to what is classed as household or commercial waste.

6.6 Waste Composition Analysis

A waste composition analysis was carried out in August this year on 105 properties in Ryedale. This was done as part of a wider York and North Yorkshire survey on over 1,000 properties. It involved analysing contents of waste containers to determine weights and types of waste currently present in bins.

A consultancy (Enviros) was used to carry out this work and the results will be vital for future planning.

6.7 Waste Campaigns

As well as recycling, the Waste Strategy has commitments with regards to minimisation and re-use of waste. Campaigns have been run on home composting, real nappies and currently there is a campaign on food waste.

Re-use of larger items is also being encouraged and an officer at NYCC is leading on a 'Choose2Reuse' campaign across the Partnership area.

6.8 Regional Capacity Building Fund

With a requirement that the Partnership reports back to the Y&H Regional Assembly, a successful bid of £75,000 has been received for waste minimisation projects and to explore joint working.

Waste Minimisation

£40,000 is available for waste minimisation. This money is being used to develop and provide focus to the waste minimisation and communications action plans that cover the Partnership area. The Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is providing expertise to carry this project forward.

Additionally, a food waste challenge is being run, involving a family from each local authority area in the Partnership. This is currently underway and the purpose of the challenge is to see by how much a family can reduce their food waste, over a six-week period. An officer from the national educational charity (Wastewatch) is carrying this project, entitled 'What Not To Waste' forward.

Joint Working

The remaining £35,000 is being spent on identifying ways the Partnership can move forward on joint working projects. This project has strong chief executive interest through the Association of North Yorkshire Councils.

A waste management consultancy (White Young Green) has been appointed to carry out a scoping project. This involves looking at further joint working, on areas such as clinical and commercial waste collection, fuel procurement, vehicles, shared depots, risk management etc. A final report presenting the findings is expected from WYG by Christmas.

6.9 Waste Disposal Contracts

Although, not directly involving District authorities, NYCC and the City of York are about to let a long-term waste disposal contract to deal with residual waste (waste that would normally go to landfill) utilising new treatment technologies.

The purpose of letting this contract is to recover more value from residual waste before it goes to landfill. This is necessary to deliver longer-term aims agreed by the Partnership and to avoid potential fines under the Government's Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS).

As far as Ryedale District Council is concerned, when these newer technologies come on stream in 4 or 5 years time, a transfer site will need to

be provided somewhere in the District in order for non-recyclable waste to be bulked up before delivery on to these centralised sites.

6.10 Transfer Stations

As part of the Service Level Agreement, NYCC has agreed to provide each district, including Ryedale, with a transfer station.

Instead of non-recyclable waste from householders and commercial properties being delivered to a local landfill site, it will be delivered to the transfer, bulked, then transported on to a central processing facility. At this stage it is looking almost certain that the processing facility (or facilities) will be located outside Ryedale DC's boundary.

6.11 Material Recycling Facilities

The Partnership is currently discussing whether to procure a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) where recyclable materials, such as glass, cans, paper, plastic bottles etc could be delivered from the various District authorities.

The MRF would be able to bulk and sort materials before them being sent onto final markets for recycling. Currently, the only local authority that has access to an MRF is Scarborough, who have access to a facility at Seamer Carr.

6.12 Procurement and Sale of Materials

- i) Whilst the Partnership has not entered into any joint procurement exercise for vehicles or waste containers, for example, there is a joint procurement project being worked up to see whether authorities from Yorkshire and Cheshire can procure wheeled bins at a reduced rate. The lead authority on this work is Leeds City Council.
- ii) There are no joint arrangements across the Partnership area for selling materials collected for recycling. Each Waste Collection Authority makes its own arrangements, some having a set contract with a waste management company.

Recent instability across financial markets has filtered down to the waste management industry and some councils in the UK have already been adversely affected.

The current situation for Ryedale DC is that there has been a slight revision in the value of some materials sold, which is likely to mean a loss of income/cost to the authority of about £1500 (for Qtr's 3 and 4, 2008/09). Although this situation is comparatively good, compared to councils who co-mingle all their recyclable materials, the situation could deteriorate much further, having significant implications for 2009/10 budgets.

6.13 Executive Officer

The Partnership is in the process of employing an executive officer who will be responsible for:

- Co-ordinating delivery of the strategy

- Leading on the Partnership's 3-year business plan and associated annual action plans.
- Building consensus and developing joint policies, practices and procedures aimed at providing a cost effective and customer orientated waste service across the Partnership area.
- Securing improvements in efficiency and effectiveness of partners through joint procurement of services and marketing materials.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Possible savings through joint working procedures.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 There is a strong suggestion from Government that councils in 2-tier authority areas work more closely together to deliver services.

As waste collection and disposal functions are split between district and county councils, the Government is urging 2-tier authorities in England to work in partnership, in order to deliver efficiency or cost savings.

Indeed, the Government has been consulting on whether to make it a duty for 2-tier councils to set up a separate Joint Waste Authority to deliver waste services across council boundaries.

The York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership is therefore an important group to help deliver on this agenda and all authorities in the Partnership area have a desire to play their part. This report details some of the main areas of work being undertaken by the Partnership.

Background Papers:

Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs:

Consultation on proposals for joint waste authorities in England, March 2008

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