
**Meeting of the Executive Member for Neighbourhood
Services and Advisory Panel**

7th June 2007

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

Waste Management CPA Inspection June 2007

Summary

1. As a follow up to the CPA inspection in 2004, the Audit Commission will be completing a further inspection of Waste Management in York during June 2007.
2. The inspection will focus on:
 - An assessment of the Waste Services contribution to the Council's strategic priorities and vision for York.
 - An analysis of the steps being taken to improve Value for Money (VfM) in relation to the delivery of Waste Services.
 - An assessment of the relative risks to the Council, associated with its preferred method of future waste service provision.

Background

3. Best value places a duty on local authorities to review services, set targets for improvement, monitor progress and report results.
4. To achieve these objectives the council needs to establish suitable arrangements for the delivery of its services in line with nationally set challenges, whilst accommodating local needs and expectations .
5. The authority had an inspection in 2004 which identified issues relating to customer service, service delivery and performance management arrangements.
6. The Audit Commission identified the need to carry out a further inspection to assess the progress made since the 2004 as, at the time, the Council was reviewing its waste disposal arrangements jointly with North Yorkshire, which included future service provision through PFI arrangements.

7. The inspectors considered that these proposals introduced risks to the Council relating to cost, performance, operational viability and community acceptance. The satisfactory resolution to these issues, along with the achievement of ongoing improvements to the waste service provided a considerable challenge to the Council.

Scope and Objectives of the Inspection

8. The scope of the inspection is to look at how waste collection and disposal services are being provided in relation to the needs of local people and the requirements of the national criteria.
9. The objective of the inspection is to determine how well the Council has responded to the findings of the 2004 inspection and to consider the progress made in the proposals for future waste disposal arrangements. This work will include a review of the quality of on-going service provision and the level of risk relating to the Council's proposals for future service provision. An assessment of performance management and waste partnerships will form part of the work.

Reporting and Timescales

10. There was an initial discussion with the inspectors on 12th March 2007 which identified key contacts and documents required. An agreed programme of work and timescales were established as follows:
 - The provision of documents along with a brief self-assessment focusing on the Key Lines of Enquiries (KLOE's) by 25th May 2007. See annex A attached.
 - On-site interviews week commencing 11th June 2007, for three days. This will include feedback of initial findings on the first day and a summary of findings on the last on-site day.
 - A draft report will be presented on or about week commencing 9th July 2007, with the final report agreed on or about week commencing 23rd July 2007.

Consultation

11. Consultation in the preparation of the brief self-assessment was restricted to officers directly linked to the service delivery. The driver for the service is the Local Area Agreement (LAA) which, in turn are linked to the Corporate Strategy.
12. The LAA sets out York's 20-year Vision and Community Strategy (*Without Walls [2004] York: A City Making History – York City Vision and Community Strategy 2004-2024*) took two years to develop and was agreed by key public, private, voluntary and community sector partners across the city. Development of the vision was led by the Without Walls Executive Board and based on widespread consultation with residents, local public service providers, businesses, and voluntary and community groups through a 'Festival of Ideas'. Hundreds of residents and visitors took part, including many whose views are

not normally heard. Activities included live public debates, ward-based community planning events and 'postcards from the future'.

Options

13. This report is for information only. Members should note the self-assessment, inspection dates and the proposed dates for the final report.

Corporate Priorities

14. The Waste Services contribute significantly to the council's corporate priority to "decrease the tonnage of biodegradable waste and recyclable products going to landfill"

Implications

15.

- **Financial** – There are no financial implications associated with this report.
- **Human Resources (HR)** – There are no implications for CYC staff.
- **Equalities** – There are no equalities implications in this report.
- **Legal** – There are no legal implications in this report.
- **Crime and Disorder** – There are no implications in this report for crime and disorder.
- **Information Technology (IT)** – There are no implications for information technology.
- **Property** – There are no implications for property in this report.
- **Other** - There are no other implications to state, relating to this report.

Risk Management

16. The outcome of the inspection could contribute to the corporate CPA inspection scheduled for the early part of 2008.

Recommendations

17. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member to note this report.

Reason: To update the Executive Member on the Audit Commissions inspection of Waste Management in York in June 2007.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Date** 21.05.07

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected:**All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A – Brief self-assessment submission.