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

5th June 2008

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

**Response to petition from the residents of various locations
across the City, presented at Council on 10th April 2008**

Summary

1. This report has been prepared in response to a petition presented to Council by Councillor Potter supporting a plastic bag free City of York and calling upon the Council to do all in its power to achieve this aim.

Background

2. Nine hundred and eighty eight signatures to the petition were received from various streets and wards across the City.
3. In the UK approximately 13 billion carrier bags are issued each year, with the average person being given around 300 carrier bags a year.
4. Since the first waste minimisation strategy (2005) the waste minimisation action plan has promoted the use of reusable bags through the sale of the 'York Bag' which is made of Jute. Since the start of the campaign up to and including January 2008 almost 4,000 bags have been sold by the council, with positive reports from other retail outlets who are selling their own products.
5. The Waste Strategy for England 2007, highlights the need to reduce the environmental impact of single use bags, this includes both paper and plastic bags. The Government will work with retailers to achieve this aim, retailers will be encouraging customers to reduce the number of carrier bags they use. As part of this campaign, we will continue to monitor the national movements on this issue and where ever possible move in line with these.

Waste Minimisation Action Plan

6. Encouraging residents to reduce the amount of carrier bags that they use is an easy and practical way that they can reduce the amount of waste they produce.

7. The next 3 year waste minimisation action plan, will move this project forward and promote ' Bag Free' areas across York, where we promote the use of reusable bags to move away from plastic bags.
8. It is planned that villages will be targeted first, so we will have for example '*Dunnington is Plastic Bag Free*' events to promote the campaign. These events will be held in partnership with the local community, through ward committees, schools, parish councils, local libraries, community halls and any interested local groups. Champions will be found to help with this promotion and reusable bags will be available to purchase in all local shops.
9. We have formed a partnership with a group of Copmanthorpe residents called 'Bring Your Bag', this group want to make Copmanthorpe a Plastic Bag Free Village. As part of the waste minimisation campaign CYC were looking for a group in a village, so this was an ideal partnership for all involved.
10. The Copmanthorpe Campaign was launched at the Copmanthorpe Street Fair on Monday 5th May 2008, where a competition, open to all children in the village, was launched to design the front of the Copmanthorpe cotton bag. This bag will be available to all Copmanthorpe residents free of charge at the start of the campaign, and will make its first appearance at the Copmanthorpe Carnival in July 2008.
11. The group are wanting to involve all sections of the community to make this a sustainable project, including shopkeepers, local school and scout and guide groups (to name but a few).
12. Competitions will be held at the local schools within each of the areas to produce a design that will go on the bags sold in that area as part of the campaign. This will provided a local focus for the campaign.
 - In 2008/09 it is planned to get 2 villages to go 'Bag Free'
 - In 2009/10 the target is to get an additional 3 villages Bag Free and to continue to support the villages that went bag free in 08/09
 - In 2010/11 the target is to get an additional 3 villages Bag Free while supporting the villages that have already gone Bag Free.
13. The ultimate aim is to move this campaign into the city centre of York, however this will be more problematic as the city centre has more national stores. It is envisaged that this section of the campaign will form part of the waste minimisation action for 2011/12 and beyond.

Consultation

14. As set out in paragraph 8 above, consultation will take place as part of the overall strategy.

Options

15. Report for note only.

Analysis

16. Success of the strategy will be measured and reported to member periodically.

Corporate Priorities

17. This work is specifically relevant to the following Corporate Priorities:

- Decrease the tonnage of biodegradable waste and recyclable products going to landfill.
- Improve the actual and perceived condition of the city's streets, housing estates and public spaces. As windblown plastic carrier bags are proving problematic across the City.

Implications

18. **Financial** – No implications in this report
19. **Human Resources (HR)** – No implications in this report
20. **Equalities** – No implications in this report
21. **Legal** - No implications in this report
22. **Crime and Disorder** – No implications in this report
23. **Information Technology (IT)** – No implications in this report
24. **Property** – No implications in this report.

Risk Management

25. In compliance with the Councils risk management strategy there are no risks identified from this report.

Recommendations

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

Reason: In response to the petition.

Contact Details

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Terry Collins
Director of Neighbourhood Services

Report Approved

Date 8th May 2008

Report Approved

Date

Specialist Implications Officer(s): None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Waste Management Strategy 2007/2008 – 2013/2014 – Executive 9th October 2007.

Annexes – None