

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

Waste Minimisation Strategy & Action Plan 2008 - 11

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members that a comprehensive waste minimisation strategy and action plan has been produced for 2008 to 2011.
2. In 2007 Members approved an annual budget of £50k to support waste minimisation activities through to 2009/2010. To ensure continuation of work thereafter, and further development of new initiatives, a £50k annual base budget is needed for 2010 onwards.

Background

3. City of York Council is a unitary authority responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of all municipal solid waste within its area. There is increasing environmental, financial and legislative pressure to move towards more sustainable waste management.
4. A key element to achieving sustainable waste management is waste minimisation. From 2002 the Council began to work in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council and its 7 districts to look at waste minimisation and prevention. The first York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership (Y&NYWP) waste minimisation strategy was completed in 2004 and has been updated regularly since that date.
5. In parallel with the partnership work the Council's first waste minimisation strategy was developed in 2005. This built on the partnership strategy by enhancing specific aspects of waste minimisation locally. This work has helped to reduce the growth of household waste in the area through various initiatives.
6. York's waste minimisation strategy for 2008 - 2011 builds on the success of previous years' work as well as addressing new challenges. The strategy brings together different elements of waste minimisation and reflects the principles of the waste hierarchy. This identifies the order of preference for dealing with waste and represents a chain of priority for waste management including waste prevention, waste reduction, reuse and home composting. A copy of the waste minimisation strategy document is attached as Annex 1.

7. The overall aim of the strategy is to address waste growth which can be attributed to a number of factors including population growth and lifestyle changes. The target is to stabilise waste growth to 1% per annum. The only growth in waste will be that from new domestic properties built each year. This equates to zero waste growth in existing households on a year by year basis.
8. A key element of the strategy is to achieve waste minimisation through cultural and behavioural change. This will involve working with all areas of the community sector and businesses in developing and promoting waste minimisation.
9. The 4 main aims and targets of the strategy are:
 - Aim 1 - To engage the public and businesses in bringing about a change in culture so that waste minimisation is widely known and people are aware of what it is and what they can do to contribute.
 - Aim 2 - To motivate people to take action and incentivising them to reduce their waste.
 - Aim 3 - For the Council to be a lead authority in setting an example for waste minimisation within it's own office buildings.
 - Aim 4 - To partner with different areas of the voluntary and community sector to promote waste minimisation messages.
10. Aims and targets will be delivered through work detailed in the Waste Minimisation Action and Campaign Plan 2008/2009 - 2010/2011. A copy of this is attached as Annex 2. Key areas of work include:
 - Home composting
 - Real nappies
 - Bag free York
 - Choose 2 Reuse
 - Schools education
 - Packaging
 - Christmas waste campaign
 - Business waste & waste minimisation
 - Internal communications

Consultation

11. Over the past 3 years York's residents' awareness of waste minimisation has been monitored. Key findings of the 2007 survey results are as follows:
 - 33% of people who home composted in York and North Yorkshire did so to minimise their waste.
 - 74% of residents were aware of reusable nappies and 37% of people asked in York would like to consider using real nappies.

- One in five respondents reuse disposable materials.
- 71% of York respondents agreed that reducing waste at source was better for the environment than recycling.

Options

12. Accepting the need for a strategy to minimise waste, the options are around the target reduction. Each growth scenario will impact on the Council's Landfill Allowance (LATS). For comparison the following table gives likely LATS liability with different waste growth scenarios given the Council's current policy position.

Year ↓	LATS POSITION (Tonnes)				
	Scenario →	-1% growth	0% growth	1% growth	2% growth
2009/10		400 Surplus	270 Deficit	940 Deficit	1,620 Deficit
2010/11		3,230 Deficit	4,570 Deficit	5,920 Deficit	7,290 Deficit
2011/12		7,500 Deficit	9,500 Deficit	11,540 Deficit	13,620 Deficit

13. The proposed 1% growth is in line with the successful York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership PFI Outline Business Case, and supported by the current £50K revenue budget. Over the past 3 years, waste in York has increased by 0.25% per annum. Over the coming 5 years York is forecast to see a 7% increase in households and a 4.7% increase in population. These increases will impact on future waste patterns. Waste Minimisation Strategies in other regions suggest growth at around 2%. The option of setting a more challenging target would need additional budget and have uncertain results.

Analysis

14. To maintain recycling and composting performance levels, and to help meet targets for diverting biodegradable waste from landfill, it is essential that waste growth is controlled. A key method of achieving this is through the delivery of a comprehensive waste minimisation strategy.

Corporate Priorities

15. The strategy is a key document in the delivery of the corporate priority of decreasing the tonnage of biodegradable waste and recyclable products being disposed of at landfill. The document also contributes to delivering the priority of minimising the environmental impact of the Council's activities and

to encourage, empower and promote others to do the same. This will assist in the delivery of improving the appearance of the city's streets.

Implications

16. The implications of the proposals are detailed below:

- **Financial** - There is a £50k annual budgetary provision to support Waste Minimisation work until 2009/2010. To ensure continuation of work detailed in the Waste Minimisation Action and Campaign Plan 2008/2009 - 2010/2011 and beyond, and further development of new initiatives, a £50k annual base budget is needed for 2010/2011 onwards.
- **Equalities** - The Waste Strategy Campaigns and Communications (including Public Consultation) Equality Impact Assessment includes this work area.
- **Other Implications** – There are no significant HR, legal, crime and disorder, IT, property or other implications other than those set out in the body of this report.

Risk Management

17. In compliance with the Council's Risk Management Strategy, there are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

18. **That Members approve the Waste Minimisation Strategy and Action Plan 2008 – 11 and receive an annual update**

Reason: To contribute towards more sustainable waste management practice and reduce the City's reliance on landfill..

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Report Approved

Date Insert Date

Specialist Implications Officer(s) *List information for all*

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Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

- Waste Management Strategy 2007/2008 - 2013/2014 Executive Report.
- Waste Management Strategy 2008/2014 - Refresh

Annexes:

- Annex 1 - Waste Minimisation Strategy 2008/2009 - 2010/2011
- Annex 2 - Waste Minimisation Action and Campaign Plan 2008/2009 - 2010/2011