
Final Report of the Recycling and Reuse Scrutiny Sub Committee – Recycling and Reuse – Removing Bulky Items from the Waste Stream

Summary

1. The purpose of this paper is to present the final report of the Recycling and Reuse Scrutiny Sub Committee regarding the removal of bulky items from the waste stream.
2. The recommendations in the report (Annex A) take forward previous proposals arising from earlier Scrutiny work and make further proposals based on the research and findings of more recent research work.
3. The main findings arising from the work carried out by the Scrutiny Sub Committee are as follows:
 - The Government has set targets for local councils to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. In doing so the Government recommend practical application of the 'Waste Hierarchy' (Recommendation 1)
 - Over time there will be financial penalties applied to the Council if reductions are not made.
 - Kerbside recycling should be further extended to include terraced streets.(Recommendation 2)
 - Communications of changes to collection arrangements should be available for all residents of the community in a manner which enshrines equalities and inclusion (Recommendation 2)
 - There are good examples of reuse schemes in operation that take surplus material out of the waste stream by utilising, amongst other things, Re-Use Credits (Recommendation 3)
 - Community groups, social inclusion and inward investment and enterprise can be assisted through Re-Use Credits (Recommendation 4)
 - Cross directorate working can be improved to benefit from funding opportunities (Recommendation 5).

4. Members of the Executive are requested to endorse the recommendations and agree that they be used to inform the review of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

Background

5. The background to this piece of work is detailed in paragraph 2 of the review final report. In essence it has taken forward recommendations made by the former Commercial Services Scrutiny Board, and amalgamated two topics registered by Members to research and report on recycling, reuse and waste minimisation. The feasibility studies and registration forms are available as background papers.

Consultation

6. During the detailed work undertaken by the Scrutiny Sub Committee full consultation has been carried out and recognition of those consulted has been made at the end of the attached final report.

Options

7. During the course of review the Sub Committee have taken views on information provided as best practice and much of this is provided in the Annexes to the report. The recommendations reflect those considerations and alternative options are not therefore presented.

Analysis

8. All analysis is presented in the body of the final report.

Corporate Priorities

9. The wider topic of waste minimisation has been a Council Corporate Aim for many years. The recently approved Corporate Strategy includes a priority to 'Decrease the tonnage of biodegradable waste and recyclable products going to landfill'.

Implications

10. Having been consulted as part of this review, the Director of Neighbourhood Services has committed to accurately and reasonably reflecting the resource impact of Members' proposals and address any other organisational implications, at the start of his review of the service area.
11. The corporate implications arising from each of the recommendations detailed in the final report may well prove significant. They will therefore be considered in full when the recommendations are analysed by the Director of Neighbourhood Services for incorporation where practical into his planned service review over the next 2 years.

12. The Director will be submitting a report to the Executive in due course on the implementation of and implications relating to the recommendations arising from the review. He has also undertaken to keep the Scrutiny Members informed of progress relating to his service review in so far as any of their recommendations are incorporated into working arrangements and practices.

Risk Management

13. The review highlights the issues and implications for York of reducing recyclable waste going to landfill. The risks to the Council are contained in the final report; one of the major implications being financial penalties.

Way Forward

14. Since the commencement of this Scrutiny Review the Council has undergone a complete restructure and a new Directorate of Neighbourhood Services created. Recently a new Director has been appointed and he is currently engaged in undertaking a complete review of his service areas. This includes the services and topics covered by this Review.
15. As the service review is just being scoped by the Director, both the Scrutiny Sub-Committee and Scrutiny Management Committee considered it appropriate to request that the findings and recommendations arising from the review were fully incorporated in to the wider review, to influence thinking on future provision.

Recommendations

16. The Executive are asked to :
 - consider the content of the report, the work of the Sub Committee and endorse their recommendations
 - recommend that the research and findings of this review be incorporated into the Service Review being carried out by the Director of Neighbourhood Services, with a view to implementing appropriate scrutiny recommendations from the review.

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Report Approved **Date** 12.10.06

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Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Not applicable at this stage.

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

As detailed in the Report at Annex A

Annexes

Annex A: Recycling and Reuse – Removing Bulky Items from the Waste Stream

Annex Aa: Scrutiny Topic Feasibility Study and Registration Form(s)

Annex Ab: Terms of Local Authorities presently running a Re-Use Credits Scheme

Annex Ac: CRN/FRN Set Of Average Weights For Furniture Appliances And Other Items