
**Recycling and Reuse Scrutiny Sub
Committee**

18 September 2006

**Final Report – 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 into the removal of bulky items from the waste stream, based on the work of the former Commercial Services Scrutiny Board and the current Ad-hoc Sub Committee Members.
2. The recommendations in the report (Annex A) take forward previous proposals arising from earlier Scrutiny work and makes further proposals based on the research and findings of this more recent piece of 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
 - 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 1)
 - Communications of changes to collection arrangements should be available for all residents of the community(Recommendation 1)
 - 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 2)
 - Community groups/enterprise can be assisted through Re-Use Credits(Recommendation 3)
 - Cross directorate working can be improved to benefit from funding opportunities(Recommendation 4).

4. Members are requested to endorse the recommendations and agree that the report be progressed through to the Scrutiny Management.

Background

5. The background to this piece of work is detailed in paragraph 2 of the review 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 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. Relevant Council Officers are being consulted on the final draft report in terms of any implications arising from each of the recommendations detailed in it. Final officer comments will be reported to SMC at the end of September.

Risk Management

11. 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

12. 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.
13. As the service review is just being scoped by the Director it is considered appropriate to request that the findings and recommendations made by the Sub Committee are fully incorporated in to the wider review. It is therefore timely that this scrutiny topic is concluded so that this valuable piece of work can be used to influence thinking on future provision.

Recommendations

14. The Scrutiny Sub Committee are asked to :
 - Agree the content of the report and endorse it as reflecting the work of the Sub Committee
 - Approve the recommendations
 - Note the work currently being planned by the Director of Neighbourhood Services
 - Recommend that the research and findings of this review be incorporated into the Service Review being carried out by the Director of Neighbourhood Services.

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Report Approved

Date 06.09.06

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Feasibility studies and registration forms – see Annex Aa

Annexes

Annex A: Recycling and Re-use – Removing Bulky Items for the Waste Stream

Annex Aa: Scrutiny Topic Feasibility Study and Registration Forms

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