
Scrutiny Management Committee

25 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 to Scrutiny Management 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 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. 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(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/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 are requested to endorse the recommendations and agree that the report be progressed through to the Executive.

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.

Details of the final comments of the Scrutiny Sub-Committee on the report and any changes to the recommendations will be circulated to Members of Scrutiny Management Committee before the meeting.

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. The corporate implications arising from each of the recommendations are being gathered from departmental officers and will be submitted to Members before the meeting of Scrutiny Management Committee.

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 Management Committee are asked to :
 - Consider the content of the report and endorse the recommendations for submission to the Executive, including the proposal to recommend the Director of Neighbourhood Services to incorporate some of the key findings within the directorate service review.

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Report Approved **Date** 18.09.06

& David Atkinson
Chief Executive

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Various as implications sheet to be circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

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