

## **CITY COUNCIL - 7 FEBRUARY 2011**

### **REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

#### **ADOPTION OF THE MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - A "WASTE-LESS" NOTTINGHAM**

##### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to adopt the post consultation Waste Strategy – A Waste-Less Nottingham. The Waste Management Strategy establishes a framework and timetable for achieving a more sustainable waste future and services for Nottingham over the next 20 years.
- 1.2 Nottingham's draft Waste Strategy was launched in June 2010. Consultation closed on 17 September 2010. This report summarises the methods used to consult on the Waste Strategy and the key responses and feedback. The detail of the consultation exercise can be found in 'The Waste Strategy Consultation Report and Response Summary' (available online).

##### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended the Council notes the feedback from the consultation and approves the amendments to the draft Municipal Waste Strategy 2010-2030.
- 2.2 It is recommended the Council adopts the final Waste Strategy 2010-2030, A Waste-Less Nottingham as Council policy.

##### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 3.1 Adopting the Waste Strategy provides strategic direction and a framework aiming to improve and develop opportunities for increasing re-use, recycling and energy from waste over the period 2010 to 2030.
- 3.2 The responses to the consultation were generally supportive of the aims, intentions and targets of the proposed Waste Strategy. For example:

- just over three quarters (76.6%) of respondents to the Arrow consultation felt that the priorities of the draft Waste Strategy were right;
- 76% from the online survey supported the strategy's long term commitment to recycle over 50% of all household and trade rubbish.

3.3 Nevertheless, as a result of the consultation a number of key areas of feedback have resulted in amendments to the final Waste Strategy (available online). These included:

- How the city might develop opportunities to 'incentivise' waste prevention, re-use & recycling.

Officers are exploring schemes based on community based rewards for participating in waste prevention, re-use and recycling which will maximise diversion up the waste hierarchy and will present communities with the opportunity to embrace sustainable living through incentivisation.

- Information and education, facilitating more opportunities to promote and educate where and how to recycle, reduce and re-use household and trade waste.

Many of the consultation responses reinforced the developments already proposed in the draft Waste Strategy e.g. looking at how to include more materials in kerbside recycling; the promotion and provision of compost bins; increasing recycling services for schools; lobbying the producers of packaging; and proposed increases to business/commercial waste recycling.

A number of responses highlighted a desire for citywide recycling which we recognise, that in our endeavour to do so, must be affordable and where resources/collection systems allow.

#### **4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The Council could choose not to adopt a Waste Strategy. The management and delivery of municipal waste collection, treatment and disposal services without strategic direction decreases the

potential of the Council to make the appropriate long term decisions in respect of economic and financial investment, development, improvement and effectiveness. A strategy enables decisions to be made which are responsive to Nottingham's stakeholder expectations and ensure security and increased sustainability of these services.

## **5 BACKGROUND**

5.1 The Council launched the draft Waste Strategy on 11 June 2010. The draft Waste Strategy included key aims and actions:

- to produce the lowest amount of household waste per person of any core city in England;
- to increase the amount of re-use and recycling to the majority of household waste (55%+);
- to save an additional 3-6,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> through recovering resources and energy from waste;
- to become a zero land filling Council;
- to recover around 47 million kilowatt hours of energy through energy from waste and associated district heating and electricity generation;
- to investigate the business case for Anaerobic Digestion for treatment of organic waste.

### 5.2 Consultation Process

To raise awareness of the draft Waste Strategy and to consult upon its content, and to encourage citizens and stakeholders to participate in its development, the following events took place:

- Waste and Energy Strategy launch on 11 June 2010;
- a straightforward consumer edition of the Waste Strategy and questionnaire was distributed to every household in the July edition of the Arrow;
- promotion of the consultation on the Council's Internet homepage and intranet;
- all Waste Strategy documents were accessible online including a detailed questionnaire;
- Waste Strategy documents were available to view at all City libraries;
- in July, presentations to all Area Committees and the Regeneration and Sustainability Select Committee;

- offering a cross section of hard to reach groups presentations on the Waste Strategy;
- media coverage including the Evening Post and Waste Management trade press;
- a last chance reminder in September to media contacts and online, encouraging response to the Waste Strategy
- an opportunity to discuss and feedback on a Waste-Less Nottingham at Big Green Debate 3, held in September.

### 5.3 Consultation Responses

The consultation enabled citizens and stakeholders to engage in the development of Nottingham's Waste Strategy. The Council received over 500 responses. Of these, over 450 arose from the postal survey distributed in the Arrow Magazine.

Detailed analysis of the feedback, including responses from the Area Committees and the response from Regeneration and Sustainability Select Committee, is available as a background document, Waste Strategy Consultation Report and Response Summary (available online).

In summary, and based on the number of responses received, the following issues were regarded as the most important. These issues have been addressed in the final version of the Waste Strategy:

### 5.4 Waste Prevention

Explore the provision of incentives to encourage people to waste less.

Provide opportunity to recycle more items at the kerbside along with more recycling opportunity in the city centre and at flats.

Introduction of city wide recycling services.

Encourage businesses to recycle more and waste less.

### 5.5 Re-use

More information/education and ideas to be provided regarding waste re-use, resulting in more householders being encouraged to

re-use, including the use of incentives to be considered in respect of re-use.

Promotion of the Freecycle website and development of “swap shops”.

Provision of compost bins and wormeries.

## 5.6 Recycling More

Consideration of more materials on kerbside collection services. In particular the ability to recycle plastic wrapping at the kerbside was most popular, followed closely by small electrical items and aluminium foil/containers. Not so popular, but significantly mentioned, was support for collecting textiles at the kerbside.

On garden and food waste collections there was a preference for combining both garden and food waste into one container, to be collected weekly.

## 5.7 Learning in Schools

There was particular emphasis on the relationship between waste education in schools and influencing parents. Also highlighted was the potential links to other projects including food growing and reducing litter.

Responses emphasised the need for compost bins at schools, enhancing recycling services and again incentivising recycling at schools. The Council provides free composters and free recycling to schools as part of the WISE programme.

## 5.8 Reducing Landfill

There were a variety of suggestions about how the Council could landfill less. The most popular was to enforce mandatory recycling. Other popular responses included reducing packaging; businesses recycling more; more information and more Household Waste Recycling Centres

## 5.9 Online Consultation

In response to the online survey there was broad agreement to the

Waste Strategy's aims and actions including support for:

- zero waste to landfill;
- the 50%+ recycling target;
- carbon savings;
- becoming the lowest producer of household waste per person of Core Cities;
- producing more energy from waste;
- reducing and reusing more household and trade rubbish and encourage households and businesses to recycle more.

The online survey showed that over 55% of respondents disagreed that the Council should change its method of kerbside collection to kerbside sort. A further 18% neither supported nor disagreed with a change to collection methodology.

There was both recognition and objection to incineration as the preferred residual waste treatment approach.

There was some support for the development of a re-use facility/scrap store including feedback received at the Big Green Debate 3.

There was some support for an area specific community composting scheme.

There were also calls for kerbside recycling in areas currently not provided for.

There was support for Anaerobic Digestion and another Household Waste and Recycling Centre in the north of the city.

## **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)**

6.1 The Waste Strategy contains a number of aspirations for Nottingham with regard to Waste and Energy which have financial impacts. Some, such as reduction of waste produced and zero landfilling, will result in savings to the Authority whilst others such as investment in additional recycling and anaerobic digestion facilities will incur additional expenditure.

6.2 The financial implications of the individual elements will need to be

considered and evaluated as implementation proposals are produced and incorporated into the budget process. For those areas that require investment, robust business cases will be required to determine the value for money and payback of the proposals. These will need to be presented to Executive Board at appropriate times to ensure that they can be considered in the light of the Council's overall financial position.

## **7 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)**

7.1 The risks to non-adoption include:

- (a) potential non-compliance with the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003;
- (b) reduced ability to realise long term strategies and benefits implicit in the Strategy;
- (c) delay in implementing key actions and infrastructure enabling the Council to maximise its landfill diversion aspirations;
- (d) failure to maximise EU Landfill Directive targets and consequent failure to maximise the potential benefits to the Council through the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme;
- (e) failure or delay in meeting or maximising the Council's position regarding recycling targets whether local, regional or national; and
- (f) reputational damage, performance against applicable indicators and CPA assessments.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2005 provides that strategies such as this one undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The purpose of the SEA Directive is "to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development." Non-adoption is therefore a risk in terms of SEA also.

Legal Services will provide required legal input in respect of all agreements put in place to deliver the Strategy.

Crime and Disorder Act implications are considered limited but positive in terms of providing more sustainable neighbourhoods.

## **8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

- 8.1 Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken at appropriate stages of policy or service change implementation. It is expected that there will not be any equalities implications for staff or in respect of service provision. Any development or improvement of Household Waste Recycling Centres will result in better access for all members of the public, including disabled citizens.

## **9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

- 9.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment  
Options Appraisal  
Nottingham Plan  
Energy Strategy for Nottingham  
Nottingham's draft Waste Strategy – A Waste-Less Nottingham  
Nottingham's Waste Strategy – A Waste-Less Nottingham – Final Version  
DEFRA Guidance on Municipal Waste Management Strategies 2005  
Waste Strategy Consultation Report and Response Summary

## **10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

- 10.1 National Waste Strategy for England 2007

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