

**REPORT OF THE
IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
INTO
RECYCLING OF WASTE**

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Scope of the review

The review has concentrated upon how household waste can be recycled thereby reducing the amount of waste entering landfill sites.

Recycling within Derbyshire must be examined as part of the wider context of environmental policy. The County Council has publicly set out its commitment to environmental improvement by its contribution to Local Agenda 21, of which, one of the aims is to: -

‘minimise the generation of wastes by reducing, reusing, recovering and recycling resources and disposing of wastes safely, responsibly and by the best environmental option’

1.2 Review process

The review was undertaken by a politically balanced review panel of County Councillors, supplemented by elected Members from Derby City Council and High Peak Borough Council.

Meetings were held on 21st February, 6th, 7th, 24th, 27th March, 3rd, 4th April and 8th May 2000. The review panel heard evidence from a number of organisations including: -

- officers from the Environmental Services Department
- officers from other County Council Departments
- all District Councils and Derby City Council
- Lancashire Waste Services
- local environmental groups
- Groundwork – Cresswell
- Waste Recycling Group plc (the County’s external contractor for waste disposal)

Members attended a number of site visits and conferences including the Beacon Council Roadshow – Dealing with waste.

An advert was placed in various newspapers across the county to gauge public perception about the County’s recycling policies. Responses were received via email, telephone, letter and questionnaire.

1.3 Recommendations

1.3.1 Overall conclusion

The review panel endorses the County Council's policies for recycling set out in the Environmental Policy document. However, significant progress is needed in order to achieve effective implementation of these policies.

The review panel welcomes the development of the Derbyshire Waste Management Strategy and Sub-Area drafts as a mechanism in which to improve joint working between the County and District Councils and thereby lead to better implementation of recycling policies.

However, taking into consideration all of the evidence discussed, the review panel feel that there is a lack of impetus towards recycling initiatives and a corresponding lack of co-ordination towards policy implementation for waste minimisation and recycling.

This can be reflected in the poor performance by the County Council in the 1998/99 Audit Commission performance indicators which are discussed later in this report. However, the combined performance of the District and County Councils recycling is around eight to nine percent, which is more inline with the national average.

Furthermore evidence from the public consultation exercise points to dissatisfaction by the public with our recycling policies, which is further reinforced by comments from the District Councils.

The recent publication of the Waste Strategy 2000, provides an opportunity for both the County and District Councils to work together to improve recycling performance within Derbyshire.

The Government has set challenging targets for both the County and District Councils to achieve.

The Improvement and Scrutiny Committee hope that the recommendations set out in this report will be fully considered, so that by joint working with all partners involved in the recycling of waste, Derbyshire can reach and surpass the Government's targets set out in this report.

1.3.2 Overall recommendation

Members believe that resources need to be re-directed towards funding recycling initiatives. These initiatives should be undertaken jointly]by the County and District Councils. Presently, the County and District Councils in Derbyshire spend approximately £18.5m on the collection and disposal of waste, of which only £0.713m is spent on recycling credits.

In addition, improvements in the co-ordination of recycling initiatives by the County Council are required.

Recommendations:

To consider diverting resources away from meeting the costs associated with landfill to funding recycling initiatives which would be implemented in conjunction with the District Councils.

To improve co-ordination of recycling initiatives across the County Council, perhaps by nominating an officer from the County Council to take specific responsibility for the implementation of all recycling initiatives.

1.3.3 Recycling initiatives at the County Council's establishments

The County Council operates a recycling scheme at both the County and Chatsworth Halls, whereby waste office paper is collected in a separate bin and sent for recycling. The system is fragmented, working effectively in some sections and not in others.

Recycling facilities at other establishments is also fragmented, being the responsibility of each Chief Officer. Generally, there seems to be a lack of recycling facilities across the County Council's establishments.

There is also a lack of detailed information about the waste generated by County Council establishments. This information is needed in order to monitor how effective any new systems are at reducing waste.

Recommendations:

Consideration be given:

To reviewing the recycling facilities available across the County Council establishments to ascertain if additional recycling facilities are required.

To investigating the requirement to undertake a staff awareness scheme to inform employees about the merits of recycling.

To undertaking a waste audit to ascertain how much waste the County Council creates and look to mechanisms by which this can be reduced.

1.3.4 A new County Council contract for a waste management collection service from County Council establishments

The County Council is investigating the development of a unified contract for County Council establishments for waste management collection service.

The review panel welcome the development and implementation of a unified contract which can be used as a vehicle to move forward the County Council's policies and thereby bring benefits and potential cost savings in the development of the waste minimisation and recycling initiatives.

Recommendation:

To consider implementing a county wide waste management collection service from County Council establishments. This will facilitate a more corporate approach to the waste management collection service.

(The waste management collection service must support the County Council's environmental policies by the setting of waste minimisation/recycling targets.)

1.3.5. Use of landfill tax credit scheme to fund waste minimisation projects

The review panel welcomes the use of the landfill tax credit scheme to fund waste minimisation projects. The publication of the Waste Strategy 2000, is an opportunity to build upon the valuable uses of this funding. The Government has announced that it is exploring other options in which to use the landfill tax

credit scheme. This includes exploring the potential for using the scheme to help local authorities to raise recycling levels.

Recommendation:

To investigate the use of landfill tax credit scheme to fund recycling initiatives, including assisting in the creation of recycling centres.

1.3.6. Involving the voluntary sector in recycling initiatives

The County Council tries to involve the voluntary sector in recycling initiatives. However, during 1999/2000 only £12,000 was paid to the voluntary sector in recycling credits.

Recommendations:

To look to increasing the number of voluntary groups applying for recycling credits.

To investigate the need for an advertising campaign to inform the public about the availability and financial benefits of recycling credits.

1.3.7. Issues raised by the Districts

All District Councils attended a meeting held at County Hall to discuss recycling within Derbyshire. From this meeting, a number of issues were identified by the District Councils which they would like the County Council to address. These are: -

- working relationship between the District Councils and the County Council
- recycling targets
- numbers/location and quality of civic amenity sites
- dealing with green waste

Recommendation:

To consider additional ways in which to improve joint working and co-ordination between the County Council and District Councils and to examine new initiatives to improve recycling targets for both the County and District.

(Joint working may improve as a result of the overall recommendation of diverting resources away from landfill to recycling initiatives in conjunction with District Councils.)

1.3.8 Issues raised via the consultation exercise

A consultation exercise was undertaken with the public. Responses were received from across the county. Once analysed, these findings formed a key component of the recommendations of the review. An analysis of issues raised is at Appendix 1. The most common responses are listed below: -

- provide more local and convenient recycling centres for all waste
- provide each householder with a kerbside collection
- provide clean recycling sites which are emptied frequently

1.4 Interim report

An interim report was approved by the Improvement and Scrutiny Delegation Sub Committee on 3 April 2000. This was then referred to Policy and Resources Delegation Sub Committee. A copy of the report is attached at Appendix 2

The report put forward three recommendations which are: -

1.4.1 Improving separation of waste via home composting

Both the County and the District Councils will benefit from householders who use a home composting bin for green and kitchen waste. This will reduce both waste disposal and collection costs. The promotion of home composting schemes to date has been by District Councils.

Recommendation:

In conjunction with the District Councils, the County Council investigates the potential to extend and increase the use of home composting.

1.4.2 An appropriate PR strategy

Findings from the consultation exercise and evidence given by various witnesses point to a lack of awareness by householders about recycling and recycling initiatives.

Recommendation:

To consider developing a county wide general recycling awareness campaign, linking into the national awareness scheme and any District based initiatives.

The campaign should consider targeting home composting and informing the public of the recycling facilities available in their area as the first areas of the campaign.

1.4.3 The development of the Eco Schools Award Scheme

The Eco Schools Award Scheme is a Europe wide project that aims to raise young people's awareness of environmental issues through the curriculum. The adoption of the Eco School Awards Scheme will educate children in recycling practices which will improve general recycling awareness across the county.

Recommendation:

That consideration be given:

To using waste disposal savings for year 1 and 2 to aid schools in attaining Eco School status.

That the Education Service initially inform secondary schools of the potential financial and curriculum benefits of being an Eco School.

To investigate the feasibility of primary schools within the normal catchment area of secondary schools becoming Eco Schools.

To investigate primary schools providing secondary schools with their green waste for composting.

that further investigation of catering waste within this programme be examined

1.5 Committee process

This report will be referred firstly to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and then referred on to Environmental Services Committee.

It is recommended that:

The Chair of Improvement and Scrutiny Committee presents this report to both the Policy and Resources Committee and the Environmental Committee.

During the review process, a commitment was given to District Councils to allow them to comment on the findings of this review.

It is recommended that:

Following consideration of this report, it is suggested that the Environmental Services Committee implement the recommendations in this report, liaising with all appropriate partners and report back, (by completing the Action Plan) to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee, in 6 months time to explain progress made.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

At its meeting on 6th December 1999, the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee recommended to undertake a review of recycling of waste in Derbyshire. This report summarises the work carried out and puts forward a set of recommendations that will be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee.

A cross party review panel was created to investigate recycling of waste across Derbyshire. The review panel set itself an ambitious brief considering management arrangements, roles, best practice, closer working arrangements and recycling awareness, as well as developing specific issues that were identified during the course of review.

The Terms of Reference for the review are at Appendix 3

Because of the breadth of the review it was thought appropriate to provide an interim report, which addressed three specific issues of: -

- improving separation of waste via home composting
- an appropriate PR strategy
- the development of the Eco Schools Award Scheme

These issues are discussed in detail in Section 6 of the report.

Recommendations made by the review panel are discussed in Section 5 of the report. These cover the issues of: -

- overall conclusion
- overall recommendation
- recycling initiatives at the County Council's establishments
- a new County Council contract for a waste management collection service from County Council establishments
- use of landfill tax credit scheme to fund waste minimisation/recycling projects
- involving the voluntary sector in recycling initiatives
- issues raised by District Councils
- issues raised via the consultation exercise

2.2 Monitoring of recommendations

The Improvement and Scrutiny Committee will monitor the implementation of the recommendations made in this report by the use of the Action Plan at Section 8.

2.3 Acknowledgements

The Improvement and Scrutiny Committee would like to thank all officers, members of public and members of organisations for their time and support during this investigation.

The Improvement and Scrutiny Committee would like to pay a particular thank you to Cllr John Ahern from Derby City Council for his contribution during the investigation.

3 REVIEW PROCESS

3.1 Review Panel

The review was undertaken by County Councillors, who formed a politically balanced review panel. Recommendations from the review panel are referred to the full Improvement and Scrutiny Committee. The review panel consisted of: -

6 Labour Members

2 Conservative Members

1 Liberal Democrat Member

It was suggested that the review panel invite District/City Council Members to take part in the review process. Derby City Council and High Peak Borough Council were approached. Both councils accepted and nominated Cllr John Ahern and County Cllr Jane McGrother respectively.

3.2 Review Panel Meetings

Meetings were held on 21st February, 6th, 7th, 24th, 27th March, 3rd, 4th April and 8th May 2000. The review panel heard and received evidence from a wide variety of people/ organisations including: -

- officers from Environmental Services Department
- officers from other County Council Departments
- all District Councils and Derby City Council
- Lancashire Waste Services
- local environmental groups
- Groundwork – Cresswell
- Waste Recycling Group plc (the County's external contractor for waste disposal)

3.3 Site visits/conferences attended by Members

A number of site visits/ conferences were identified as of interest to the review panel. Members attended the following: -

- Beacon Council Roadshow – Dealing with waste
- Capita conference – Waste Management 2000
- Stockport Adswood Eco-Centre
- Glossop Civic Amenity Site
- Blue Circle Cement Work – Hope Valley

3.4 Gathering the views of the public

An important component of the proposed scrutiny process is to consult as widely as possible. With this in mind, the review panel issued a press release outlining the recycling of waste review.

This was followed by an advert placed in a number of newspapers across the county asking for people's views on recycling. Respondents could reply in writing, by email, by telephone or could request a questionnaire to complete. The closing date for responses was 10 March 2000.

Responses to the advert have now been analysed. This is attached at Appendix 1

3.5 Parameters of Review

The Environmental Services Department undertook a presentation on recycling of waste in the Council Chamber on 14 February 2000. Following this presentation, the review panel met on 21st February 2000 to decide the parameters of the review. It was decided that the review would: -

- 1) Examine recycling of household waste only. (Members agreed to defer examining commercial waste to a further improvement and scrutiny review)
- 2) Concentrated upon how household waste can be recycled thereby reducing the amount of waste entering landfill sites.

Attached at Appendix 4 are notes from the Member discussion.

3.6 Timescale

Initially, it was proposed that this review would be completed by the 4th April 2000. However, because of the complexity of the review it was agreed by the review panel to prepare a interim report by the 4th April 2000, and to conclude the review by the middle of June, whereby a draft final report would be ready.

4 CURRENT SITUATION

4.1 Roles and responsibilities of the various parties involved in recycling of waste

4.1.1 County Council

The County Council is a Waste Disposal Authority and as such has a statutory duty to arrange for disposal of municipal waste.

Municipal waste is mainly waste generated by the regular weekly collection from domestic properties including a separate bulky items collection service (furniture, 'white' goods, garden waste etc). However, municipal waste also includes small quantities of specific types of clinical waste which is collected separately from households. The definition also includes street litter, street sweeping, gully waste, waste from municipal parks and fly tipping waste.

The main duties of a Waste Disposal Authority are: -

- to arrange for the disposal of municipal waste collected by the waste collection authorities (WCA) via contractors. Recovering the cost of disposing from the WCA for any waste collected from commercial and individual premises.
- to provide civic amenity sites for the use of residents with its area.

and it has the power

- to make arrangements with waste disposal contractors for them to recycle or produce heat or electricity from waste delivered to the authority for disposal.

4.1.2 District Councils

District Councils are referred to as the Waste Collection Authority, in that they are charged with the responsibility for collecting waste from each household in its area on a regular basis.

The main functions of the Waste Collection Authorities are: -

- to arrange for the collection of municipal waste and deliver it for disposal to sites at the discretion of the waste disposal authority.
- to prepare recycling plans.

- to retain waste collected for recycling for which the waste disposal authority pays recycling credits at a rate which reflects the most expensive disposal cost in that particular collection district.

4.1.3 Waste Operators

Since February 1995, the County Council has entered into 12 contracts with Derbyshire Waste Limited (DWL). Seven of these contracts were for waste disposal contracts and the remaining five were for the management of the County Council's civic amenity sites.

The waste disposal contracts are up for renewal in 2005. Whilst management of the civic amenity sites has recently been re awarded to DWL for a further five years, again these contracts will be up for renewed in 2005.

Derbyshire County Council owns just less than 20% of the shares in DWL with the remaining shares owned by the Waste Recycling Group.

4.2 Current legislation/European Directives

4.2.1 Waste Strategy 2000

The Government published their Waste Strategy 2000 on 25 May 2000. The Environment Minister announced that *'The Waste Strategy shows how we can achieve our prime objectives of cutting waste and making the most of waste we do create'*.¹

The key measures within the strategy are: -

- new plans to require Government departments to buy recycled products, starting with paper
- statutory local authority recycling targets and action plans
- more use of landfill tax credit scheme to deliver an increase in recycling, particularly of household waste
- the new Waste and Resources Action Plan dedicated to developing new markets for recycled waste
- tradable permits limiting the amount of waste local authorities can send to landfill sites
- extending producers' responsibility to recover their product, for example newspapers and junk mail
- continuing to raise public awareness, working with the National Awareness Initiative.

The Government and the National Assembly have set challenging targets to increase the recycling of municipal waste being: -

- to recycle or compost at least 25% of household waste by 2005
- to recycle or compost at least 30% of household waste by 2010
- to recycle or compost at least 33% of household waste by 2015

¹ Waste Management Strategy 2000

In addition, the Government has set targets for Waste Disposal Authorities. By 2003, Waste Disposal Authority areas with 1998/99 recycling and composting rates of under 5%, (which applies to the County Council who have a published rate of 1.6%) have to achieve at least 10%.

4.2.2. Landfill Directive

There is also a recent European Directive on the Landfill of Waste which sets stringent targets for diverting waste away from landfill to more sustainable recovery options such as recycling, composting and energy recovery. As well as banning certain wastes from landfill, such as liquid waste, infectious clinical waste from medical and veterinary establishments and tyres.

Furthermore, in the 1999 Budget Statement, the Chancellor announced that the standard rate of landfill would increase from the current rate of £10 per tonne by £1 per tonne each year until 2004. This was seen to provide waste producers and local authorities with a strong incentive to send less waste to landfill as well as providing a clear basis for planning future waste management.

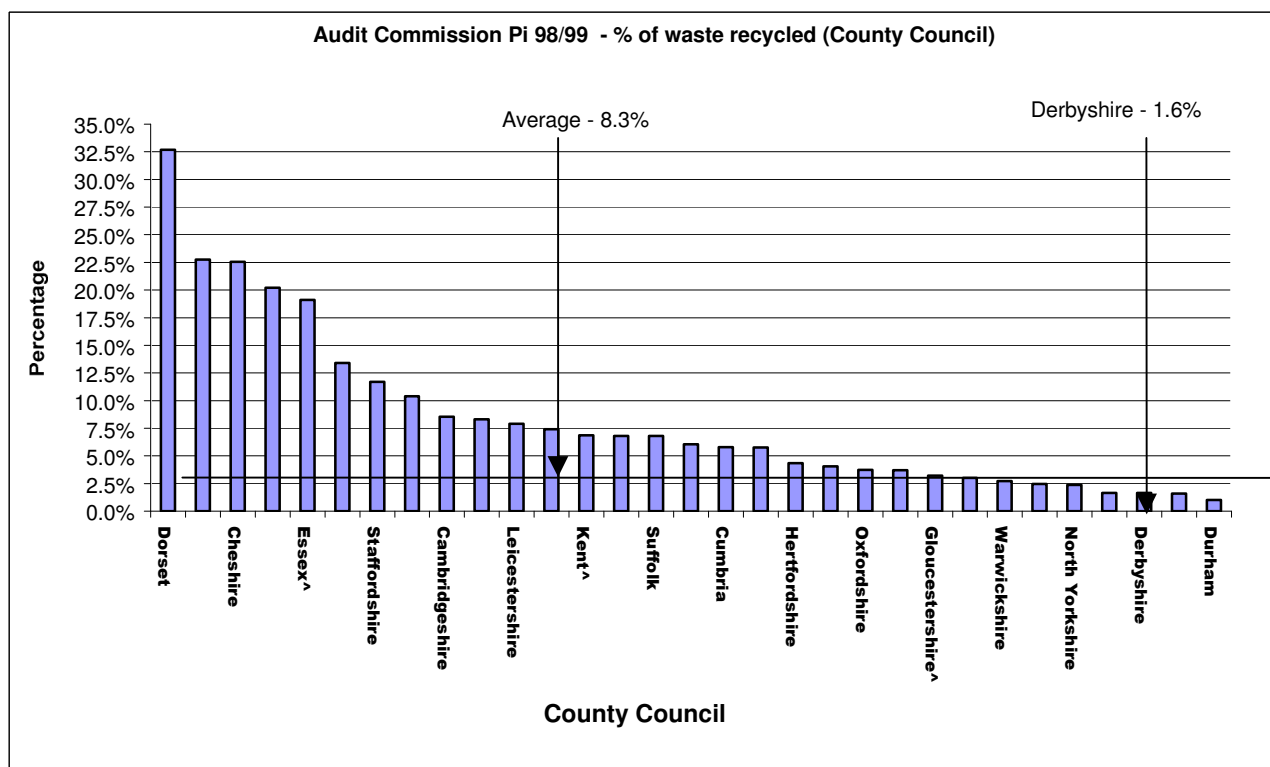
4.3 Achieving the County Council's policy for recycling

The County Council has publicly set out its commitment to environmental improvement by its contribution to Local Agenda 21, of which, one of the aims is to: -

*'minimise the generation of wastes by reducing, reusing, recovering and recycling resources and disposing of wastes safely, responsibly and by the best environmental option.'*²

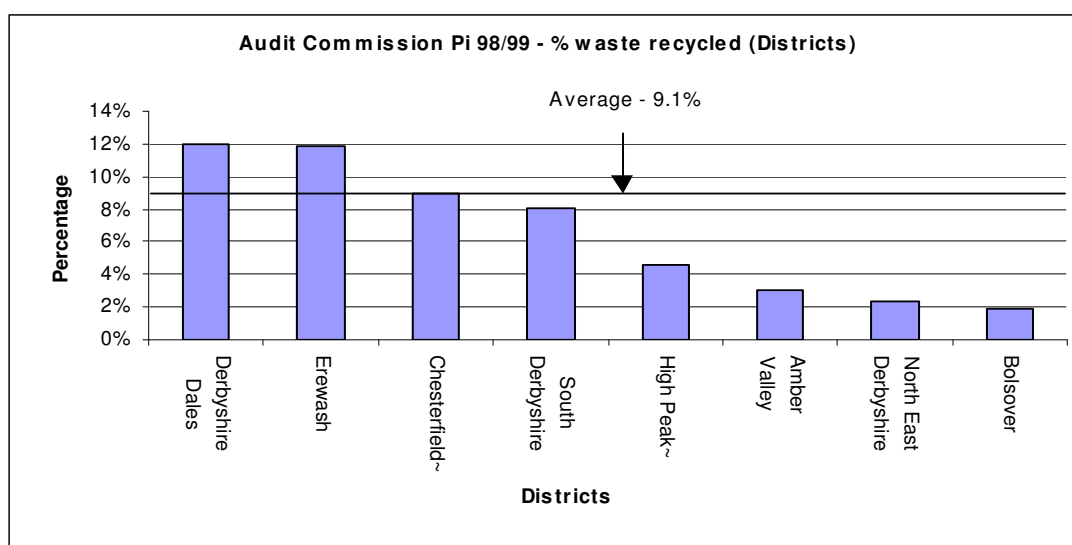
However, the County Council has performed poorly in relation to Audit Commission performance targets. In 1998/99, the County Council's percentage of household waste that was recycled was 1.6%; this was third from bottom. Whereas the Audit Commission has calculated the average recycling percentage for County Councils as 8.3%. Furthermore, the County Council has one of the highest net cost per tonne of household waste at £31.92 yet the average net cost for county councils is £26.65.

² Derbyshire County Council's Environmental Policy



Ref: Audit Commission performance indicators 1998/99

The County Council's recycling performance must, however be examined in conjunction with the performance of the District Councils, who as Waste Collection Authorities have had a statutory duty to prepare a Recycling Plan. Indeed their individual performance for percentage of household waste recycled in 1998/99 varies from 1.9% to 12%, whilst the Audit Commission average for District Councils is 9.1%.



Ref: Audit Commission indicators 1998/99

However, it is unfair to compare District Council's recycling performance with the County Council's performance who have different waste management responsibilities. Generally, the recycling figure for the combined Districts and County Council is around eight to nine percent.

Waste minimisation and recycling initiatives can bring substantial benefits other than environmental benefits to the County Council. Indeed a 1% reduction in waste going to landfill saves the County Council approximately £110,000. However, the County Council would instead be funding recycling initiatives to a corresponding amount.

Other benefits could include job creation.

Using American research, a report into London's waste suggested that: -

‘ for every 10,000 tonnes of materials diverted from disposal, we see a net job gain of 21-39 jobs (even assuming a 100% loss of collection and disposal for this tonnage, which is an unlikely prospect)’³

4.4 Recycling credits

District Councils and third parties can submit claims to the County Council for each tonne waste that is recycled. This is paid at a level that reflects the full disposal cost (ie the highest disposal contract sum in each authority area).

4.5 Landfill tax credit scheme

4.5.1.Current situation regarding landfill tax credit scheme

The landfill tax credit scheme was launched in 1996, and allows registered Landfill Operators to contribute up to 20% of their annual landfill tax liability to an approved Environmental Body.

These Environmental Bodies use the landfill tax liability to fund projects, some of which encourage the use of sustainable waste management practices by recycling, developing products from waste or developing markets for recycled waste. Other kinds of projects eligible for funding under must comply with one of the following activities: -

- reclamation of land
- provision of public parks and amenities
- restoration of historic building

³ Re-Inventing Waste Towards a London Waste Strategy August 1998

Nationally, funding for sustainable waste management projects accounts for 36% of all applications to Environmental Bodies.

The County Council is a member of an Environmental Body called the Derbyshire Environmental Trust Limited (DET). DET places possible projects with WREN, (Waste Recycling Environmental Northern). WREN is also an Environmental Body that receives contributions from landfill operators within the Waste Recycling Group.

It is understood that during 1999/2000, WREN supported projects in Derbyshire and Derby City to a total of about £1m and will probably be setting a target of 23% of its total funding for sustainable waste management activities.

4.5.2 Implications of the Waste Strategy 2000

The Government is very keen to encourage even greater support for sustainable waste management activities, particularly re-use and recycling, through the landfill tax credit scheme.

The Government, therefore intends to extend the range of activities which will attract funding via this scheme. Options under consideration include: -

- reviewing the types of approved projects to see if they can better reflect the Government's priority to deliver more sustainable waste management
- increasing the proportion of contribution going to sustainable waste management activities
- using the scheme to help local authorities raise recycling levels

4.6 Derbyshire Waste Management Strategy February 1999

The County Council, District Councils and Derby City have produced a strategy which it is hoped will provide a framework to enable strategic decisions on the management of waste in Derbyshire up to 2011. The strategy sets out three policies which commit the partner authorities to: -

- adopt the principles of sustainable and integrated waste management
- put strategic principles into practice through more detailed local strategies for the three sub areas of Derbyshire
- periodic monitoring and review arrangements for the strategy

Following the development of this strategy, the County and Districts Councils and Derby City produced three sub area consultation drafts in July 1999.

These are: -

- West Derbyshire Sub-Area (High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire Dales District)
- North Eastern Sub-Area (Bolsover District, Chesterfield Borough and North East Derbyshire District)
- South Eastern Sub-Area (Amber Valley Borough, Derby City, Erewash Borough and South Derbyshire District)

The sub area documents will

- put into practice the principles established in the Derbyshire Strategy in a way which reflects local circumstances
- make an early impact on targets, while seeking the best combination of measures to achieve a fully integrated approach in the longer term
- establish the priorities for all waste management contracts

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The review panel endorses the County Council's policies for recycling set out in the Environmental Policy document. However, significant progress is needed in order to achieve effective implementation of these policies.

The review panel welcome the preparation and development of the Derbyshire Waste Management Strategy and Sub-Area Consultation drafts. It is hoped that the strategy and drafts will help to improve both joint working by the County Council with its partners, as well as improve waste minimisation and recycling initiatives across the county.

However, the Strategy and Sub- Area Consultation drafts are yet to be implemented. Finalisation of the strategy is anticipated by August 2000.

Overall conclusion

Taking into consideration all of the evidence discussed, the review panel, feel that there is a lack of impetus towards recycling initiatives and a corresponding lack of co-ordination towards policy implementation for waste minimisation and recycling.

This can be reflected in the poor performance by the County Council in the 1998/99 Audit Commission performance indicators which are discussed in this report. However, the combined performance of the District and County Councils recycling is around eight to nine percent, which is more inline with the national average.

Furthermore evidence from the public consultation exercise points to dissatisfaction by the public with our recycling policies, which is further reinforced by comments from the District Council.

The recent publication of the Waste Strategy 2000, provides an opportunity for both the County and District Councils to work together to improve recycling performance within Derbyshire.

Overall recommendation

Members believe that resources need to be re-directed towards funding recycling initiatives. These initiatives should be undertaken jointly by the County and District Councils. Presently, the County and District Councils in Derbyshire spend approximately £18.5m on the collection and disposal of waste, of which only £0.713m is spent on recycling credits.

In addition, improvements in the co-ordination of recycling initiatives by the County is required.

Recommendation:

To consider diverting resources away from meeting the costs associated with landfill to funding recycling initiatives which would be implemented in conjunction with the District Councils.

To improve co-ordination of recycling initiatives across the County Council, perhaps by nominating an officer from the Council to take specific responsibility for the implementation of all recycling initiatives.

The review panel has also addressed a number of specific issues which are listed below.

5.2 Recycling initiatives at the County Council's establishments

The County Council approved its Environmental Policy in July 1997. It was published in early 1998 and a copy was sent to every office in all departments of the County Council as well as to other Derbyshire bodies.

The policy states that the County Council will seek to minimise any adverse environmental impact which it produces, whilst improving the quality of life for Derbyshire people. The policy is essentially a document setting out the County Council's commitment to environmental improvement through a number of activities.

Some of these stated activities have a direct link with recycling. They are: -

- promote the conservation and more sustainable use of both renewable and non-renewable resources

- minimise the generation of waste by reducing, reusing, recovering and recycling resources and disposing of waste safely, responsibly, and by the best environmental option.
- raise awareness, educate and train employees and provide information to the public on environmental policies, practices and issues.

At an employee level, the County Council currently operates a recycling scheme at both County and Chatsworth Halls, whereby waste office paper is collected in a separate bin and sent for recycling. The system is fragmented with some sections of the building separating their waste while other sections do not.

Recycling facilities at other establishments is also fragmented, being the responsibility of each Chief Officer. Generally, there seems to be a lack of recycling facilities across the County Council's establishments.

There is also a lack of detailed information about the waste generated within County Council establishments. This information is needed in order to monitor how effective any new system would be at reducing waste.

Recommendations:

Consideration should be given:

To reviewing the recycling facilities available across the County Council establishments to ascertain if additional recycling facilities are required.

To investigating the requirement to undertake a staff awareness scheme to inform employees about the merits of recycling.

To undertaking a waste audit to ascertain how much waste the County Council creates and look to mechanisms by which this can be reduced.

5.3 A new County Council contract for a waste management collection service from County Council establishments

Currently, over 90% of waste collections from County establishments are made by District Councils. Isolated work done shows that when subjected to competition, savings can be achieved.

The County Council is therefore investigating the development of a unified contract for County Council establishments for waste management. This

would include County establishments such as County Hall, education sites and homes for older people.

A unified contract can be used as a vehicle to move forward the County Council's policies and thereby bring benefits in the development of waste minimisation and recycling initiatives.

It is proposed that the contract be issued in up to 9 parts, with contracts covering each of the 8 present district boundaries, and 1 county wide contract. This will allow District Councils (or other organisations) to bid for their own area, or for several areas, or a countywide contract.

It is proposed that the contract be issued in 9 parts allowing bidders to quote for 1 or more sites. The contract will cover

a) the basic service of:-

- supply of containers
- collection
- disposal (excluded from education and homes for older people)

b) and support for the County Council in meeting its environmental policies: -

- recycling (paper, metal etc)
- environmental campaigns (waste minimisation etc)
- innovation (review of collection, imaginative segregation schemes etc)
- general added value (tapping into the skills and experience of the provider)

Currently, within the County Council, a corporate approach to recycling initiatives is lacking. Departments tend to be responsible for their own initiatives which can lead to a fragmented approach to recycling.

Recommendation:

To consider implementing a county wide waste management collection service from County Council establishments. This will facilitate a more corporate approach to the waste management collection service.

(The waste management collection service must support the County Council's environmental policies by the setting of waste minimisation/recycling targets.)

5.4 Use of landfill tax credit scheme to fund waste minimisation/recycling projects

The review panel welcomes the use of landfill tax credit scheme to fund waste minimisation projects. The publication of the Waste Strategy 2000, is an opportunity to build upon the valuable uses of this funding. The Government has announced that it is exploring other options in which to use the landfill tax credit scheme. This includes exploring the potential for using the scheme to help local authorities to raise recycling levels.

Recommendation:

To investigate the use of landfill tax credit scheme to fund recycling initiatives including assisting in the creation of recycling centres.

5.5 Involving the voluntary sector in recycling initiatives

The County Council tries to involve the voluntary sector in recycling initiatives. Currently there are only 20 voluntary groups who are registered for recycling credits. Predominately, these are schools within the county.

During 1999/2000 approximately, £12,000 was paid to the voluntary sector as recycling credits, compared to £713,000 paid to District Councils.

Organisations which receive recycling credits have to provide evidence to the County Council to prove that their waste has indeed been recycled. Providing evidence may at times be a barrier for the voluntary sector in attaining recycling credits.

The County Council does not advertise that the voluntary sector can receive recycling credits. There may, however be voluntary groups in Derbyshire, who may benefit from receiving recycling credits. Clearly involving the voluntary sector in recycling initiatives will bring benefits in raising public awareness

Recommendations:

To look to increasing the number of voluntary groups applying for recycling credits.

To investigate the need for an advertising campaign to inform the public about the availability and financial benefits of recycling credits.

5.6 Issues raised by the Districts Councils

All District Councils attended a meeting held at County Hall on 24th March 2000. District Councils put forward constructively their thoughts and views about the performance of the County Council with regard to recycling.

There were a number of issues that the District Councils would like the County Council to address. A complete list is attached at Appendix 5. A summary is listed below

1) Working relationship between the District Councils and the County Council

District Councils believe that joint working and co-ordination between all councils needs to improve. (This may to some extent be resolved by the implementation of the Derbyshire Waste Management Strategy.)

2) Recycling

District Councils are concerned at the apparent failure by the County Council to address recycling targets. Again they believe that there should be a joint approach towards recycling between the County and District Councils.

3) Civic amenity sites

District Councils are concerned about the civic amenity sites across the county. Specifically, their concerns are centred around the number, location and quality of the sites. (The consultation exercise also highlighted the same concerns by the public.)

In addition, the District Councils would like the County Council to examine different approaches to operating civic amenity sites.

However, the County Council has recently invested £230,000 extending the Chesterfield's civic amenity site. The size of the site was increased and a split-level operation introduced which will help to reduce queues and make it easier for people to get rid of their rubbish.

4) Green waste

District Councils believe that there is a need to increase the use of community and central composting. Furthermore, District Councils tend to initiate home composting programmes, which they believe benefit the County Council because household waste is removed from the waste stream.

Recommendation:

To consider additional ways in which to improve joint working and co-ordination between the County Council and District Councils, and to examine new initiatives to improve recycling targets for both the County and District.

(Joint working may improve as a result of the overall recommendation of diverting resources from landfill to recycling initiatives in conjunction with District Councils.)

5.7 Issues raised via the consultation exercise

As referred to earlier in this report, the review panel carried out a consultation exercise as part of this review. Responses were received from across the county. Once analysed, these findings formed a key component of the recommendations of the review. An analysis of issues raised is at Appendix 1. The most common responses are listed below: -

- provide more local and convenient recycling centres for all waste
- provide each householder with a kerbside collection
- provide clean recycling sites which are emptied frequently

All respondents to the consultation exercise will be notified of the recommendations from this report prior to the report being published.

6 INTERIM REPORT - RECOMMENDATIONS

6.6.1 Improving separation of waste via home composting

The Audit Commission in its recent publication 'Waste Matters' (1997) suggested that home composting was a low cost initiative, yet had a high sustainability impact.

Home composting initiatives involve householders purchasing a (possibly subsidised) home composting kit. Kitchen and garden waste is then separated out of the household waste stream and put into the home composting kit. After the natural breakdown of the organic waste it is used as a material to improve soil structure and enrich soil.

The Government have set national targets via the 'Making Waste Work' (1995) of: -

40% of domestic properties with a garden to carry out home composting by the year 2000.

To date, most District Councils have implemented some form of home composting initiatives. The exception being the Bolsover District Council who have not undertaken any home composting initiatives.

However, the County Council has a financial incentive to develop home composting initiatives. This is because using a home composting bin reduces the amount of waste entering the waste stream. Therefore the County Council gains because it does not have to pay waste disposal costs. District Councils also gain because they do not have to pay waste collection costs. Indeed, for every 1% reduction in waste going to landfill saves the County Council £110,000.

<p>Recommendation:</p>

<p>In conjunction with the District Councils, the County Council investigates the potential to extend and increase the use of home composting.</p>
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6.6.2 An appropriate PR strategy

Findings from the consultation exercise and evidence given by various witnesses point to a lack of awareness by householders about recycling and recycling initiatives.

Indeed the Derbyshire Waste Management Strategy acknowledges that public awareness is an essential component in recycling schemes if they are to maximise their success.

Furthermore, as referred to in the previous recommendation there is concern that home composting bins are used ineffectively, due to lack of knowledge about how to use them.

Recommendation:

To consider developing a county wide general recycling awareness campaign, linking into the national awareness scheme and any District based initiatives.

The campaign should consider targeting home composting and informing the public of the recycling facilities available in their area as the first areas of the campaign.

6.6.3 The development of the Eco Schools Award Scheme

A new national curriculum is to be introduced from September 2000 onwards and the County Council is developing appropriate training modules for schools. There are several elements of the new national curriculum that require schools to examine environmental issues.

Involving children in recycling initiatives will bring benefits in terms of complying with the national curriculum, as well as raising recycling awareness across the county.

One secondary school in the county, Long Eaton Community Upper School has already instigated an environmental initiative by being awarded the Eco school award scheme. This scheme is a Europe wide project which aims to raise young people's awareness of environmental issues through the curriculum.

Furthermore the Eco school award scheme will educate children in recycling practices which will improve general recycling awareness across the county. It may also enable schools to develop initiatives in which to use their kitchen and green waste for composting.

The Director of Environmental Services, in conjunction with the County Treasurer has calculated the potential financial savings from secondary schools adopting the Eco schools award. It is estimated that the County Council would reduce their waste disposal costs from each secondary school by £800. Using this as an example the total saving from all Derbyshire secondary schools would be £38,000. The estimated tonnage of waste saved would be 1250 tonnes per annum representing savings in landfill costs of £25,000 and landfill tax of £13,000.

Savings would also directly accrue to secondary schools because of the reduced waste collection charges that could be made by Waste Collection Authorities (ie the District Councils). The amount of these savings is difficult to estimate and will vary from school to school. Clearly this proposal will bring benefit to the County in reducing its waste disposal levels and costs; and to individual secondary schools in reducing their waste costs; as well as having substantial environmental benefit.

Recommendation:

That consideration be given:

To using waste disposal savings for year 1 and 2 to aid schools in attaining Eco school status.

That the Education Service initially inform secondary schools of the potential financial and curriculum benefits of being an Eco Schools.

To investigate the feasibility of primary schools within the normal catchment area of secondary schools becoming Eco Schools.

To investigate primary schools providing secondary schools with their green waste for composting.

That further investigation of catering waste within this programme be examined.

7 NEXT STAGE

The Government has set challenging targets for both the County and District Councils to achieve.

The Improvement and Scrutiny Committee hope that the recommendations set out in this report will be fully considered, so that by joint working with all partners involved in recycling of waste, Derbyshire can reach and surpass the Government's targets set out in this report.

7.1 Committee process

This report will be referred firstly to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and then referred on to Environmental Services Committee for detailed consideration and implementation.

It is recommended that:

The Chair of Improvement and Scrutiny Committee presents this report to both the Policy and Resources Committee and the Environmental Services Committee.

During the review process, a commitment was given to District Councils to allow them to comment on the findings of this review.

It is recommend that:

Following consideration of this report, it is suggested that the Environmental Services Committee implement the recommendations in this report, liaising with all appropriate partners and report back, (by completing the Action Plan) to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee, in 6 months time to explain progress made.

IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 ACTION PLAN

The table below sets out the recommendations outlined in both the interim report and this final report.

Recommendation	Implement Yes/No	What action has taken place?	Timescale
Overall recommendation			
To consider diverting resources away from meeting the costs associated with landfill to funding recycling initiatives which would be implemented in conjunction with the District Councils.			
To improve co-ordination of recycling initiatives across the County Council, perhaps by nominating an officer from the County Council to take specific responsibility for the implementation of all recycling initiatives.			
Other recommendations			
To reviewing the recycling facilities available across the County Council establishments to ascertain if additional recycling facilities are required.			
To investigate the requirements for undertaking a staff awareness scheme to inform employees about the merits of recycling.			

To undertaking a waste audit to ascertain how much waste the County Council creates and look to mechanisms by which this can be reduced.			
To consider implementing a county wide waste management collection service from County Council establishments. This will facilitate a more corporate approach to the waste management collection service. (The waste management collection service must support the County Council's environmental policies by the setting of waste minimisation/recycling targets.)			
To investigate the use of landfill tax credit scheme to fund recycling initiatives including assisting in the creation of recycling centres.			
To look to increasing the number of voluntary groups applying for recycling credits.			
To investigate the need for an advertising campaign to inform the public about the availability and financial benefits of recycling credits.			

<p>To considers additional ways in which to improve joint working and co-ordination between the County Council and District Councils, and to examine new initiatives to improve recycling targets for both the County and District (Joint working may improve as a result of the overall recommendation of diverting resources from landfill to recycling initiatives in conjunction with District Councils.)</p>			
<p>Interim report – recommendations</p>			
<p>In conjunction with the District Councils, the County Council investigates the potential to extend and increase the use of home composting.</p>			
<p>To consider developing a county wide general recycling awareness campaign, linking into the national awareness scheme and any District based initiatives.</p> <p>The campaign should consider targeting home composting and informing the public of the recycling facilities available in their area as the first areas of the campaign.</p>			
<p>That consideration be given</p> <p>To using waste disposal savings for year 1 and 2 to aid schools in attaining Eco School status</p>			

<p>That the Education Service initially inform secondary schools of the potential financial and curriculum benefits of being an Eco School</p> <p>To investigate the feasibility of primary schools within the normal catchment area of secondary schools becoming Eco Schools</p> <p>To investigate primary schools providing secondary schools with their green waste for composting</p> <p>That further investigation of catering waste within this programme be examined</p>			
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Appendix 1**Improvement and Scrutiny- Review Panel - Recycling of Waste****Analysis of responses to advert (up to 15 March 2000)****Format of replies**

Email	14
Questionnaires	33
Letters	11
Telephone	3
Total	61

Questionnaire analysis (including responses from letters, email and telephone)**1) Do you think that Derbyshire County Council performs well in re-cycling of waste?**

Yes - 2 | No - 24

If No, how can the County improve re-cycling of waste?**Recycling facilities**

Provide more local (geography) and convenient recycling centres for all waste inc. paper/glass/cans/garden clippings/plastic/metal/CD's / batteries **(31)**

Provide each householder with a kerbside collection for paper, textiles, plastic, metals, cardboard and glass eg blue box schemes **(21)**

Awareness

Encourage businesses to reduce packaging and recycle their waste **(2)**

Encourage local recycling initiatives **(2)**

Improvement and Scrutiny Review – Recycling of Waste

<p>Would like 2-3 wheelie bins to separate waste or other techniques ie coloured bags (6)</p> <p>Signposting of recycling sites (3)</p> <p>Subsidised sale of composting/central composting (2)</p> <p>Capacity of sites</p> <p>County to employ a waste minimisation/recycling officer</p> <p>Have a recycling service for yellow pages in Derby</p> <p>Refuse planning permission for incinerators, extension to landfill</p> <p>Compare procedures with other European cities with high rates of recycling</p> <p>Examine which operators landfill/incinerate the most and withdraw contract</p> <p>Force waste operates to recycle</p> <p>Concerned about low level of recycling. Policy wise, the County needs to shift responsibility from list of things that individual can do in Greenwatch etc to sustainable environmentally friendly County Council initiatives</p> <p>Introduce formal CA sites/recycling centres that do not rely on the goodwill of others</p>	<p>Improve awareness of recycling</p> <p>Improve best practice and disseminate to joining areas</p> <p>Publicity about shortages of landfill and costs</p>
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If Yes, what does the County do well?	
Recycling facilities	Awareness
<p>Paper collection, bottle banks, clothing (3)</p> <p>Wheelie bins are excellent</p> <p>Mainly use the Sainsbury site ,convenient kerbside newspaper collections good, - problems with service team since Xmas</p> <p>Subsidised compost bins are good</p> <p>Disposal of waste – within limits</p>	<p>Does the County use recycled paper in your offices/recycle policy? (2)</p> <p>Giving awards to businesses/groups who actively work towards environmental concerns</p>

2) District Councils, County Council and waste operators are involved in re-cycling of waste – what do you see as being the role and responsibility for each organisation?	
2 a) County Council – roles and responsibilities	
Recycling facilities	Awareness
Encourage District Councils to provide collection points perhaps provide a contract for recycling facilities/services (5) Monitor District Councils and the use of these sites (2) I don't care who does it just get it done	Educating householders, publicity for recycling (11) Co-ordination of the service country wide, to make sure that information and resources are available over to all areas (5) Re-examine County's recycling policies, including recycling credits (3) Encouraging local and town councils to participate in recycling of schemes (2) Lead by example and assist the District Councils to raise the recycling programme to a higher profile Grant monies to schools, local organisations involved in recycling initiatives Acknowledge and rectify link between planning permission for open cast/quarrying and future landfill.

2 b) District Council – roles and responsibilities	
Recycling facilities	Awareness
Collecting domestic recycling waste and providing/monitoring collection points (8) Co-ordinate the provision of services locally –partnership working between Districts and County (5) Set up municipal composting plants which can deal with garden rubbish that can not be dealt with by small individual household compost bins (2) Provide collection points in their own districts ie NEDCC rely on Chesterfield	Districts should treat this issue more importantly (2) – High Peak do not have a good record Educate the public and provide information Act on behalf of local communities and respond to their needs /better links with community Advertise what services are available
Resist calls for wheelie bins	Publish recycling figures

2 c) Waste Operators -roles and responsibilities	
Recycling facilities	Awareness
Provide a service which is reliable, sustainable and local (10) Be prepared to provide separate areas/sites/receptacles for specific waste materials (2) If a central waste depot was available, waste operators could be encouraged to collect waste for recycling Waste paper collection in Dronfield very successful Liaise with council - take some of the collections as with paper Contractor should concentrate upon recycling rather than disposal in landfill sites	Contractor to provide free telephone number for problems

2 d) Environmental groups/others - roles and responsibilities	
Recycling facilities	Awareness
Respondent had instigated a plastic recycling facility but when required a location, no council was willing to offer a site	Educate and inform – making the connection between the community and the council, campaigning for better services (9)
	Environmental groups and individuals to pressure government to fund recycling/ provision of sites locally (5)
	Be supportive with local initiatives

3) Have you ever had any problems using the recycling facilities in Derbyshire for example, times, cleanliness?	
<p>Cleanliness/frequency of emptying/availability of sites (32)</p> <p>What recycling centres? (3)</p> <p>Cardboard is not acceptable in some paper banks</p> <p>Issue of old engine oil – disposal involves 40 mile round trip</p> <p>There are no facilities for recycling yellow pages</p> <p>Clapwell site was a shambles when it was open to the public</p> <p>Storage of batteries</p> <p>Materials left at tips should be re-used</p>	

4) How well do you think that the County Council informs residents about re-cycling facilities and mechanisms within the County?
<p>Not very well (18)</p> <p>You don't (2)</p> <p>- A-Z guide telephone number for disposal no information about recycling</p> <p>Leaflet householders about their waste</p> <p>Reasonably well – but info is overloaded with words and looks too much like 'council' info</p> <p>Lots of negative/unenthusiastic people who make the issue of recycling sound very drab and a waste of effort</p> <p>Reasonably well -but require a directory of ALL recycling facilities, whether County, District or private</p>

5) Any other comments

Private firm collecting waste door to door – unfortunately couldn't continue but had a huge impact upon bin contents **(5)**
 Against landfill - need to increase recycling **(3)**
 Encourage fabric nappies rather than disposables **(3)**
 Take waste to next county – Cheshire because this involves only one visit – a number of people in New Mills do this **(2)**
 Need to raise awareness and make it easy - seems to have been overlooked by an otherwise environmentally conscious County Council **(2)**
 County Council's policies should be to buy recycled goods**(2)**
 Packaging should be thought out eg glassware could be used as a storage jar **(2)**
 Council should collect recycling but issue of cost. Householders should be asked to volunteer to join a scheme for recycling – then issued with a sticker for wheelie bin
 Concerned about flytipping and dumping of materials in to the countryside
 County should avoid letting the city reopen the incinerator and instead develop other ways of disposing waste.
 Unhappy with what is done in the area
 Member of Christian Ecology Trust - little backing from County or District
 County and District Councils should lobby parliament
 Additional sites bring sites located outside the Town Centre (Respondent has suggestions)
 New civic amenity site at Long Eaton
 Tesco site (Heanor) Does not have any recycling facilities
 Using 'green' groups to help with collecting waste
 Using old tip sites to store waste ie scrap metal, furniture and household items (under cover) for future auction to be sold
 Staffordshire Highways use stone, brick and builder waste
 Some councils have 'bring your unwanted items' site
 Using an incinerator is the key to waste management
 County should install an incinerator
 NB Figures in bracket are number of times the same issue has occurred

Appendix 2

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 April 2000

Interim report – Recycling of Waste

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to Committee the interim findings from the Review Panel for recycling of waste.

2. INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

2.1 Background

At its meeting on 6 December 1999 the Improvement and Scrutiny Delegation Sub Committee agreed to undertake a review of recycling of waste in Derbyshire. An ambitious brief was set by the Members of the Review Panel tasked to carry out this review.

The review is looking at the County Council's performance in recycling. It will examine best practice, closer working arrangements, recycling awareness and will be developing specific issues that are identified during the course of review.

Because of the breadth of the review it was thought appropriate to provide an interim report which will address some issues which require immediate action by Committee. It is anticipated that the final report will follow in the next few months.

There are three issues for consideration, which are

- 1) Improving separation of waste via home composting
- 2) An appropriate PR strategy for recycling.
- 3) The development of the Eco Schools Award Scheme

2.2 Issues for consideration

Issue 1: Improving separation of waste via home composting

The Audit Commission in its recent publication 'Waste Matters' (1997) suggested that home composting was a low cost initiative, yet had a high sustainability impact.

Furthermore the Government have set national targets via the 'Making Waste Work' (1995) of '40% of domestic properties with a garden to carry out home composting by the year 2000.'

Home composting is where householders purchase a (possibly subsidised) home composting bin. Kitchen and garden waste is then separated out of the household waste stream and put into the home composting bin. After the natural breakdown of the organic waste, it is used as a material to improve soil structure and enrich soil.

(There is however, some concern that householders do not use home composting bins effectively. Potentially this is an issue, which could be addressed via proposal 2.)

To date, most District Councils have implemented some form of home composting initiatives. The exception being the District of Bolsover who have not undertaken any home composting initiatives.

However, the County Council has a financial incentive to develop home composting initiatives. This is because using a home composting bin reduces the amount of waste entering the waste stream. Therefore the County Council gains because it does not have to pay waste disposal costs. District Councils also gain because they do not have to pay waste collection costs. Indeed, every 1% reduction in waste going to landfill saves the County Council £110,000.

Proposal: It is recommended that in conjunction with the District Councils, the County Council investigates the potential to extend and increase the use of home composting.

Issue 2: An appropriate PR strategy

Findings from the consultation exercise and evidence given by various witnesses point to a lack of awareness by householders about recycling and recycling initiatives.

Indeed the Derbyshire Waste Management Strategy acknowledges that public awareness is an essential component in all recycling schemes if they are to maximise their success.

Furthermore, as referred to in issue 1 there is concern that home composting bins are used ineffectively, due to lack of knowledge about how to use them.

Proposal: To consider developing a county wide general recycling awareness campaign, linking into any District based initiatives and consider targeting home composting as one of the first areas of the campaign.

Issue 3: The development of the Eco schools award scheme

A new National Curriculum is to be introduced from September 2000 onwards and the County Council is developing appropriate training modules for schools. There are several elements of the New National Curriculum that require schools to examine environmental issues.

One secondary school in the county, Long Eaton Community Upper School has developed as an Eco school. The Eco schools award scheme is a Europe wide project which aims to raise young people's awareness of environmental issues through the curriculum.

Furthermore the Eco school award scheme will educate children in recycling practices which will improve general recycling awareness across the county. It may also enable schools to develop initiatives in which to use their kitchen and green waste for composting.

The Director of Environmental Services, in conjunction with the County Treasurer has calculated the potential financial savings from secondary schools adopting the Eco schools award. It is estimated that the County Council would reduce their waste disposal costs from each secondary school by £800. Using this as an example the total saving from all Derbyshire secondary schools would be £38,000. The estimated tonnage of waste saved would be 1250 tonnes per annum representing savings in landfill costs of £25,000 and landfill tax of £13,000.

Savings would also directly accrue to secondary schools because of the reduced waste collection charges that could be made by Waste Collection Authorities (ie the District Councils). The amount of these savings is difficult to estimate and will vary from school to school. Clearly this proposal will bring benefit to the County in reducing its waste disposal levels and costs; and to individual secondary schools in reducing their waste costs; as well as having substantial environmental benefit.

Proposal: It is recommended that consideration be given

- to using waste disposal savings for year 1 and 2 to aid schools in attaining Eco school status
- that the Education Service initially inform secondary schools of the potential financial and curriculum benefits of being an Eco School.
- to investigate the feasibility of primary schools within the normal area of secondary schools becoming Eco Schools
- to investigate primary school providing secondary school with their green waste for composting
- that further investigation of catering waste within this programme be examined

3. ACTION PLAN

Attached at Appendix 1 is an Action Plan which contains the proposals outlined in Section 2 of the report with a timescale for completion.

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, financial, health, legal, personnel and property considerations.

5. RECOMMENDATION

That the proposals within this interim report be approved and be submitted to Policy and Resources for its consideration

IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Appendix 1**Action Plan**

The table below sets out the proposal outlined in this interim report and includes the corporate response.

Recommendation	Corporate Response	Implement Yes/No	Timescale
It is recommended that in conjunction with the District Councils, the County investigates the potential to extend and increase the use of home composting.			
To consider developing a countywide general recycling awareness campaign, linking into any District based initiatives and considering targeting home composting as one of the first areas of the campaign.			
It is recommended that consideration be given:- to using waste disposal savings for year 1 and 2 to aide schools in attaining Eco school status that the Education Service initially inform secondary schools of the potential financial and curriculum benefits of being an Eco School. to investigate the feasibility of primary schools within the			

<p>normal area of secondary schools becoming Eco Schools</p> <p>to investigate primary school providing secondary school with their green waste for composting</p> <p>that further investigation of catering waste within this programme be examined</p>			
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Appendix 3

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 FEBRUARY 2000

Joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Environmental Service

RE – CYCLING OF WASTE - PROJECT REVIEW

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide draft Terms of Reference and project plan for discussion by Members.

2. INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

2.1 BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 31st January 2000, the Delegation Sub Committee agreed that the Committee would review re-cycling of waste.

Committee also suggested that to enable Members to become more familiar with re-cycling of waste a pre-review briefing session on this topic should be undertaken. This will have taken place prior to this meeting.

2.2 PROJECT REVIEW METHODOLOGY

The following points are suggested for consideration by the Committee in undertaking its review:-

- Determine the Terms of Reference for the review

Listed below are the issues which the Committee may wish to consider when undertaking this review: -

- 1) To compare re-cycling performance in Derbyshire with other authorities and identify reasons for variances;
- 2) To review the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the County Council, District Councils and waste operators, including

assessing whether there is a need for closer working arrangements between the various parties;

- 3) To consider whether recycling of waste in Derbyshire is in accordance with best practice;
- 4) To consider whether the County's Waste Strategy has policies to address the issues arising from this review;
- 5) To consider whether arrangements are in place to ensure that policies on re-cycling of waste have been implemented locally and have achieved their objectives;
- 6) To examine how the County Council and District Councils inform residents of the mechanism available for re-cycling of waste; and
- 7) To make recommendations to the County Council.

- **Review Panel - Composition**

It is proposed that this Review be undertaken by a Panel consisting of

6 Labour Members (to include the Chair and Vice Chair)

2 Conservative Members

1 Liberal Democrat Member

2 Elected Members from either Districts or Derby City Council

Nominations for membership are sought.

- **Determine further information/ witnesses**

It is suggested that the following groups be asked to attend/submit written evidence to the review working group. Due to the timescales for completion of the review, it may not be possible to invite all witnesses.

- Officers/Chair from Environmental Services Department
- Officers from other Departments of the County Council as appropriate
- District Councils and Derby City Council
- National agencies
- Other local authorities with good performance indicators such as Hampshire County Council.

Members may wish to give the opportunity for local environmental groups to submit their views to the panel. This can be effected by consideration of written submissions, or by inviting appropriate organisations to give oral evidence. This will need prior organisation and could affect the timetable.

- **Determine the timescale for completion of the review**

Attached at Appendix 1 is a draft project plan with an anticipated completion date of the beginning of April. This is subject to witnesses being available to attend the working panels. Suggested meeting dates are included on the draft project plan.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, financial, health, legal, personnel and property considerations.

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION

That consideration be given to the issues raised in this report.

NICK HODGSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DAVID HARVEY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Appendix 4

Notes of Members discussion 21 February 2000

Parameters of the improvement and scrutiny review

- 1) To examine recycling of household waste only. (Members agreed to defer examining commercial waste to a further improvement and scrutiny review)
- 2) The review will concentrate upon the 'effective prevention of waste' looking at how waste can be separated for recycling thereby reducing the amount of waste entering the waste disposal process.

Key Issues to examine

1) Civic Amenity Sites

- Impression is that there are variations in the service delivered at different sites?
- Civic Amenity sites are managed by WRG contractors
 - What is the content of the specification?
 - Does the specification operate effectively?
 - How is the contract monitored?
 - What happens if the contractor is not performing to the agreed specification?
 - Is it flexible to deal with local issues?
- Are there any examples of Best Practice, and if so can they be implemented at Derbyshire?
- Location of sites – issue of geography/geology/NIMBY

2) Local Government Opportunity

- Do residents think that recycling is carried out by other organisations such as Tesco?
- Is this an opportunity for local government to promote their role in the recycling process?
- How will the Alfreton site operate?
 - What is the current status?
 - What will be the future capacity?

3) Working closer with other partners (City, Districts, Voluntary Sector, Commercial Sector and National Government)

- What new approaches/ new partnership can be created to improve recycling of waste?
- County's internal purchasing arrangements

- County and District's waste practices – are our practices 'best practice'
- Funding flows
- Cost/benefit analysis – would it be possible to pass on some of the savings that the county could make from reduction in waste going to landfill?
- Charges
 - Is there a correlation between setting charges and flytipping?
 - Is there an increase in the volume of flytipping

4) Green waste

- Are there potential savings?
- How effective is composting - can we increase the use of composting?
- Use of mulching
 - believe that some tree surgeons cut trees and then dispose of tree cuttings, then buy tree cuttings as mulch – Why?

5) Purchasing recycling goods/raising recycling awareness

- What markets are available – how can they be improved?
- How do we inform residents about mechanism to recycle?
 - What facilities are available for recycling white goods, furniture projects, composting?
- North East Derbyshire are producing a green household guide?
 - What is in place to disseminate information across the county?
- Are there any incentives for residents to encourage them to take up recycling initiatives?

Appendix 5

IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY – REVIEW PANEL

Recycling of Waste in Derbyshire

Summary of issues raised by District Councils

1) Purpose of report

At the meeting with District Council representatives on the 24 March 2000 a number of common issues were raised. These issues have been summarised in to the following areas with potential proposals for improvement.

3) Working Relationship/Responsibilities

Concerns

- Lack of joint working and co-ordination between the District Councils and the County Council
- No strategic overview
- Impression is that the County Council see recycling/waste minimisation as a responsibility of the District Councils

Proposals for improvement

The County Council should

- Develop their county wide co-ordination role
- Develop joint schemes and partnership working with the District Councils
- Appoint a person with specific responsibility for waste minimisation and recycling issues
- Involve the District Councils in the County Council's Best Value exercise
- Use the Derbyshire LGA Environmental Co-ordination Group - Development of a Memorandum of Understanding

4) Recycling

Concerns

- Lack of recognition by the County Council of the need to address recycling targets
- Lack of interest by the County Council in recycling and composting initiatives

- The County Council has minimal involvement with any recycling awareness campaigns

Proposals for improvement

The County Council should

- Develop a county wide approach to marketing recyclable materials
- Develop a public awareness campaign
- Accept joint responsibility for achieving recycling targets
- Establish joint performance indicators for recycling
- Examine mechanisms in which to replace recycling credits – as per Project Hampshire

5) Civic Amenities Sites

Concerns

- Number/location /quality of CA sites
- Need for multi purpose sites ie recycling/composting/transfer
- District Council wish to be involved in the preparation of next contract (2005)

Proposals for improvement

The County Council should

- Investigate using different approaches to operating CA sites eg Derby City.
- Change the emphasis of Civic Amenity sites to Recycling Centres
- Provide bring sites

5) Green Waste

Concerns

- Implications of the Alfreton plant
- Budget implications for Amber Valley in relation to the Alfreton site not being operational
- Home composting – main beneficiary is the County Council, yet it is a District BVPI
- Need for increased use of community and central composting

Proposals for improvement

The County Council should

- Explore the potential for community composting
- Examine opportunities for developing further kerbside schemes and undertake pilot trials
- Provide a facility for separate green waste
- Review the provision of free green waste collections
- Assist the District Councils in annual home composting promotional programmes

6) Comments from Environmental Services Department

The development of the joint Waste Management Strategy will address a lot of the proposals outlined by the Districts. The strategy was prepared in consultation with District Councils.

Some of the proposals made by the District Councils are District Council functions. However the County Council will endeavour to facilitate any new initiatives.

7) Recommendation

The review panel should take into consideration the issues raised by the District Councils and their proposal for improvement when developing the recommendations for the final report.