



Report of the Director of City Services

Executive Board

Date: 9th February 2007

Subject: Progress Update on Integrated Waste Strategy

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Executive Board with an update on progress in implementing the Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds 2005-2035 following its approval by the Board in October 2006.

The report gives an overview of current performance, and provides an update on the implementation of key initiatives relating to education and awareness, waste prevention, recycling and composting.

The report also provides an update on the development of an application for PFI credits to support the delivery of an Energy from Waste facility and waste transfer stations, and outlines the current position on identifying sites for key waste infrastructure and for delivering the Sustainable Energy and Resource Park concept.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Executive Board with an update on key areas of progress in implementing the Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds 2005-2035.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds 2005-35 was approved by Executive Board on 18th October 2006 following almost six months of

consultation between December 2005 and June 2006. At this meeting it was agreed that a progress report on the implementation of the Strategy should be brought back to the Board in three months time.

3.0 MAIN ISSUES

3.1 Performance

- 3.1.1 At the end of November 2006 the combined recycling and composting rate for household waste was at 21.85%. November saw the highest ever levels of kerbside recycling, with 2,456 tonnes collected. There has been a marked and steady increase in kerbside recycling since September 2006, when the Council launched its 'Recycle Me' campaign.
- 3.1.2 Total waste arising is currently close to our projections and is forecast to be at 334,283 tonnes at the end of the year. There is a corresponding increase in waste produced per household. Last year 462.16 kg of waste were produced per head and currently we are forecasting that Leeds' residents will produce 464.54 kg per head.
- 3.1.3 National performance data has now been audited and published for 2005/06. Leeds has the highest recycling performance of the Core Cities for the third consecutive year at 17.26% and is ranked third amongst the thirty-six Metropolitan Councils, although we recycle the greatest tonnage. For composting we are ranked fifth amongst the Core Cities, and eighth amongst the Metropolitan Councils.

3.2 Education and Awareness

- 3.2.1 Our 'Recycle Me' Campaign to educate the public regarding what should go into green bins was launched in September. Its aim is to create a strong brand for all future 'recycle for Leeds' information and communication. It includes placing an information sticker on all green bins across the City by March 2007. There has been local advertising on bill boards and BT phone boxes, at libraries and in one-stop shops. Detailed information is also available via the Council's website. The education team have been engaging with communities at various locations throughout the City by means of a range of events such as road shows, exhibitions and summer galas. They have also been targeting high contamination areas with door knocking and letters. City Services' Enforcement Division is also developing a range of enforcement techniques to support this education work.

3.3 Waste Prevention

- 3.3.1 From 1 January 2007, Leeds City Council has launched a project funded by Recycle Now and WRAP (the Waste and Resources Action Programme) to offer compost bins completely free of charge to schools and at reduced prices from £8 for households, including free delivery.
- 3.3.2 Garden and food waste make up approximately 46% of the contents of most black wheeled bins in Leeds, which are currently disposed of in landfill. By placing organic household waste such as garden cuttings and fruit and vegetable peelings in compost bins at home, residents will stop thousands of tonnes of waste entering the waste stream.

3.3.3 Work continues in developing existing partnerships with the community and voluntary sector. A policy on support for this sector is being developed in close consultation with them, and will ensure the provision of consistent support where agreed criteria are met, in line with government guidelines. Arrangements with Leeds and Moortown and St Jude's Furniture Stores, Emmaus, SLATE and Remploy are being expanded to increase the amount of furniture and white goods diverted through Household Waste Sorting Sites. We are also working with Seagulls, a social enterprise which recycles paint, to develop a contract tailored for this sector. This will be an exemplar and model for other departments within the Council.

3.4 Recycling and Composting

3.4.1 The trial of garden waste collections across five areas of the City started in October 2006. Four routes are currently up and running, with a final one scheduled to commence in February. The collections are working well, with average presentation rates for garden waste at 41%, and on some rounds as high as 96%. A full evaluation of the trials will be carried out at the end of the summer.

3.4.2 We continue to extend the provision of kerbside recycling collections to properties across Leeds. We now provide collections to over 90% of households and hope to make them available to all but 'hard to access' properties by the end of March 2007. This will see an additional 28,000 properties provided with access to the scheme. However, the Waste Strategy action plan also includes specific objectives relating to the provision of recycling services to the remaining, 'hard to access' properties.

3.5 Recovery Solution

3.5.1 One of the key areas of progress relating to the plans to develop an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility is the submission of an Expression of Interest (EoI) to DEFRA for PFI credits. A final draft of the EoI was noted by Executive Board on 18th October 2006, and the authority to approve the final document for submission to DEFRA was delegated to Asset Management Group by the Board.

3.5.2 Asset Management Group considered the document on 12th January 2007 with a view to approving its immediate submission to DEFRA. DEFRA's timescale for considering EoI's is estimated at three months, following which the Council should receive an indication of the level of PFI credits that could potentially be awarded to Leeds.

3.5.3 City Services continue to work with the Council's relevant Planning and Regeneration officers to develop a robust strategy for the delivery of the key waste infrastructure required.

3.6 Regional Working

3.6.1 January 2007 sees the launch of the Delivering Excellence in Waste Management (DEW) Project led by Leeds City Council. The project is funded by Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber through its capacity building fund. This project is aimed at building capacity within local authorities across the region to tackle some of the critical issues relating to waste, and to

support the implementation of successful waste strategies both now and in the future. The project will develop region-wide initiatives but will also involve tailored support for individual authorities.

- 3.6.2 The project is in two parts: developing local authority capacity to raise awareness and influence attitudes to support waste strategy delivery, and delivering local composting facilities. The overall objective of the project is to equip local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region with the necessary skills and capacity to implement sustainable waste management strategies and meet statutory recycling, composting and landfill targets, thus avoiding government intervention and potentially damaging fines.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 As previously reported, the PFI elements of the scheme will be managed by the Public Private Partnerships Unit (PPPU) in accordance with the Council's approved PPP/PFI governance protocol. The other elements of the project will be managed by City Services in accordance with the governance arrangements approved by Executive Board in October 2006. The proposals for a Leaders' Waste Strategy Review Group are detailed in a separate report.

5.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial implications of delivering the Waste Solution for Leeds were covered in the October 2006 Executive Board report, although these cost assumptions will continue to be refined as proposals develop.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Executive Board is requested to note the content of this report and the progress to date on the implementation of the Integrated Waste Strategy.