

**SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS)
Recommendation Monitoring: Inquiry into Waste Solution (2006)**

Recommendation	Update	Status
<p>RECOMMENDATION 1</p> <p>That the department undertake an analysis of the amount of waste required to ensure the Energy from Waste Plant is sustainable. We recommend that this does not affect recycling targets.</p>	<p>City Services has worked extensively with technical advisors to develop a detailed model of projections for all waste streams, and this work will be continually revisited as the project moves forward. The Waste Strategy itself includes a commitment to “ensuring that no ceiling is placed on recycling where this continues to represent the best environmental option”.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 2</p> <p>That in considering the option of energy from waste, the department researches the future possibilities of restrictions and targets for emissions and makes plans to incorporate these into the waste management process.</p>	<p>Modern EfW facilities can perform well within current emissions limits, and are therefore likely to be able to comply with further tightening of emissions targets. This issue will be directly addressed when drafting the contract output specification.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 3</p> <p>That the department consider the options available for the disposal of the ash including the hazardous waste element.</p>	<p>The Waste Strategy vision includes an aspiration to eliminate landfill, and the Strategy includes a commitment to working with contractors to explore the most sustainable means of dealing with EfW outputs. Markets for recycling bottom ash already exist, with a number of aggregate producers currently working with local authorities to recycle this material (primarily for use in highways construction applications). Furthermore, technologies are emerging for processing fly ash so that it can be recycled through construction applications.</p>	<p>Closed Out</p>

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 4</p> <p>That the department consider the relationship between the waste solution and the Integrated Waste Strategy and ensure that there is scope for future consideration of the Council's role in dealing with all the city's waste.</p> <p>That the department reports back to the appropriate Scrutiny Board on the Waste Strategy and the outcomes of the consultation being undertaken.</p>	<p>The Waste Strategy includes a dedicated section on Commercial and Industrial Waste. The policies within this section set out a commitment to influencing other sectors to adopt more sustainable waste management practices, lobbying the Government and working with the Environment Agency to improve the data available on commercial and industrial waste. The facilities that the Council is looking to procure could have capacity for processing some commercial waste, and the Waste Development Plan Document will fully address the issue of provision of waste management facilities across all sectors.</p> <p>Scrutiny were provided with a summary of the responses from the Waste Strategy consultation in October 2006 when considering the report to Executive Board on the Waste Strategy.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 5</p> <p>That when the specification is agreed, consideration be given to potential future capacity, to allow for the possibility, for example, for a contribution to a regional waste strategy.</p>	<p>City Services is in regular discussions with other authorities in the region to identify opportunities for joint working. A number of our neighbouring authorities have either already secured a solution or are in the process of procurement of facilities to meet their own needs. A full partnership approach is unlikely to be feasible and the time needed to reach a formal agreement would unduly delay our implementation. However, we continue to monitor the situation to identify any benefits that could be gained through the alignment of procurement timetables.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 6</p> <p>That the planning permission process is run in parallel with the procurement process to ensure it is well advanced at key stages within the project.</p> <p>That full public debate takes place regarding the potential sites and that Ward Members are included in this at an early stage.</p> <p>That an industrial area is considered as the most appropriate site for any installation.</p> <p>That comprehensive sustainability and environmental impact assessments are done on potential sites to inform public debate, including assessments on transportation, noise, odour and visual impact.</p>	<p>The Waste Solution Project Team have consulted extensively with planning officers, the private sector, external advisors and Defra to determine the best approach to securing sites and progressing planning applications. It is currently proposed that the Authority should undertake work to select and secure its preferred site(s) in advance of starting procurement, that it should complete significant environmental assessment work prior to preferred bidder stage, and that the preferred bidder would develop and submit the actual planning application(s).</p> <p>The selection of preferred sites has been based on a range of planning criteria to ensure conformance with national, regional and local planning policy. An assessment of the compatibility with surrounding land uses was a key consideration. An environmental assessment will be carried out on the preferred site(s), and extensive consultation will be carried out throughout the process of site selection, environmental assessment and development of planning application. A full Environmental Impact Assessment will be a requirement for an EfW planning application.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 7</p> <p>That future developments (such as EASEL) are encouraged to include planning for waste management.</p>	<p>A senior member of the Council's Regeneration team is a member of the Waste Solution Project Team to ensure that opportunities for linking the delivery of Waste Solution to future developments and regeneration schemes are identified and explored.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 8</p> <p>That the City Services department consider the possibility of issuing smaller contracts aimed at a number of providers to make up the waste solution as a whole.</p>	<p>It is likely that the residual waste treatment facility and the transfer loading station will be delivered via one contract. Contracts for other facilities and services will be let separately. The Waste Strategy also now includes actions to develop partnership working with the community and voluntary sectors, notably the development of contracts specifically tailored for these sectors.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 9</p> <p>That the City Service department reviews the arrangements for educating residents on what can be included in the green bins to ensure that there is a constant up to date and clear message to all residents.</p> <p>That the department consider how it can work with organisations such as WRAP in order to influence the reduction in production of waste by retailers and manufacturers and to campaign for clearly marked packaging.</p>	<p>The “Recycle Me” campaign was launched in 2006, and was designed to focus on what should go into green bins. New stickers have now been placed on all green bins to clarify what should be recycled, and this has seen a reduction in contamination. A doorknocking campaign to reach 128,000 households is planned and an information pack on waste prevention and recycling is due to go out to all households in November.</p> <p>The Waste Strategy action plan includes specific proposals to work with partners (including WRAP) to encourage waste reduction.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 10</p> <p>We recommend that the department ensures its consultation provides access to relevant information for all stakeholders and seeks ways to allow people to contribute to the debate</p>	<p>See summary of Waste Strategy consultation.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 11</p> <p>That during any consultation regarding the future waste management process, the department include 13-16 year olds as a target group.</p>	<p>Contacted and sent information to Youth Council.</p> <p>Questionnaire and information sent to all high schools (ages 11-18) – 295 responses.</p> <p>A revised schools education programme is currently being devised. This will include work with secondary schools</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 12</p> <p>That the department investigates the markets available to buy recycled waste collected in order to minimise the cost of disposal and maximise any potential income.</p>	<p>Contracts are always tendered on a commercial basis to ensure that the Council achieves the optimum balance between cost and quality. Sustainable procurement guide developed with CPU and lead officer identified.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 13</p> <p>That the department consider the ways in which social enterprises and community based composting schemes can contribute to the waste management process and in particular contributing to educational initiatives.</p>	<p>Specific reference is made in the Waste Strategy to the role that the community and voluntary sectors have in delivering key policies and objectives. A charter and contract procedures for these sectors have been developed</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 14</p> <p>That the garden waste collection pilot results are reported back to the appropriate Scrutiny Board and Executive Board Member at the appropriate point in the budget cycle in order secure investment for city wide implementation.</p>	<p>Pilot commenced in October 2006. Scheme was rolled out to over 20,000 households, with over 1,700 tonnes collected to date.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 15</p> <p>That the department considers maximising the composting of organic waste through the use of in-vessel composting and through pilots offering free home composters and food digesters.</p>	<p>A subsidised home composting campaign is being run in conjunction with WRAP, with 7,000 composters sold to date. In-vessel composting or anaerobic digestion for processing organic waste forms one of the elements of the Waste Solution</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 16</p> <p>That the department follow up recommendations from the Recycling Inquiry which have been discussed as part of the waste solution inquiry. Outstanding recommendations from the inquiry into Recycling:</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION 3 – That the department develop partnerships with ALMOs (with the appropriate financial contribution from ALMOS) to develop innovative ways to encourage ALMO residents to recycle as much as possible. In addition the department should work with private landlords, registered social landlords and all tenures to improve recycling levels.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION 5 – That the department develop a strategy for dealing with waste electrical and electronic equipment, in line with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive and Central Government guidance on producer responsibility once the Central Government guidance has been finalised. We also recommend that the department does not accept any costs that are the responsibility of the producer.</p>	<p>Some work has been carried out with the ALMOs to develop partnerships, and this will continue following the ALMO restructure . City Services is working with the Accredited Landlord Scheme to address waste issues.</p> <p>WEEE recycling has been introduced at household waste sorting sites, and the Council was short listed for an award in this area at the National Recycling Awards. Government regulations to implement 'producer responsibility' come into effect on 1st July 2007. All the Council's Household Waste Sorting Sites are registered as designated collection points and a producer compliance scheme has been selected. WEEE is now dealt with at no cost to the Council.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 6 – That the department provide a report to the Scrutiny Board on the feasibility and value for money of increasing the number of Education and Awareness officers and the corresponding increase in costs, against the potential increase in recycling rates.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION 7 – That the department continue to work with schools, increasing the number of schools involved in education schemes, to encourage waste reduction and recycling. We also recommend that the department involves voluntary agencies, such as BTCV and ENCAMS in work with schools as much as possible, making use of their expertise and funding, if possible within the legal framework, from Education Leeds for work with schools on recycling and waste management.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION 9 – That the department bring a report to Scrutiny Board on the success of Recycling Week and the lessons learned.</p>	<p>The Education and Awareness budget has been increased. Further increases are also proposed to support the suggested service developments. Services in this area are provided through a mix of in-house awareness officers, private contractors and community and voluntary sector partners.</p> <p>The Department continues to work with BTCV and Groundwork to deliver the ‘SORT IT’ schools campaign. This initiative comes to an end in March 2008 and is currently being reviewed by a board including LCC, Education Leeds, BTCV, Groundwork, Communication Recycling Network and Resource Futures with a view to designing a revised scheme to commence in April 2008</p> <p>Formal evaluation of the ‘Big Recycle’ 2006 completed.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 17</p> <p>That appropriate resources are allocated to an awareness and education programme, including work with schools, which highlights the financial and environmental benefits of recycling.</p>	<p>There is specific budget for education and awareness within City Services. Schools are one of the primary groups being targeted by the recycling education team.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 18</p> <p>That the department develops a system of measuring recycling by ward to inform Ward Members of the areas which need targeted education programmes.</p>	<p>Collection routes do not correspond to ward boundaries, and it is therefore difficult to report readily on a ward basis. However, information is progressively being improved to enable the reporting of performance at a more localised level.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 19</p> <p>That a process be developed by the City Services department which will allow the Area Committees to take refuse collection issues forward, such as raising local awareness of recycling facilities.</p>	<p>Information and progress updates are provided to Area Committees on a systematic basis by means of reports or officer attendance at meetings. City Services is always willing to respond to additional requests for information on specific issues.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 20</p> <p>That the department carry out a detailed option appraisal of collection arrangements and gather detailed stakeholder feedback.</p> <p>That the department report back to the Scrutiny Board with the rationale and proposals for piloting the preferred option.</p>	<p>Widespread consultation has been undertaken as part of the Waste Strategy and further qualitative analysis of the options has also been undertaken through focus groups. Proposals are being presented to the Executive Board and Scrutiny Board in September.</p> <p>One of the main focus areas for future recycling strategy is around the need to prevent garden waste from being disposed of in landfill. A pilot of garden waste collection is currently underway in five areas in order to identify any challenges in collecting garden waste and to inform the future roll-out of future service options. The service is delivered using brown wheeled bins and commenced in mid October 2006. The bins are collected every fortnight during the summer months, reducing to every four weeks during the winter (November to Easter). The service is provided on an opt-in basis.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 21</p> <p>That should side waste collection be withdrawn, the department puts in additional resources to combat any increase in fly tipping as a result.</p>	<p>No decision has been taken to implement this measure.</p>	<p>Closed out</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 22</p> <p>That the department analyse the costs and benefits of service delivery options being drawn up as part of the Waste Solution package to identify the most effective approach to collection of recyclables and black bin waste</p>	<p>An options appraisal of all the options for refuse collection has been undertaken. Each option has been modelled in order to gauge the effect on the recycling and composting rate and the cost to the Authority.</p> <p>This appraisal will inform the budget setting process and underpin the future strategy for refuse collection in Leeds. The report will be presented to the Executive Board and the Scrutiny Board in September.</p>	<p>Closed out</p> <p>Closed out</p>