
Report of the Head of Scrutiny Support and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 26 March 2008

Subject: Waste Solution Programme for Leeds

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the beginning of the municipal year, as part of the discussions around its work programme, Members identified the Waste Solution Programme for Leeds as a key issue for the Board to consider. Members have received a number of updates on the programme, which continues to be a priority area for the Board.
- 1.2 Running parallel to the Scrutiny Board has been the Leaders' Waste Strategy Working Group – a cross-party group that has also been monitoring the development of the Waste Solution Programme.
- 1.3 At its February meeting, the Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the proposal to merge the work of the Leaders' Waste Strategy Working Group with that of the Scrutiny Board: Members queried both the current status of the Leaders' Group and the proposal itself.
- 1.4 At the meeting, the Board resolved to defer its consideration of the evaluation criteria (relating to the residual waste treatment project) until such time that the status of the Leaders' Waste Strategy Working Group had been clarified and more details had been provided regarding the compatibility of the scrutiny role with that of the Working Group. Through discussion with the relevant officers, the Chair of the Board undertook to clarify the issues raised by Members.

2.0 Report issues

The Waste Strategy Implementation Working Group

- 2.1 At its meeting on 9 February 2007, Executive Board established the Waste Strategy Implementation Working Group (the Leaders' Working Group) to monitor the implementation of the approved Waste Strategy and to tender advice to the Executive Board – as detailed in the attached Executive Board report.
- 2.2 At the Leaders' Working Group meeting on 8 February 2008, it was proposed that work of the group be merged with that of the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) and that approval to the proposed arrangements would be sought from the Leaders of the individual political groups.
- 2.3 The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods will attend the meeting to address any further issues raised by the Board.

The Role of Overview and Scrutiny

- 2.4 The general role of overview and scrutiny has been determined by 3 primary sources of legislation (The Local Government Act 2000; The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002; The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007). As a result, the legal and statutory role of overview and scrutiny is to.
- Review and develop policy, including making policy and budget proposals to the council;
 - Hold the Executive to account, including the review of proposed executive decisions and Call-in prior to implementation;
 - Undertake performance monitoring and review; and,
 - Scrutinise the NHS and other outside organisations.
- 2.5 As such, it can be seen that the role and purpose of the Leaders' Working Group, as set out in the terms of reference detailed in the attached Executive Board report, is compatible with the role of overview and scrutiny. However, in determining the Board's future role in relation to matters associated with the Waste Solution for Leeds, Members will need to be mindful of any duplication this may cause.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Board is requested to reflect on the information outlined in this report and presented at the meeting and determine its position regarding further consideration of specific matters associated with the Residual Waste Treatment Project and, more generally, the Waste Solution for Leeds.