

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Committee** 9th June 2005

**Report Title** Results of Waste Strategy Consultation

**Summary** Report on the results of the consultation on Warwickshire's Waste Management Strategy.

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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** Yes/No

**Background Papers** None

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** *Details to be specified*

- Other Committees  Waste Management Forum – 19th April 2005
- Local Member(s)  .....  
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members  Councillor C K N Browne )  
Councillor Mrs E Goode ) for information  
Councillor Mrs J Lea )
- Cabinet Member  Councillor M Heatley – for information  
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  I Marriott – comments incorporated
- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  .....

- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION**                      **YES/NO**      *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

- Further consideration by this Committee  Autumn meeting
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  Autumn meeting
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  Warwickshire Waste Partnership

**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee –  
9th June 2005**

**Results of Waste Strategy Consultation**

**Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and  
Economic Strategy**

**Recommendation**

Members are asked to consider the progress of the Waste Strategy.

**1. Background**

**Development of Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy**

- 1.1 The Waste Strategy is being developed jointly by the District and Borough Councils and the County Council. The process is being managed by the Warwickshire Waste Partnership (formerly the Waste Management Forum).

**Previous Consultation**

- 1.2 In 1999/2000 stakeholder consultation was carried out on proposals to introduce kerbside collection schemes for green waste and dry recyclables. Stakeholders were invited directly to a series of workshops where the issues were discussed. Waste treatment/disposal options were reviewed, but not discussed in depth.

**2. Consultation of Draft Waste Strategy – February 2005**

**Aim of Consultation**

- 2.1 In February 2005 consultation was carried out on Warwickshire's draft Waste Strategy, the aim of the consultation was to gauge stakeholder opinion towards the proposed plans for managing waste in Warwickshire. These are summarised in the bullets below:-
- (i) Reduce waste at source.
  - (ii) Aim to recycle and compost 45% of waste by 2009/10.
  - (iii) Make use of existing waste infrastructure i.e. Coventry and Solihull's Energy from Waste facility.

- (iv) Treat all remaining waste using a thermal treatment system, generating energy from a non-fossil source.

### 3. Consultation Programme

- 3.1 The consultation programme consisted of five public workshops and a consultation leaflet which contained a short questionnaire.

#### Workshops

- 3.2 One workshop was held per district. The workshops were open to members of the public, however previous consultees, County and District Councillors, Parish and Town Council representatives and members of local environmental groups were sent direct invitations to the workshops. In addition, the workshops were promoted in the local press, Warwickshire View and Northtalk magazines. Details were also posted on the Warwickshire Web and were included in the consultation leaflet.

#### Leaflet

- 3.3 A leaflet setting out Warwickshire's preferred options for managing waste was also produced. The leaflet contained a short questionnaire to gauge public opinion on the options. It was sent to everyone who was directly invited to the workshops and was also available in all public libraries in Warwickshire, the main District and County Council offices (Shire Hall and Barrack Street) and was available to download from the internet.

#### Main Outcomes of Consultation Workshops

- 3.4 Despite direct invitations and prior publicity, attendance at the workshops was lower than we would have liked. However attendance levels were comparable to those attained at the workshops held in 1999/2000.
- 3.5 Overall, the workshops were very well received with a positive response to the proposed options. Participants at the workshops were asked to indicate their level of support for the options by placing a 'dot' on a linear scale such as one illustrated below.



- 3.6 The results of this exercise showed that the majority of participants, 72% were positive about our preferred options, 26% were in the mid-range response and only 2% held a negative view regarding the options.
- 3.7 Participants were asked to indicate why they had made their choices. The comments in the table below provide an indication of the reasoning behind the responses, (the figures in brackets show how many people made a similar comment – the number of responses do not necessarily correlate with the percentage score as one person may have made numerous comments).

Bottom Sector (Negative)	Mid-sector	Top Sector (Positive)
2%	26%	72%
Reducing and recycling waste are ok	Concern about perceived risks of EfW (2)	The only practical solution/solves the problem (7)
Must transform 'throw-away' society	Need to consider examples of best practice e.g Europe	Makes sense – follows waste hierarchy (2)
No incinerators – concern about health	Could be more ambitious with recycling targets	It's ambitious but achievable
Concern about professional mindset for incineration	Nor sure we're being creative enough	Need to get 'best-brains' on it
	Need to address waste arisings	Cost of failure is high
	Need more information (2)	Appropriate technology for problems
	Need to work with adjoining authorities	Prefer to see a dedicated EfW plant (2)
	Improve recycling technology (2)	Something positive from nasty stuff
	We've got to get on with something	Recycling works well – hope for the future
	Concern about Central Government – Failure to act	Don't duck the issues
	More MRF's	Concern about green waste collection
	Concern about the need to get the public on board	Concern about people who will live near plants
	Cool waste better than hot waste	

### Main Responses to Questionnaire

- 3.8 The closing date for responses to the questionnaire was the 25th February, although responses were accepted for two weeks after this date.
- 3.9 As with the attendance at the workshops, the response to the questionnaire was a little disappointing with only 66 responses being received (it is estimated that 1100 leaflets were distributed).
- 3.10 In the questionnaire, respondents were asked to indicate on a linear scale (illustrated below) whether they strongly agreed or disagreed with various statements.

←-----→

Strongly agree      agree    neither agree/disagree      disagree      Strongly disagree

- 3.11 Of particular interest was the response to the question:-

The Warwickshire authorities should adopt one of the following residual waste treatment technologies –

- (a) One-step energy from waste.
  - (b) Two-step gasification/pyrolysis facility (including autoclaving or Mechanical Biological Treatment).
- 3.12 71% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the adoption of an Energy from Waste facility (option a) whereas 53% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the adoption of a two-stage gasification/pyrolysis process (option b). It is acknowledged that even with the supporting information in the leaflet, this was a difficult question to answer, with several respondents

commenting that they needed additional information to make an informed decision. However, the results indicate that based on the responses received, there is support for thermal treatment of residual waste.

## **4. Comments on Consultation Response**

- 4.1 Overall the workshops and leaflet were well received. However the level of participation was slightly disappointing. It is acknowledged that it is difficult to engage the public and to expect them to give up their time to discuss an issue that they do not necessarily have strong opinions about. However this issue needs to be addressed when further consultations are carried out.
- 4.2 A key message that came out of the workshops and questionnaire responses was that this consultation should not be a one-off process. For any scheme to be successful the public need to be fully engaged and consulted throughout the decision making process.

## **5. Waste Strategy – Next steps**

### **Additional Direct Consultancy Support**

- 5.1 We have been successful in obtaining further support through Defra's Direct Consultancy Support Scheme to complete the waste strategy. This will involve amending the existing waste strategy to take into account the revised guidance on developing Waste Strategies and incorporate the results of the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) analysis, which includes cost data. The consultants have also identified potential areas of challenge within the draft strategy, which will also be addressed.
- 5.2 This work will be completed by the end of June and it is therefore anticipated that the final draft of the strategy will be completed by the end of July. It will be necessary to carry out further consultation on the draft.
- 5.3 Summary next steps:-
- (i) Obtain support for BPEO from Warwickshire Waste Partnership – mid-June.
  - (ii) Final draft of the Waste Strategy completed by officers – end of July.
  - (iii) Final draft to go to County and District Committees for comment in August.
  - (iv) Stakeholder consultation to begin in August.
  - (v) Update Warwickshire Waste Partnership on progress – September meeting.
  - (vi) Finalise strategy – October.

(vii) Adoption of Final Waste Strategy by the Warwickshire Waste Partnership, then respective District and County Cabinets and Committees.

5.4 It is considered necessary to provide an adequate period for stakeholder consultation, therefore it is anticipated that the strategy will be finalised in October 2005.

JOHN DEEGAN  
Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy  
Shire Hall  
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20th May 2005