

Warwickshire Waste Partnership – 25th July 2006

Waste Strategy Implementation - Update on Progress with Short Term Options

Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy on behalf of the Officers Group

Summary

The report summarises plans to take forward medium-term options to increase recycling and contribute to meeting landfill diversion targets.

Recommendation

That the proposed route for investigating and implementing medium term options is supported.

1. Waste Strategy Implementation

- 1.1 The projects required to implement Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy can be split into short-medium and long term options.
- 1.2 The short-medium term options include:-
 - (i) Potential changes to waste collection methods – alternate weekly/co-mingled collection.
 - (ii) Collection of additional materials – biowaste (food and green waste) collection.
 - (iii) Development of materials recovery capacity (MRFs).
- 1.3 Although not in the Waste Strategy it is necessary to consider the need to develop material recovery facilities (MRFs) in Warwickshire, which will be required if co-mingled collection of recyclable material is adopted. Collection of recyclable material in 55 litre boxes (currently the system used by all of the Warwickshire authorities) is not favoured by the Health and Safety Executive, who would prefer the use of wheeled bins (co-mingled collection) or smaller boxes. This is due to concerns over manual handling of boxes.

2. Sub-Regional Joint Working

- 2.1 A report was recently taken to the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Forum with the recommendation to explore joint working with Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and to consider the provision of joint waste treatment facilities.
- 2.2 The Forum supported the recommendation, therefore when considering our medium-term solutions we will consider the potential to work with Coventry and Solihull on the development of joint facilities.

3. Development of a Business Case and Procurement Strategy for Medium-Term Options

- 3.1 Before going out to procure biowaste treatment facilities and MRFs we need to ensure that there is a sound business case to do so. The business case will then inform the procurement strategy.
- 3.2 We have applied to the West Midlands Centre of Excellence for funding to engage consultants to assess the business case for developing biowaste treatment facilities and the need for MRFs (we should know if the application has been successful by the date of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership (WWP meeting). The project will focus on the needs of the Warwickshire authorities and also consider the requirements of Coventry and Solihull.
- 3.3 The project will be managed by a project team that consists of officers from the districts and the county council. The project should be completed by the date of the next Partnership meeting in October when we should have a comprehensive medium-term procurement strategy to progress.

Enquiries:-about this report should be made to Kalen Wood, Project Manager - Waste Management, 01926 418064, email kalenwood@warwickshire.gov.uk

Background Papers

None

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