

Warwickshire Waste Partnership – 9 December 2008

Business Waste Recycling

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

Summary

This report outlines the progress being made to support business across the county to recycle. To date recycling by businesses has commenced at two Household Waste Recycling Centres and limited card/paper recycling is being undertaken by Rugby Borough. Recyclate collection by North Warwickshire Borough is also scheduled to start in the near future. In addition, through use of a contractor, a recycling scheme has just been launched in Warwick district and a second contractor plans to launch glass recycling for businesses in Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Recommendation

That the Waste Partnership endorses the action to date and recommends prioritising the identified action points.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Last year our BREW (Business Resource Efficiency and Waste) funded Resource Efficiency Club was in the top ten nationally and as a consequence, in May 2008 we secured £160,000 of funding from BREW LA to be spent by the County and Districts on facilitating the recycling of Business Waste. This is Landfill Tax money made available to Local Authorities because of the recognised shortage of recycling infrastructure for business Recyclates within the County and the role that Local Authorities could play in overcoming this. This report outlines progress to date and future plans.

2. Background

- 2.1 Many businesses want to recycle but have difficulty securing a service. In addition, they and their employees have difficulty in reconciling the difference between the way they are encouraged to recycle at home with the lack of support at their work location. It is also anticipated that improved recycling at work will encourage improved recycling at home. Although we offer advice on what service is currently provided, we recognise that there are capacity shortfalls.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 For recycling to be successful it has to be both financially and environmentally viable. Typically, a combination of customer density and a local depot is required to achieve this. With partners within the districts and the County's waste group, we are working to use our contacts and capacity to satisfy these requirements.

4. Response from Warwickshire County Council and the District Councils who form the Waste Partnership

- 4.1 The funding application was made to Brew on behalf of all the partnership. However, a number of the authorities have a large amount of extra workload/changes associated with their new household waste collection contracts. Although this has resulted in some difficulties and delay with the roll out of the projects, below is an outline of programme the partners are implementing over the coming months

North Warwickshire

- 4.2 The BREW trade recycling project will be run in tandem with the project to recycle arisings from the County's northern and central properties. Working in conjunction with the sustainability Group, who are funding collections from County Council properties on behalf of the County's Resource directorate, we now have a tripartite arrangement with North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) as the delivering body and BREW funds being used as seed funding for the trade recycle collections. Initial work is already in hand, with collections scheduled to commence in December.

Nuneaton and Bedworth

- 4.3 Because of roll out of their new recycling contract, discussions with Nuneaton and Bedworth Council officers was delayed until August. The indications are that their new contractor may not have capacity to consider expansion into trade Recyclates before 2009. The council are still very keen to see this type of service implemented, and they expressed enthusiasm for utilising the proposed business recycle station in their area. (See reference below). Collection of glass from business premises is a key service that is absent in the area. To progress this, it was decided to provide seed funding to facilitate the expansion of a local contractor's glass collection operation into the area. Initial preparatory work is already in hand, with canvassing of local businesses scheduled to start before the end of November and collections in December.

Rugby

- 4.4 We had an excellent start with the district collecting card/paper from their existing customers in the BID area of Rugby. Their original plan was to extend this to include glass recycling in July. However, as a result of their newly approved plans for alternate weekly collection, they have decided to postpone their review/expansion of the project until January 2009, when they will have greater clarity of their internal funding situation. In the interim, it was agreed that collection of glass from business premises would be pursued through a similar

project to that undertaken in the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) area. Implementation of this is scheduled to commence in January.

Warwick

- 4.5 Because of their new recycling contract, discussions were delayed until July. The outcome of the subsequent contact was that Warwick District expressed strong reservations on both the capacity of their contractor and the mechanics of handling the additional material. As a result, dialogue was opened with an alternate contractor who could utilise the local recycling depot. A service collecting recyclates was launched at the beginning of November, with the BREW project being used to provide initial underwriting funds.

Stratford

- 4.6 Their new contract started 1 August and arrangements are still bedding in. However, at a meeting at the beginning of November with both the district officer and their contractors an interest in offering a trade recycle collection service in the new year was confirmed.

County Council Household Recycling Centres

- 4.7 Two of the sites are licensed to accept trade waste, Princes Drive and Hunters Lane, and as such it was agreed that these would be the initial locations where Recyclates were accepted at preferential rates. They are now accepting trade cardboard for reduced fees when compared to trade waste. The County waste group has committed to extending this, initially to include Burton Farm. In addition, acceptance of other materials at preferential rates is currently awaited.

5. General

- 5.1 Waste Recycling Group, who are responsible for the management of our Household Recycling centre at Nuneaton, have agreed in principle to accept recyclates into their adjacent facility (initially paper/card). The mechanics have been resolved and registration as an exempt activity has been approved by the Environment Agency. The remaining obstacle is resolution of planning issues. (Unfortunately, this has become a bigger issue because of problems associated with an unrelated project). In addition, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council have expressed interest in utilising the facility for and by their trade customers and this will provide a useful kick start.

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Background Papers

None.

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