

Delegated decision report

DECISION UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

DECISION CANNOT BE TAKEN BEFORE FRIDAY, 9 MAY 2008

MUNICIPAL WASTE PLAN APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2011

Title
Report Author
Purpose

Report to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

This report seeks approval

- For the Municipal Waste Plan April 2008 – March 2011
- To confirm resources to enable the identified objectives to be met over the period of the strategy as detailed in Table 1.

The report introduces a Municipal Waste Plan for the Island for the period April 2008 – March 2011. The Plan sets out the first steps in the development of a long term Municipal Waste Strategy and links with the Core strategy. The Plan contains a series of vision, values and policies surrounding the management of waste on the Island over the next 3 years. There are four Key Objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Promotion of reduction and reuse of municipal and Council Office waste;

Maximisation of recycling of municipal waste and waste from premises owned or managed by the Council, through the Contractors it employs and Contracts it issues. To reduce and reuse waste wherever possible.

- **Objective 2:** Maximise the amount of municipal waste that is recycled and diverted from landfill.
- **Objective 3:** Upgrade the on street recycling centres
- **Objective 4:** Review available future landfill options on the island

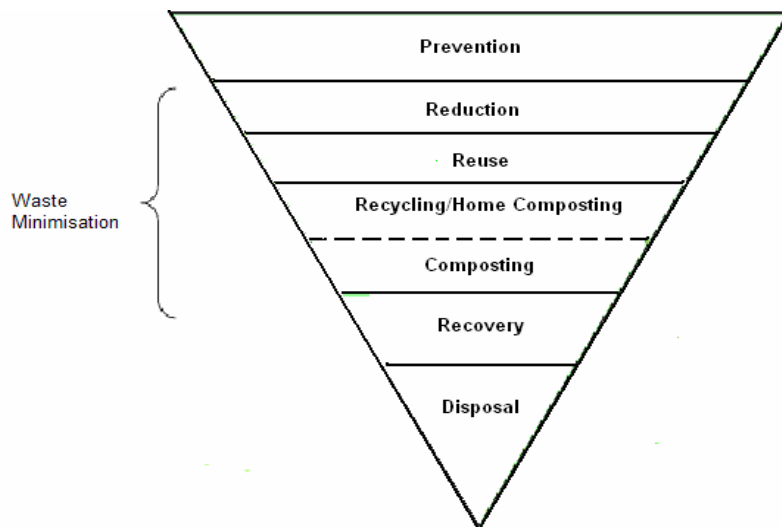
The Plan has been produced to take account of the latest Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) guidance and the waste hierarchy.

The Government sets out the waste hierarchy and a series of targets in the National Waste Strategy 2000 for local authorities to recycle waste, and divert waste from landfill which runs through to 2015.

The Council's 2005 - 2006 composting and recycling rate of 38% exceeded the 30% recycling target for that year and by diverting some 55% of household waste it exceeded the Governments target of 53% figure set for 2010.

In the most recent Waste Strategy for England 2007, DEFRA have recognised that waste levels have changed over the past 7 years and that some of the assumptions used to produce the original targets need to be reviewed.

A major review of the Governments current strategy is programmed to be undertaken during 2010. It is therefore appropriate to take the first stage of the Island's strategy to March 2011, thus allowing the next phase of the strategy to take account of any revised national targets, and guidelines.



The Waste Hierarchy

This Plan will therefore be followed in 2011 by a longer term Municipal Waste Strategy setting out goals and objectives from April 2011 to March 2026.

Outcomes

That the Municipal Waste Plan for the period April 2008 to April 2011 inclusive is approved

That approval is given for the identified additional resources set out in this report.

Confidential/Exempt Items

None

Background

The Council has in place an integrated waste management contract to manage the collection, treatment and final disposal of household waste collected from residents on the Island. The contract was let in October 1997 and awarded to Island Waste Services Limited, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Biffa Waste Services. The current contract ends in October 2015.

All Collected household waste is taken to the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) at Forest Park where it is sorted and separated. Recyclable waste such as cans are separated and baled together with separated waste collected as part of the kerbside recycling scheme (glass, paper and textiles). These materials are bulked and sold to reprocessors on the mainland.

Food waste collected from domestic collection rounds together with organic fines recovered from the RRF Plant is treated in an In- Vessel composter allowing the end product to be used as a valuable daily landfill cover material.

The majority of the remaining 'mixed waste' collected as part of the normal weekly collection service is treated and turned in fuel. This typically comprises plastic, card and paper. Currently, the fuel produced is transported off the Island and used in cement kilns as an alternative fuel.

The Council has recently facilitated an agreement between Island Waste Services, DEFRA and Waste Gas Technology (WGT) which will result in a 'Gasification Plant' being built at Forest park. This new plant will accept all of the fuel that is produced at the RRF Plant, and be used to produce electricity for export to the national grid. The cost of the plant is some £8m – this is being met partly by WGT, the new technology provider, and from DEFRA funding (£2.7m approximately). Island Waste Services are also investing further capital in upgrading the Resource Recovery facility. This will result in even higher levels of waste being diverted from landfill – including increased levels of both household and commercial waste.

The Council in successfully securing this external investment in the delivery of new waste infrastructure will enable it to retain one of the highest diversion rates from landfill in the Country and should be able to meet known current and future government targets.

However, there is always an element of the waste which needs to go to landfill. This currently takes place at Standen Heath. However, the site is due to be filled by 2015. Even with improved rates of diversion, the site is unlikely to be last much beyond that date.

The Interim Municipal Waste Strategy has 4 key objectives and a number of supporting actions.

Objective 1: The Council will promote the reduction and reuse of waste; the Council will aim to decrease the average amount of waste produced by each household and to slow the overall growth in waste produced on the Island.

The Council will seek to maximise the recycling of waste from the premises it owns or manages either through the Contractors it employs or through Contracts that it issues. It will also seek to reduce and reuse waste wherever possible.

Actions:

- Junk Mail avoidance scheme
- Promotion of composting at Home
- Promotion of Re-Useable Nappies
- Council to adopt a policy of purchasing all new printers which can print double sided.
- Promotion of 'Scrap Resource Centres' for schools

Objective 2: The Council will maximise the amount of municipal waste that is recycled and diverted from landfill.

Actions

- Attendance at Events across the Island to promote Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Commission Waste Composition Analysis to determine the types and quantities of waste produced by residents.
- Increase the participation in the Council's kerbside and backdoor recycling schemes.
- Introduce schemes for the collection for other materials such as batteries.

Objective 3: The Council will upgrade the Islandwide network of recycling centres.

Actions

- Identified recycling sites to be replaced with modern recycling units. Recycling banks at other sites to be refurbished or replaced.
- Signage at sites and on recycling banks to be replaced to follow the national Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) colour scheme and logo 'Recycle For the Isle of Wight'

Objective 4 -Review available future landfill options on the island

Actions

- Commission Consultants to support development of a long term waste strategy and the identification and assessment of potential landfill sites.

Strategic Context

The Waste Plan and the objectives contained within it meet a number of Strategic Objectives, and support the delivery of the Eco-Island vision.

Consultation

Consultation has taken place with Planning Services to seek to jointly procure external Consultants to undertake technical research which investigates the alternatives for new landfill sites and minerals workings on the Island. The report will form key background evidence for the Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document, which is part of the emerging Island Plan, and the Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

The Municipal Waste Plan document will be made available on the Councils Web site following approval. There is no statutory consultation period required for the Interim Waste Strategy.

Financial/Budget Implications

Some of the Actions set out against the Key Objectives have financial implications. These implications are shown in Table 1 below together with the profile of expenditure over the period of the Strategy. An inflation increase has been applied to the Waste Minimisation and Recycling Officer post to accommodate future pay increments and salary increases. No inflation increases have been added to other listed items. Other financial implications can be contained within existing departmental budgets – for example promotion of Re-Usable Nappies and the Junk Mail avoidance scheme.

A revenue budget is available utilising an amount now included within the RSG which has not been separately identified for this purpose. Capital resources will be provided through existing reserves.

Table 1

Action	2008/09 £,000	2009/10 £,000	2010/11 £,000	£,000 (Total)
Waste Composition Analysis	35	-	-	35
Consultants Support @£30k p.a.	30	30	30	90
Other Waste Minimisation and Recycling Initiatives @ £20kpa	20	20	20	60
Waste Minimisation and Recycling Officer	35	35.5	36	106.5
Total (Revenue)	120	85.5	86	291.5
Signage at CA Sites and Bring Banks	20	-	-	20
Upgrade Recycling facilities @ £50k p.a.	50	50	50	150
Total (Capital)	70	50	50	170

The implementation of objectives 1 to 3 should see a progressive increase in the volumes of waste that is diverted from landfill through recycling, re-use and waste minimisation activities. This will reduce the Council's exposure to landfill tax.

The annual landfill tax escalator will increase from the current £3 per tonne per annum to £8 per tonne per annum with effect from April 2008. This will see landfill tax rates rise incrementally from the current £24 tonne of non-inert waste landfilled to £56 tonne by April 2011. This assumes that the Government do not make further landfill tax rises in this period. This will mean that if diversion from landfill remains the same then the Council's annual landfill tax liability will increase substantially.

By way of example, for each 1,000 tonnes of waste landfilled, this will equate to a current landfill tax cost to the Council of £24,000. This will increase to £56,000 in April 2011, an increase of £32,000 in this period. The Council currently landfill annually approximately 40,000 tonnes per annum.

The Council are also required to meet annual targets for the diversion of biodegradable municipal waste from landfill. These are laid down within the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme introduced by the Government in April 2005, and referred to in the Interim Strategy. The targets get progressively more challenging, and extend to 2020 beyond the term of the Interim Strategy.

Failure to meet these diversion targets will expose the Council to fines, which are currently set at £150 per tonne for each tonne the target is exceeded.

By way of example, if the Council exceed their annual target by 1000 tonnes and are unable to meet this excess through the mechanisms that allowed for within the trading scheme, this will potentially equate to a fine to the Council of £150,000.

The financial consequences to the Council of not adopting and implementing the objectives of the Interim Strategy are therefore potentially significant.

Legal Implications

Where a Council is under a duty to produce a municipal waste management strategy it must carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

However, the Council is not currently under a duty to produce a strategy, although guidance recommends that it is good practice to have such a strategy in place. The proposed short term nature of the Interim Strategy will be in anticipation of guidance from the Governments proposed major review of the National Strategy in 2010.

Currently, although the requirement to produce a municipal waste management strategy only extends to district and county councils it is likely that the duty to provide one will be extended to Unitary Authorities as a result of the Governments review in 2010. Non-compliance is likely to result in financial penalties being imposed. Using the DEFRA guidance, and suggested good practice, will lessen

the likelihood of non-compliance at the mandatory stage.

This guidance will be encapsulated within the Councils' long term strategy which will take a forward look up to 2026. It is intended that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be carried out for the long term strategy.

- Options
- i. To adopt the short term Plan, which will allow the development of the long term strategy, the development of options for a new landfill facility, and which should see a progressive increase in diversion of waste from landfill to meet national and European targets.
 - ii. To maintain the status quo which will place the Council at a risk of not meeting targets, and not developing a new landfill facility which will be available following the filling of the facility at Standen Heath.

Risk Management

A key risk revolves around any delay in commencing the process of identifying a potential new landfill site. The current landfill site has a finite capacity and it is essential that a new site is in place before the expiry of the current contractual arrangement in October 2015.

There is currently no available alternative site and transporting waste off the Island is not a viable alternative.

Steps will be taken to ensure that the maximum amount of waste is diverted, thus ensuring that the life of the site can be extended – albeit probably by months - to allow the maximum time to find and develop a replacement site.

There are also substantial financial risks associated with not meeting landfill diversion targets in respect of both potential future fines and increasing landfill tax liabilities as detailed within the report.

Evaluation

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member supports and approves both the Municipal Waste Plan and additional resources.

Recommendation

That the Municipal Waste Plan is agreed for the period April 2008 to March 2011 inclusive.

That the additional resources set out in this report are agreed

Appendices Attached [Appendix A](#) – Municipal Waste Plan April 2008 to March 2011

Background Papers

National Waste Strategy 2000
National Waste Strategy for England 2007

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CLLR HUNTER-HENDERSON
Cabinet Member for Environment
and Transport

Decision

Signed

Date
