



Waste Strategy for Derby and Derbyshire

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report introduces the new waste strategy for Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council and the Derbyshire district councils. The strategy has been developed in conjunction with the County Council and through Public Consultation.
- 1.2 The previous strategy adopted in 1999 focused on the disposal of residential waste to landfill. The new strategy proposes that the waste should be treated in an appropriate facility and the amount of material sent to landfill be reduced to a minimum.
- 1.3 The strategy will support and guide the procurement of a waste treatment plant which is currently being procured and has been the subject of other reports to Cabinet. The strategy makes no specific recommendations as to what kind of technology should be utilised for the treatment although six options are considered in some detail.
- 1.4 The Government's revised National Waste Strategy will be the subject of a separate report.
- 1.5 Subject to any issues raised at the meeting, I support of the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To adopt the waste strategy, "Looking after Derbyshire's Waste" as representing the policy of the City Council for dealing with residual waste.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To provide the City Council with a strategy for considering possible methods of waste management.
- 3.2 To ensure that the possible methods minimise the amount of waste going to landfill.
- 3.3 To ensure the Council meets the Government's recycling targets as far as possible.



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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 The City Council currently disposes of about 80,000 tonnes of household waste every year at a cost (including managing the Raynesway transfer station) of around £4m.
- 1.2 The current disposal policy was adopted to minimise the cost to the Council. This was because historically landfill has proved cheaper than any other treatment or disposal option.
- 1.3 The Government (in accordance with the European Directive) has directed that bio-degradable waste should not be landfilled as far as possible. To encourage the diversion of bio-degradable waste from landfill the Government has introduced two schemes which imposed additional costs.
- 1.4 Firstly, the landfill tax, currently £24.00 per tonne of waste disposed to landfill, is increasing at a rate of £8.00 per year until it reaches £48.00 in 2010 and is forecast to remain at least at this level into the future. The Council has to find this additional taxation from within its annual budget. The increasing cost provides a strong disincentive for continuing to landfill waste and to increase recycling and composting.
- 1.5 Secondly, the landfill allowance trading scheme (LATS) provides fixed targets for the amount of bio-degradable waste that the Council can landfill. The allowances are tradable with other authorities. If the Council is short of allowances or has a surplus, then these can be traded with other authorities at a negotiated price. The value of the allowance is not fixed but is variable depending upon the scarcity. At the present time allowances are trading at £5.00 per tonne, but the Government has indicated a penalty value of £150 per tonne will be imposed in certain target years when authorities do not meet their target and do not hold sufficient allowances.
- 1.6 The waste strategy builds upon the decisions already taken by the Council and anticipates a continuing increase in the amount of material diverted to composting plants and for recycling rates.

- 1.7 The City Council has previously decided to introduce a dry (cans, glass, plastic bottles and paper) kerbside collection service and a green waste collection service. The green waste service now includes the collection of food waste. This second part of the scheme is very useful as it diverts bio-degradable waste away from landfill and enables the Council to meet its LATS target in the short term until 2008/09. The current forecasts suggest that the Council will have a shortfall in 2009/10 and is likely to be penalised in future years unless either a new waste treatment plant is built or allowances are purchased.
- 1.8 The strategy considers all the current available options for treating the residual waste. While making no specific recommendations about a preferable treatment solution, it compares six possible dissimilar options that could be considered. Residue from the various processes will require further treatment and/or landfilling. Therefore landfill is not entirely eliminated by any of the processes.
- 1.9 The strategy commits the Council to deal with the waste other than by land filling, and to raise the recycling and composting rate to a minimum of 45% with a desirable target of 55%. The lower recycling and composting target of 45% is achievable with the extension of the current kerbside domestic scheme to the entire city and with the co-operation of the public. The rate has currently increased to almost 33% and is likely to exceed 40% next year (2008/09).
- 1.10 The strategy proposal to increase the combined recycling and composting rate to 55% will be difficult to achieve. All sectors of the population will have to play their part and try to separate as much as is possible. The problems will arise with individuals who do not want to co-operate and it is this small sector that may cause council to miss the target of a high rate.
- 1.11 Council will not need to introduce any more collection services to reach this higher target but will have to use education and possibly enforcement to change people's behaviour.
- 1.12 Analysis of the City's bin waste suggests that about 68%, on average, is compostable or recyclable. The target of 55% is therefore very close to what some consider to be the maximum achievable. The 68% limit is currently constrained by the uses that can be found for various wastes (for instance, disposable nappies that make up about 4% of the figure). New technology or new products may make the targets easier or even more difficult to reach in the future.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The strategy considered the implication of continuing with landfill and no treatment but this was rejected as not sustainable and not complying with Government policy. It would also be very expensive to continue with landfilling untreated waste.

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List of appendices:	responses to consultation available in Members offices and on CMIS Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The financial implications of treatment were reported to Cabinet in a report dated 26 April 2006, Waste Strategy – Funding and Affordability.
- 1.2 The report was confidential as it could influence the tenders for the treatment processes currently being procured
- 1.3 Further reports will be brought to Council as the procurement process for a waste treatment plant proceeds.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council has a duty to dispose of collected waste and make appropriate arrangements to deal with the material. The strategy will guide the Council in considering the tenders for the waste treatment process.
- 2.2 The waste treatment contract is currently being procured, see report of 26 April 2006 and should be operative by 2010.

Personnel

- 3.1 No additional staff are required to adopt the strategy.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 Waste is treated equally irrespective of where it originates from in the city

Corporate Priorities

- 5. The proposal predominantly comes under the Council's Objective of “Leading Derby to a better environment”.