

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING- UPDATE**

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Strategic Priority : SP5 - Attractive and Inclusive City**

**Corporate Priorities: CI01 – Delivering Customer Focused Services, CI04 – Improving Partnership Working To Deliver ‘One City’**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The Committee’s workplan for 2011/12 includes the provision of an update report on wastes management arrangements.
- 1.2 To advise the Committee of the position reached in the procurement of a PFI supported contract for the treatment of residual waste.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The report summarises performance and achievements in 2010/11 and provides a projection of the outturn position for 2011/12.
- 2.2 The amount of municipal waste handled by the Council reduced from 144,894 tonnes in 2009/10 to 142,525 tonnes in 2010/11. This and the improved recycling and composting performance reduced reliance on landfill as a means of disposal with 65.38% of municipal waste being landfilled in 2010/11.
- 2.3 The reduction in the quantities of waste handled in recent years appears to be slowing down and the % of municipal waste handled in the first quarter of 2011/12 is only slightly down on the same period last year. With small increases in recycling collected during 2011/12 as the full year effects of the blue bin scheme are counted it is estimated that less than 64% of municipal waste will be consigned to landfill.
- 2.4 The reduction in waste handled remains largely attributable to the prevailing economic conditions and measures by food producers and retailers to reduce packaging (the Courtauld Agreement).

### **3. RECYCLING PERFORMANCE**

- 3.1 The 2010/11 figures for household waste recycling composting and reuse was 31.25%. At the first quarter of 2011/12 the figure was 37.3% which is seasonally affected but compares with 31% for the same period in 2010/11. This is due to the blue bin recycling scheme being fully rolled out across the City this year, and the Council sending some of its municipal waste to a local treatment facility to support its commissioning through its waste management contract with Alex Smiles.
- 3.2 The level of garden waste sent for composting remained largely unchanged. In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2011/12 it was 5,228 compared with 5,312 for the period in 2010/11. Garden waste is currently collected from around 85,000 households.
- 3.3 The improvement in recycling performance since the introduction of the blue bins is set against a background of indications of reduced consumption and consequently fewer recyclable commodities such as newsprint within the waste stream, and reductions in packaging material weights.
- 3.4 The amount of bulky waste recycled in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter remained static at 677 tonnes compared with 685 tonnes for the same period last year. The number of bulky waste collections carried last year was 58,053 compared with 60,233 in 2009/11. Thus the % of bulky waste recycled increased in relation to the number carried out. It is expected that a review of the bulky waste service will take place during Winter 2011/12 to consider options for maintaining the level of service offered to residents, while reducing costs and increasing recycling and reuse of bulky waste.
- 3.5 Residents' response to the blue bins scheme remains positive with sustained numbers making regular use of the bin and the levels of recovered material having increased.
- 3.6 Work has commenced on the assessment of apartment blocks, multi-storey flats and other non-traditional types of properties with a view to incorporating them into the scheme.

### **4. OTHER RECYCLING**

- 4.1 There are 50 operational bring sites provided across the city including those provided at high-rise flats and those with restricted access e.g. schools, places of employment. These cater for a range of commodities in addition to those collected via the blue bin system e.g. books, cartons, textiles and shoes. The improved recovery of materials e.g. paper, glass, cans and plastic bottles; at the kerbside has led to a

reduction in the quantities collected from bring sites. The Council will continue to provide a service for those who choose to use the bring banks as they are inexpensive to operate. During late 2011 we will introduce a re launched bring bank service for paper and mixed commodities, and following a procurement exercise carried out with other North East council's the service will be provided by contractors which provide a modest income.

- 4.2 On-street recycling facilities are provided at six locations across the city.

## **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 5.1 Following the extensive communications campaign that was used to launch the blue bin recycling scheme in 2010/11, a scaled down communications plan has been designed and delivered in 2011/12 which concentrates on ensuring the blue bin brand is retained and that residents are asked to help to recover more commodities from within the waste stream.
- 5.2 In April 2011 each of the new recycling vehicles acquired to service the blue bins was fitted with a refreshed display panels, to reinforce the benefits of recycling and highlighting a wider range of materials for example glass jars, papers and plastic bottles. The panels were funded by the Waste Resources Action Programme. During winter 2011/12 a new campaign is planned which will aim to encouraging residents to keep their local environment clean and attractive by using their recycling bins more and putting out less rubbish for collection.
- 5.3 During Winter 2011/12 a new refuse and recycling calendar will be designed building on the improved garden waste calendar launched in March 2011 which gives the specific day and date of collection of each service.

## **6. ANCILLARY CONTRACTS**

- 6.1 The last report set out the ancillary waste contract arrangements in place for recycling, garden and residual waste disposal. These contracts are to cover the period from 1 April 2010 up to the commencement of the PFI contract. It is envisaged that longer term contracts for recyclable and compostable materials will then be awarded by the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership.

### *Green waste contract*

- 6.2 The new contract with JBT Ltd which commenced on 1 April 2010 provides a local transfer facility and has consequently reduced the distances that collection vehicles have to travel. This has limited the impacts on collection arrangements and realised savings over the

previous arrangements. The contractor is performing the service to a good and reliable standard.

*Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) contract*

- 6.3 The award of this contract was a determining factor in kerbside recycling arrangements. The contract provides for the separation of paper from other recyclable materials delivered to the contractor's facility. The contract which is serviced by Connorco Ltd commenced on 1 April 2010. Transfer and sorting facilities are currently provided in Hendon and Washington and again this provision of local facilities has limited the impacts on collection arrangements. Monitoring of the MRF contractor continues and the service is being delivered in accordance with the specification. Works will start with the STWWMP in the Winter of 2011/12 to review the joint needs of the partnership and if appropriate commence on the planning of procurement of a new MRF contract in 2013/14.

*Waste management contract (interim arrangements for residual waste)*

- 6.4 The contract with A.Smiles Ltd commenced on 24 January 2011. In addition to a waste transfer station at Deptford another is provided at Pattinson, Washington via a sub-contract arrangement. Most of the waste is to be taken to landfill with the facility for the treatment and opportunities for the additional recycling and recovery of 7.5% of the waste delivered to the contractor. The contract allows for the transfer of the Authority's waste to the PFI contract facility once that commences in 2013/14. At that point the interim arrangement will terminate.

**7. PFI CONTRACT (RESIDUAL WASTE)**

- 7.1 The respective Cabinets of the Partnership authorities agreed the preferred bidder as the Sita/CLL consortium at meetings on the 15 September 2010. The solution involves the provision of a twin-line Energy from Waste facility at Haverton Hill, Billingham (designed to export 150,700 MWh/yr to the Grid and achieve over 95% diversion from landfill) with a supporting waste transfer station located within each authority area.
- 7.2 Financial Close was reached and the contract formally awarded in June 2010.
- 7.3 Construction of the new waste to energy plant has commenced as planning permission was already in place.
- 7.4 A public consultation exercise in the Hendon area took place in June and July 2011 in respect of the construction of a new waste transfer station at Jack Crawford House Commercial Road.

- 7.5 Sita submitted a planning application for the above site in July 2011. The outcome of this application is pending but a decision is anticipated during in November 2011.
- 7.6 Subject to the successful grant of planning permission, works on the new waste transfer facility will commence in 2011/12, it should be ready for use in late 2013 with the main energy from waste facility being commissioned in early 2014.
- 7.7 Sita have also applied to Sunderland City Council for planning permission to redevelop the existing waste transfer station at Campground, Springwell as part of the same PFI contract. About 20,000 tonnes per annum of the City's residual household waste will be delivered to this facility primarily from the Washington area from the start of the new contract in 2014. A decision on the planning application is also expected at the end of November 2011.

## **8. RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 The Committee is requested to consider the report and note the measures being taken to improve recycling levels; and the position reached with the PFI supported procurement of a strategic residual waste facility.

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
- i) Report of the Executive Director of City Services, Director of Financial Resources and Chief Solicitor- South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership- PFI Update; Cabinet 15 September 2010
  - ii) Report of the Executive Director of City Services, Director of Financial Resources and Chief Solicitor- South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership- Appointment of Preferred Bidder for the PFI procurement; Cabinet 15 September 2010
  - iii) Report of the Director of Community and Cultural Services- Wastes Management- Ancillary Procurements; Cabinet 14 January 2009
  - iv) Report of the Director of Community and Cultural Services- Kerbside Recycling; Cabinet 29 April 2009
  - iii) Report of the Director of Community and Cultural Services- South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership- Evaluation Methodology and PFI update; Cabinet 30 July 2008

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