
Select Committee on the Environment - 6th March 2008

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Recycling Working Group

Purpose of Report

1. To provide a progress report from the Recycling Working Group.

Background

2. During the current committee cycle the Working Group has been looking into a number of issues:

Waste Enforcement Policy

The Group has reviewed the new draft waste enforcement policy. The Group's views and comments have been incorporated into the final version which is now to be put forward to the Cabinet Member for the Environment for formal approval. This compliments the extensive work previously undertaken by both the Working Group and then the Select Committee, on an extended range of fixed penalties arising from new legislation.

Recycling

The Group has continued its work on the improvement and development of recycling. A number of issues have been examined, including a review of the Council's network of recycling sites and proposals for future improvements. A piece of work has also been initiated, investigating what recycling facilities are available to schools and youth centres.

In January the Group undertook a visit to a major Materials Recycling facility at Milton Keynes, allowing Members to observe how a mechanised plant recycling recovery operates. Members could form a direct comparison with a previous visit to a site located in Shrewsbury, which fulfils a similar function but operates on a different principle.

This has particular relevance, as the Government has recently announced a 3 year rolling waste infrastructure capital grant scheme, commencing April 2008, which should enable the Council to start the improvements identified through the Group to extend our recycling infrastructure.

Finance

3. The Waste Infrastructure grant referred to above is for £1.27m. This is spread over a three year period within the Council's capital programme, commencing in 2008/09.

Law

4. The Council's statutory waste management powers and duties are set out in Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended and related legislation.
5. Section III of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

6. This report takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy. The provision of recycling facilities should benefit all sectors of the community.

Recommendation

7. That the Committee receives this report, and notes the progress made by the Working Group in relation to recycling, and related topics.



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List of Background Papers:

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.