

## RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL -3

FROM THE EXECUTIVE 7 NOVEMBER 2011

### WASTE AND RECYCLING STRATEGY 2011-2022

The Executive gave consideration to the Waste and Recycling Strategy 2011-2022. It was reported that the baseline summary shows the Council currently performs very well for national indicator 192 (percentage household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting)

The Council has been highly successful in reducing the overall amount of waste sent to landfill and reducing the total waste and recycling produced per household. The service needs to continually develop in order to build upon the successes that the Council has achieved to date. The Strategy aims to provide the long-term direction in order to meet those objectives.

**RECOMMENDED that the Executive approve the Waste and Recycling Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2022 (Appendix A) and recommend that it is referred to Council for approval.**

RESOLVED that as part of the Strategy, the Executive give approval for a Business Case to be developed to consider the option of moving to a co-mingled waste collection service.

#### Summary of Reasons

The Waste and Recycling Strategy establishes the long-term vision and objectives for the Council's waste and recycling service. The Strategy forms a key strand of the authority's Future Options work in terms of providing cost efficient and effective services.

The Council's Waste and Recycling Service is one of the larger budget areas for the Council. Consideration needs to be given to the current arrangements to determine if they are:

- § Meeting our citizens needs.
- § Cost effective in the long-term.
- § In line with best practice and best performance.
- § Environmentally sound.

The Strategy highlights a number challenges that our service needs to overcome. These include:

- § Making better use of the materials collected (cardboard/plastics) by realising a value from them
- § Improving our dry recycling rate.
- § Expansion of the materials collected.
- § Providing a more cost effective service.
- § Need to reduce waste.

There are two main types of collection service offered by local authorities:

Kerbside sort – involves the sorting of materials at kerbside into different compartments of a specialist collection vehicle.

Co-mingled – involves the collection of materials in a single bin using a single compartment vehicle. The sorting of these materials occurs at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

There are variations on each of these systems by a number of local authorities.

The Options Appraisal (Appendix B) shows that there are significant advantages in adopting a co-mingled collection service. These advantages can be demonstrated in terms of increased recycling performance, lower costs and better operational arrangements.

The All Member Workshop (Appendix C) clearly indicates that there are significant advantages of a co-mingled system over the current arrangements. When considering the strengths of a co-mingled system Members stated that option was easier than the current arrangements for residents to understand and it would enable the capture of more materials for recycling.

At the All Member Workshop (Appendix C) it was also stated that a weekly collection of residual waste would be too expensive, have a high carbon impact and might increase the amount of waste sent to landfill.

HDC's current collection arrangements do not encourage the recycling of key materials. Cardboard is sent for composting when it is a valuable commodity and can be reprocessed and reused. In addition, the existing system does not collect plastics for recycling at the kerbside. It is suspected that most of the waste plastic produced gets placed in the residual waste bin and is landfilled.

The Baseline Summary (Appendix D) demonstrates a large differential in aspects of the current service performance. HDC is very strong in its composting performance, however this is at odds with average performance for collecting dry recycling. One explanation for this is that the current arrangements do not capture materials in the most beneficial manner.