

## Housing and Environment Partnership, JULY 2009

### Update on Waste Management Strategy<sup>1</sup>

The City Council has been developing its municipal waste strategy since 2005. The strategy aims to reduce the City's reliance on landfill, thereby reducing the financial impacts of increasing landfill tax and potential penalties from not being able to meet government set targets.

The first part of this strategy, to improve waste and recycling collection services, was agreed in 2007 and is now largely in place. This included the expansion of the garden waste collection services to a total of 56,000 properties and replacement of the black box with the blue bin recycling scheme. Both of these have proved successful with recycling rates improving from 34% in 2007/8 to 37.5% in 2008/9.

Rates are expected to be even better this year when the schemes have a full year effect. However the City's targets cannot be achieved by recycling alone. The second part of the strategy is to find a solution for the residual waste that cannot be recycled and composted. Following two years of investigation and analysis, Executive agreed the following approach on 10th June, which was subsequently agreed by Scrutiny on 25th June.

- To reaffirm the **commitment to reduce municipal waste** by 15% of 2005/6 levels by 2020 and to recycle at least 55% of household waste by 2020.
- To **produce a detailed action plan** setting out how these targets will be achieved.
- To go ahead and procure the long term **residual waste treatment** requirements and any interim capacity that may be required before the long term solution is in place. The agreed capacity was **around 40,000 tonnes of residual waste treatment per annum**, and that all technologies should be considered **excluding incineration (but including other thermal treatments) in the long term. Incineration would only be considered as an interim measure**

The development of the long term solution will be complex and could include the procurement, planning, permitting and construction of a new facility in the City. This process could last up to seven years. Therefore securing interim arrangements will be crucial to protect from the risk during this period.

The next steps in delivering the strategy will be:

- **By October to have agreed the appropriate route** to be taken for both **the long term and interim procurements** with the view to start both as soon as possible.
- Ensure that the production of the joint **Local Development Framework Core Strategy** provides for the land use requirements of the strategy.
- To continue to work towards waste recycling and minimisation targets.

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<sup>1</sup>Extract from 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009 public pack for the EHT Partnership. The full document is available at

[http://www.newcastlepartnership.org.uk/tpl/uploads/EHTPship\\_20\\_7\\_09\\_agenda\\_pack.pdf](http://www.newcastlepartnership.org.uk/tpl/uploads/EHTPship_20_7_09_agenda_pack.pdf)

Improvement in recycling services for hard to reach homes, schools and community buildings will be the main focus for the remainder of 2009/10. The Waste Minimisation sub-group of the partnership will have a key role to play.