

 <b>REPORT TO EXECUTIVE</b> <a href="http://www.carlisle.gov.uk">www.carlisle.gov.uk</a>			
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA: INFRASTRUCTURE ENVIRONMENT &amp; TRANSPORT</b>			
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>		3/3/2003	
<b>Public</b>			
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Recorded in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Inside Policy Framework</b>			

**Title:** FUTURE OPTIONS FOR REFUSE AND RECYCLING

**Report of:** HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Report reference:** EPS.16/2003

### Summary:

The report sets out initial considerations for future waste management options.

### Recommendations:

Members are recommended to approve:

- i. That a Joint Working Group comprising of Officers and Members of the council and Eden District Council is established to investigate and assess the specific waste management options as listed in this report ;
- ii. That this Joint Working Group report back to Executive in May with its initial findings and recommendations.

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## Background:

1. Available data has indicated that the Green Box Recycling Trial scheme, along with the more recently introduced Garden Waste Collection Scheme, has helped to increase Carlisle's household waste recycling rate from 12.3% recorded in 2001/02 to 15% in 2002/03. It is anticipated that this rate will further increase to 18% in 2003/04 with the continuation and planned development of the kerbside recycling trial schemes.

However, these figures still fall some way short of the statutory recycling target for Carlisle, which was set at 22% of all household waste by 2003/04 and 30% by 2005/06. Whilst the Government has not confirmed what penalties will be imposed on authorities that fail to meet their targets, they have recently confirmed that they plan to introduce a 'Waste and Emissions Trading Bill' during the next parliament. That Bill will introduce a permit system to control the amount of waste that councils can send to landfill. This will have the effect of rewarding those who have moved away from dumping waste in landfills and penalise those who continue to do so.

A previous report presented to the Executive obtained approval for discussions to take place with Eden District Council to investigate the future options for developing and integrating the authority's refuse collection and recycling services in order to address the new statutory targets and the Waste Management Strategy for Cumbria. The options available to the authority include the following:

1. *Extending the Green Box recycling trial scheme (or some variation of) to all 'accessible' properties. The scheme can be extended either incrementally or in one fell swoop;*
2. *Extending the Wheeled Bin trial collection of garden waste to all accessible properties (N.B this would require the provision of a new large scale central composting site, possibly in partnership with the Waste Disposal Authority and its contractor). As with the Green Box scheme, the collection of garden waste can be extended either incrementally or in one fell swoop;*
3. *Changing the Council's refuse collection policy to ensure that, where properties have been supplied with a dedicated garden waste bin, only garden waste placed in that bin is collected (i.e no 'sides').*
4. *Providing those properties not included in future kerbside recycling schemes with alternative arrangements (e.g. reviewing and extending the number of Neighbourhood Recycling Centres).*
5. *Continuing and extending the partnership with Eden District Council to deliver kerbside recycling schemes.*
6. *Integrating kerbside recycling schemes with future refuse collection service. For example, refuse could be collected on alternate weeks to recyclables (i.e. Week 1 - refuse collection, Week 2 – Green Box and Garden waste*

*collection). A fortnightly refuse collection service could be introduced with the introduction of a new refuse collection contract (N.B. the current contract expires 31/08/04), or it could be introduced to those properties participating in the trial scheme following negotiations with the incumbent refuse collection contractor.*

*7. Joint refuse and recycling contract with Eden District Council.*

1. Moving this process forward will require will require a detailed investigation of the pros and cons of the above options. If Members from both authorities agree, it is proposed that a joint working group between the Council and Eden District Council (comprising of Officers and Members) be established to assess the available options and report back to the Executive with their recommendations and/or proposals.

### **3. Timetable.**

A detailed timetable will be developed when the preferred option(s) is/are identified (albeit mindful of the deadlines for the expiry of the refuse collection contract and the statutory waste reduction targets). However, it is proposed that the joint working group report back to the Executive in June/July with its findings and recommendations.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

### **4.1 Consultation to Date**

A survey of the public's response to the recycling trial schemes is currently underway. Results will inform the future development of our refuse and recycling service.

### **4.2 Consultation proposed.**

Consultation regarding cross-boundary working will be on-going with Eden District Council.

## **5. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS**

NIL.

## **6. HEAD OF FINANCE'S COMMENTS**

N/A.

## **7. LEGAL COMMENTS**

N/A.

## **8. CORPORATE COMMENTS**

N/A.

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT**

Risk assessments will be produced in subsequent more detailed options reports.

## **10. EQUALITY ISSUES**

NIL.

## **11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

NIL.

## **12. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

NIL.

## **13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are recommended to approve:

- i. That a Joint Working Group comprising of Officers and Members of the council and Eden District Council is established to investigate and assess the specific waste management options as listed in this report ;
- ii. That this Joint Working Group report back to Executive in May with its initial findings and recommendations.

## **14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To enable early discussions to take place regarding future waste management.

