

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE-25 SEPTEMBER 2001
CONTRACT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 2 OCTOBER 2001

BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEW - RECYCLING

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Abstract

The report outlines the BVSR into the Councils Recycling initiative and highlights the outcome of the Improvement Plan.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that both committees agree the implementation of the Improvement Plan for the jointly provided recycling service.

2. BACKGROUND

This is a joint service review on the recycling of waste involving the Environmental & Consumer Protection Service and Contract Services.

Angus Council has adopted a hierarchy for waste which is: -

- Encouragement of waste minimisation at source.
- Recycling whenever possible
- Waste to Energy Generation at DERL
- Landfill

The recycling service is an integral component of the present waste disposal for Angus. It will also form an essential part of the Area Waste Strategy Plan currently under development in conjunction with SEPA and neighbouring local authorities.

The purpose of the recycling service is to promote and increase recycling as means of waste control, reduction in waste landfill charges and conservation of resources for the benefit of the citizens of Angus and society as a whole. This is carried out by provision of manned recycling centres, materials collection, electricity generation (via DERL), transportation, marketing, promotion and education.

The whole process is interlinked with waste management and must adapt to take account of waste collection and disposal methods as well as changes in government guidelines and targets to meet European Community requirements.

The recycling service is effectively a statutory duty as Angus must meet recycling targets. New national performance indicators were recently developed and new recycling targets will be introduced shortly. The European Commission Landfill Directive sets targets for the amount of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill. The first of these targets us that by the year 2006 the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that a council sends to landfill must be reduced to three-quarters of the 1995 level. In the case of the United Kingdom, a four-year derogation applies in relation to the targets. Alternative methods of municipal waste disposal will have to be found and recycling will become a higher priority. Major improvements in strategy and infrastructure will require several years planning and building.

Maintenance of the status quo is therefore not an option. The service must continue to develop to meet national and community obligations.

3. CONSULTATION AND COMPARISON

The service has in place a system of customer consultation for users of the recycling centres. A user database is established and has been used for 3 surveys of users. A further survey is at present being planned. The issue of consultation with non-service users is relevant to establish the reasons for non-use, and this would help with future planning to expand the service.

Complaint/Feedback forms are available to users at recycling centres and they are collated monthly and acted on if appropriate. There are few returns but evidence exists that improvements have been made as a result.

The service provides performance indicator returns. The indicators for Environmental Services were changed for 1999/2000 and the new statistics have been used for comparative analysis in this review. From the tables in Appendix 3 published by Audit Scotland, the following conclusions are drawn.

The percentage of household waste recycled in Angus has risen from 10.7% in 1996/97 to 13.5% in 1999/2000.

Within the mixed authority category Angus has by far the higher percentage of waste recycled at 13.8%. The next in this category is East Renfrewshire is 7.8%.

Within Scotland, Angus has the third highest percentage of household waste recycled.

4. IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Improvement Plan shown as Appendix 6 to the full report is attached.

A copy of the full report is available in the Members Lounge.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Improvements to service as a result of this BVSR will be accommodated within existing budget.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

There are no Human Rights issues raised by this report.

7. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, The Director of Law and Administration, and The Director of Finance have been consulted on the contents of this report.

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report).

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