

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE - 10 APRIL 2001  
CONTRACT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 17 APRIL 2001

BEST VALUE SERVICE REVIEW - WASTE DISPOSAL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSUMER PROTECTION AND  
CONTRACT SERVICES MANAGER

**Abstract**

In accordance with the Best Value Service Review timetable a report on Waste Disposal has been conducted jointly between Contract Services and Environmental and Consumer Protection and the outcome of the review is presented to both Environmental and Consumer Protection and Contract Services Committees.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that both Committees note the contents of the review of waste disposal and endorse the action plan implementation.

**2. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE STUDY**

The service review is intended as part of the jigsaw that will inform the Angus Council input into the Scottish National Waste Strategy. The precise task of the review group is to dovetail certain practical aspects of waste disposal delivery into a review that will inform the National Strategy as well as meet the test of the best value service review process.

In line with the Council's revised corporate model for best value service reviews the following points have been considered initially by the review team:

1. The purpose of the service - challenge what the service is there to provide.
2. Why we provide the service - challenge the reason why we provide the service.
3. What is delivered - challenge why we deliver the level of service we do.
4. When is it delivered - challenge the time it should be delivered/opening hours etc.
5. How it is delivered - challenge how we measure economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
6. Who provides the service - challenge whether it should be provided centrally, locally etc.
7. Who provides the service - challenge and consider alternative options of service provision.

**3. CONCLUSIONS OF THE REVIEW**

It is clear from the review that the Council is in an enviable position with regards to the disposal of waste. The decisions taken by the Council based on the external consultants report of 1994 has meant that there is no current pressing need to review the waste disposal function.

However E.U. and central government strategy, together with the disposal provision at DERL, could have a significant bearing on any future waste disposal provision and disposal costs. This will need to be closely monitored and the Waste Disposal Strategy for Angus Council amended to take account of any future developments, thus keeping Angus at the forefront of waste disposal provision for the foreseeable future.

The following are the recommendations of the review:

- The only option regarding waste disposal is to at least maintain the status quo. The Council is the envy of many other local authorities in respect of its waste disposal strategy and current facilities.
- The present shutdown of DERL (6 months) has emphasised the benefits of the Council's forward looking strategy when it adopted the proposal to have its own landfill facilities. This has proved extremely good value for money when compared with our local partners who now have to pay to haul waste 60 miles and pay gate prices for disposal.

- Although the Council is in good position at the present time with regard to waste disposal facilities, the situation should be reviewed in 3-5 years time. Experience has shown that the development of a new landfill site for waste disposal could take up to 6 to 10 years.
- Consider removal of all civic amenity skips from civic amenity sites and recycling centres.
- Provide additional manpower resources the costs to be met from increased charges.
- Allocate funds **urgently** to redevelop Arbroath Transfer Station to allow Montrose/Brechin waste to be transferred to DERL.
- Develop waste minimisation and recycling facilities, as funding will permit. Waste disposal should receive a high priority in funding by the Council as recommended in the Accounts Commission report.
- The policy of retaining landfill space for waste produced in Angus or by Angus based companies should be maintained, as it is a valuable asset. The policy could be reviewed at a future date.
- The pricing policy should be reviewed in light of the competitive prices detailed in the report.
- Fully implement the new Weighsoft software system at the landfill site/area offices/Finance Department

#### 4. ACTION PLAN

The action plan developed from the Service Review is as follows. The comments in asterisk show the action already taken or commissioned.

- Although the Council is in a good position at the present time with regard to waste disposal facilities the situation should be reviewed in 3-5 years time to ensure continuity of the landfill option for disposal of non energy feedstock waste.  
(This will be built into the Area Waste Strategy)
- Consider removal of civic amenity skips from civic amenity sites and recycling centres.  
(The Council has already agreed to remove the uncontrolled village CA sites and replace these with a controlled pickup point system. The non recyclable material skips at the Recycling Centres will be kept under review.)
- Provide additional manpower resource at the landfill including an accountable Manager who holds the relevant certificates of professional competency. (This has been build into the 01/02 budget and a report will be prepared to go to Contract Services and Personnel and Property Committees on the appointment).
- Allocate funds urgently to redevelop the Waste Transfer Station to allow greater ease of transport of waste to DERL.  
This work has been commissioned and will be funded from the Vehicles and Plant R & R Fund. Report 1032/00 refers).
- Maintain the policy of reserving landfill space at Restenneth for Angus based industry to maximise this valuable asset.
- The pricing policy should be reviewed in light of the cost comparisons detailed in the report.  
(The gate fee for industrial or commercial waste will rise to £18 per tonne from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2001 to reflect the costs prevailing within the industry).
- Fully implement the "Weighsoft" software system as a business tool for the waste disposal operation.  
(This is now programmed to be completed in 01/02).

#### 5. IMPLEMENTATION

Both the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection and the Contract Services Manager have agreed that the review be implemented during financial year 01/02. A copy of the full report is available in the members lounge.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

All financial implications resulting from this service review will be accommodated within the budgets held by the Environmental and Consumer Protection Department or Contract Services Department.

## **7. HUMAN RIGHTS**

There are no human rights issues to be addressed as a result of this report.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Law and Administration 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.

**S R Heggie**  
**Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection**

**M Graham**  
**Contract Services Manager**

**SH/JAS**  
**16 March 2001**