

## Report for Information

**Report to** Executive  
11 November 2009  
**Report of** Waste Management Working Party  
**Subject** Motion to Council – Waste Management

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### Purpose

To advise the Executive on how to take forward the issues raised in the motion to Council.

### Recommendations

To pursue the issues raised within the motion on waste management agreed by Council on 14 July 2009 through the Norfolk Waste Partnership

### Financial Consequences

Any financial consequences will be managed from within existing and approved budgets.

### Strategic Objective/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority “Safe and healthy neighbourhoods – working in partnership with residents to create neighbourhoods where people feel secure, where the streets are clean and well maintained, where there is good quality housing and local amenities and where there are active local communities” and the service plan priority to implement the integrated Waste Management Strategy.

**Executive member:** Councillor Morrey – Sustainable City Development

**Ward:** All

### Contact Officers

Adrian Akester

01603 213521

### Background Documents

Integrated Waste Management Strategy

## **Report**

### **Motion to Council – Waste Management**

#### **1. Background**

Following the decision of Norfolk County Council not to proceed with “Contract A” for the treatment and ultimate disposal of residual waste a motion was agreed Council on 14 July 2009 as follows: -

Council resolves to:-

- (1) ask the Executive to press the county council to :-
  - (a) support the City Council's proposals for a waste recovery centre close to the city;
  - (b) support the development of small businesses that make use of locally collected materials to establish and promote local jobs and business;
  - (c) explore complimentary options to increase the proportion of waste that can be turned into something useful on a Norwich or wider scale, for instance food waste;
  - (d) encourage cross council working locally to explore options for minimising residual waste and appropriate ways of disposing of it;
- (2) ask the Waste Management Working Party to consider the response from the County Council, and in due course to advise the Executive on how to take this matter forward.

#### **2. Considerations by Waste Management Working Party**

The motion was discussed at the meeting of Waste Management Working Party on the 22 July 2009. Representatives from Norfolk County Council attend the meeting to update members on “Contract A” and to discuss their response to the motion. A formal written response (attached at Appendix 1) to the motion was also received dated 6 August 2009.

The County Council acknowledged that in the absence of Contract A there was work to be done but provided reassurance that Norfolk would still meet its waste targets by implementing a range of initiatives which were still to be decided.

These initiatives include maximising the potential of the proposed PFI waste treatment facility (Contract B), securing the use of proposed or existing treatment options that may be available and participating in the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

Further, Norfolk County Council agreed that all must work together towards minimising residual waste and was committed to inter-council working for the development of joint strategies, themed activities and the need to carry on moving away from the production of residual waste towards more sustainable and friendly options.

Discussion also revolved around the services provided by Norwich City Council


and the letting of the new contracts. Within this process optional elements have been included such as maximising reuse and recycling of bulky items, provision of a food waste collection service and increasing landfill diversion of residual waste to more than 50% - all of which are options that could be taken up dependant on resource being available.

Norfolk County Council expressed it was willing to explore the potential to incentivise activities such as food waste collections and was willing to meet with the representatives from Norwich City Council to discuss any initiatives that were being considered.

### **3. Conclusions**

The discussion highlighted the need to work together not just between the two councils, but also with our neighbouring district councils to achieve the desired goals. It was therefore decided that the issues should be pursued through the Norfolk Waste Partnership and to advise Executive accordingly.

**Director : Mike Jackson**

  
**A 4 star council**

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Please ask for: Mr M Allen  
Contact number: 01603 223222

Your ref:  
My ref: ma/ps

6 August 2009

Dear Mr Jones

**Waste Management**

Thank you for your letter. Please find below Norfolk County Council's response :

The County Council is pleased that Norwich City Council continues to be supportive of the need to move waste away from landfill in order to achieve Government and European targets.

The County Council acknowledges that in the absence of Contract A, there is work to be done, but can provide reassurance that Norfolk can still meet its waste targets by implementing a range of initiatives. These could include:

- maximising the potential of its proposed PFI waste treatment facility (Contract B)
- securing the use of proposed or existing treatment options that may be available in the short to medium term
- participating in the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme as Government intended.

The County Council agrees with your statement that the first objective must be to work towards minimising the amount of residual waste made available for collection and disposal. The County Council, as part of the Norfolk Waste Partnership, is committed to inter-council working in this area and is keen to continue to fully participate in the further development of joint waste strategies, themed activities, publications and waste conferences. The County Council has for a long time been at the leading edge of waste

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Mr W A Jones  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Norwich City Council  
City Hall  
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Working with



reduction activities and its Real Nappies Scheme, School Waste Action Club, Materials Exchange Website, Business Waste Reduction and re-use schemes are well used, widely respected and indeed award winning.

The success of Norfolk Waste Partnership's work in this area has resulted in more than 40% of the county's household waste being recycled, reused or composted and thus diverted from landfill. This has led to a reduction in the amount of residual waste for subsequent treatment or disposal, an achievement that was recently endorsed when each Norfolk council received approximately £200,000 through an LPSA reward grant.

This "shift" away from the production of residual waste towards more sustainable and environmentally friendly options has further emphasised the benefits of a phased approach to the procurement of residual waste treatment facilities. Indeed, DEFRA and the Treasury have shown confidence in Norfolk's approach through the provision of extra funding worth £169m over the next 25 years to help meet the cost of future residual waste services.

The County Council, through its company NEWS, provides a strategically important materials recycling facility (MRF) close to the city at Costessey. This delivers benefits directly to the City Council and householders in Norwich and across Norfolk. In the centre of the city, at Mile Cross, and at convenient sites around the city, the County Council provides householders with facilities at recycling centres where a wide range of waste materials are recovered including fluorescent tubes, tetra packs, batteries, engine oil and garden waste. Re-usable household items are identified and recovered from all of the council's recycling centres, including Mile Cross in Norwich. In Norwich alone, in 2008/9, 57 tonnes of previously unwanted household items were sent from the Mile Cross recycling for re-use elsewhere.

The County Council would like to draw attention to its support for South Norfolk, Norwich and Broadland Councils' collective work with Brightgreen, a not-for-profit organisation, towards the provision of a waste recycling and recovery facility on the outskirts of Norwich. South Norfolk is "lead authority" on this project and progress is reported to the Norfolk Waste Partnership.

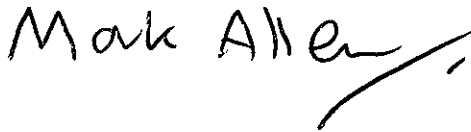
The County Council, through the MRF at Costessey, its 19 recycling centres across the county, its Norse group of companies and the network of sub-contractors which, together, deliver waste services to the residents of Norfolk, delivers local employment and business development opportunities. The County Council also has a dedicated team of officers who support and help businesses in Norfolk by providing impartial and practical advice geared to helping them reduce the amount of waste they generate and to minimise their waste costs, a service which is of value during the current economic climate.

The County Council also provides financial support to Norfolk councils and voluntary organisations for household recycling through its Recycling Credit scheme. Nearly £6 million of funding was paid out via this scheme in 2008/09. The County Council has highlighted that it is willing to explore the potential to further incentivise activities such as the collection of food waste that would increase the diversion of biodegradable household waste away from landfill in a financially and environmentally advantageous manner.

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The County Council hopes that any City Council proposals for the development of waste services will continue to build on and enhance those already provided by the County Council. Officers from the County Council are, of course, willing to meet with those from the City to discuss any initiatives that the City Council may be considering.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Allen" followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Mark Allen

**Head of Environment & Waste**