

# Towards a Municipal Waste Strategy For Warrington Borough Council

## Stakeholder & Citizen Panel consultation Key outcomes report

### Quest Associates

#### **The consultation process**

As a component of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process two panels were convened to offer an input of views as an early stage of strategy development. A 'stakeholder' and a 'citizens' group' convened by the Borough Council were consulted about aspects of waste management in Warrington.

Both groups went through the same process at three 3-hour workshops in November and December 2006. Delegates were provided information by AEA Energy & Environment on a series of issues related to waste management and the future. They were then invited to discuss the issues give then their views.

The process was facilitated by Quest Associates, an independent firm that specialises in stakeholder consultations.

#### **This outcomes report**

This report provides a headline summary of key outcomes from all the areas of the consultation. In order to gain a more detailed insight into the discussions, this report should be read in conjunction with the six more detailed outcomes reports produced for each of the consultation sessions.

### **1) How to reduce waste and increase recycling**

Partly as a warm-up participation exercise, delegates were invited to come up with ideas for how Warrington Council could encourage a reduction in waste arisings and also increase recycling rates.

In a 20-minute session the two groups identified 130 ideas. Top ideas delegates wished to be highlighted were as follows:

- *Re-educate people - educate children to recycle*
- *Minimise packaging, reduce amount at national level, make it a national issue with local initiatives*
- *Make the public aware of the financial consequences*

- *Provide more household waste centres*
- *Provide incentives to households to produce less waste*
- *We need a culture change*
- *We need a better weekly collection rate*
- *Provide more local/regional waste centres*
- *Improve kerbside collection - collect glass and plastics*
- *Increase provision of recycling bins to local industry*
- *Reduce junk mail*
- *Local government must help the person to reduce*
- *Recycle general waste*
- *Speed up emptying of collection banks*
- *Publicise/offer real nappy service*
- *Encourage/incentivise home composting*
- *Collections for those who have no transport e.g. bottles from the elderly*
- *Sell waste for gain - business opportunities, shredding service*

## **2) SEA criteria identification and prioritisation**

Both groups identified a number of criteria by which options within the SEA should be assessed.

These were analysed by AEA and organised into a list of 15 key criteria.

Respondents then allocated weightings to the criteria according to their relative significance in the context of Warrington.

Both the stakeholder group and citizen panel arrived at a remarkably similar weighting. The averaged out percentage weightings are given in the below

<b>No.</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>%</b>
1.	Minimise <b>nuisance</b> from noise, odour, dust, litter and vermin generation	<b>9.5</b>
2.	Minimise <b>local transport movements</b>	<b>4.4</b>
3.	Minimise <b>local health</b> impact from waste treatment technologies	<b>10.2</b>
4.	Minimise impact to <b>soil and water</b>	<b>6.5</b>
5.	Minimise impact on <b>air quality</b> from waste treatment and transport emissions	<b>7.2</b>
6.	Help tackle <b>climate change</b> by minimising greenhouse gas emissions	<b>8.7</b>
7.	Minimise <b>visual</b> impact	<b>3.6</b>
8.	Maximise <b>resource efficiency</b> (land, water and other resources)	<b>7.7</b>
9.	Minimise <b>costs</b> of waste management	<b>5.9</b>
10.	Maximise <b>economic and social benefits</b>	<b>7.2</b>
11.	Minimise <b>risks</b> through ensuring <b>maturity and flexibility of technology</b>	<b>6.8</b>
12.	Maximise <b>public acceptability</b> and likelihood of obtaining planning permission	<b>4.1</b>
13.	To ease dependency on <b>public involvement</b> and considering <b>health &amp; safety</b>	<b>4.3</b>
14.	Meet targets for <b>reduce, recycling/composting and recovery</b>	<b>8.3</b>
15.	Meet government <b>targets set for diverting biodegradable waste</b> from landfill	<b>5.7</b>

The criteria have been re-ordered below by relative priority:

No.	Criteria	%
3.	Minimise <b>local health</b> impact from waste treatment technologies	<b>10.2</b>
1.	Minimise <b>nuisance</b> from noise, odour, dust, litter and vermin generation	<b>9.5</b>
6.	Help tackle <b>climate change</b> by minimising greenhouse gas emissions	<b>8.7</b>
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12.	Maximise <b>public acceptability</b> and likelihood of obtaining planning permission	<b>4.1</b>
7.	Minimise <b>visual</b> impact	<b>3.6</b>

### **3) Waste reduction targets**

The groups were invited to consider what targets Warrington should set for waste reduction by 2010 and 2020.

They were informed that households in Warrington currently dispose of 10.5 kg per week. This is estimated to rise to 12 kg per week by 2010. Before making an assessment the group discussed a range of factors that needed to be considered in suggesting a target.

The outcomes are given in the table. Again there was a strong level of correlation between the two groups.

	<b>Waste reduction target</b> (Kg per household per week)	
	<b>By 2010</b>	<b>By 2020</b>
<b>Stakeholders</b>	9.3	8.1
<b>Citizens' panel</b>	9.4	7.5
<b>Average</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>

Some comments related to the waste reduction targets:

- *We need to at least match the best*
- *External factors are overwhelming*
- *Let's be ambitious and optimistic*
- *Be realistic - packaging trends are against us*
- *Learn from Devon - if they can do it!*
- *Stopping an increase would be a start - set achievable targets*

## 4) Composting/recycling targets

Both groups were invited to consider what targets Warrington should set for recycling/composting by 2010 and 20120.

They were informed that the outcome for 2006/7 in Warrington is likely to be 24%. The Government target for 2010 is 40% , rising to 50% by 2020. Before making an assessment, the group discussed a range of factors to be considered in suggesting a target.

The outcomes are given in the table. Again there was a strong level of correlation between the two groups.

	Recycling/composting target (% of household waste)	
	By 2010	By 2020
<b>Stakeholders</b>	43.4	58.4
<b>Citizens' panel</b>	42.1	59.2
<b>Average</b>	42.4	59.0

Some comments related to the recycling/composting targets:

- *Trend is towards being much more ambitious*
- *More awareness by 2020*
- *Attitudes and policies are shifting*
- *Need to be challenging but realistic*
- *Go for it! - especially when charges come in*
- *This will work if people are encouraged and not penalised*

## 5) Considering changes to collection services

The groups were invited to give their views on the most appropriate future collection regime for garden/kitchen/residual waste.

	Collection service	Stakeholders	Citizens
1.	Garden waste fortnightly Residual weekly	0	0
2.	Garden waste fortnightly Residual fortnightly	0	0
3.	Garden/kitchen waste weekly Residual weekly	1	2
4.	Garden/kitchen waste fortnightly Residual weekly	0	2
5.	Garden/kitchen waste weekly Residual fortnightly	3	11
6.	Garden/kitchen waste fortnightly Residual fortnightly	3	7

Some comments related to the recycling/composting targets:

- *Some larger households generate a lot of waste*
- *Concern about odour/health issues, especially in summer months*
- *Flexibility needed for different circumstances*
- *Initially changes require courage*
- *Look to where it is working elsewhere*
- *Regularity is good - habit forming*
- *Need to be easy, logical and cost-effective*

## **6) Waste imports and exports**

The groups were briefed about the historical and current situation on the waste imports and exports to the borough.

They then identified and discussed factors that should inform opinions on this issue before indicating their view as expressed below:

<b>Should we import waste from other areas?</b>					
	<b>Strongly against</b>		<b>No strong opinion</b>		<b>Strongly in favour</b>
<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>5</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Citizens</b>	1	1	0	<b>15</b>	1

There was a strong divergence of view between the two groups on this issue

### **Some key views from stakeholder group:**

- *we shouldn't set a precedent*

### **Key views from citizen panel:**

- *be leaders not followers;*
- *taking a positive responsible attitude to waste;*
- *helps ensure our viability;*
- *gives WBC a stronger hand;*
- *helps us deal with our waste more efficiently*
- *economics - jobs potential*

<b>Should we export our waste to other areas?</b>					
	<b>Strongly against</b>		<b>No strong opinion</b>		<b>Strongly in favour</b>
<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>4</b>	0	1	0	0
<b>Citizens</b>	<b>8</b>	5	2	3	0

There was a greater consensus view on the exporting issue:

- *We should own the problem and the solution*
- *People will act if they have to take responsibility (for their waste)*
- *Good argument for exporting specialist waste*

- *Don't want us to be held to ransom*
- *We produce it - we should deal with it*
- *If we can't afford our own kit, we could use others*

## **7) Views about waste technologies**

AEA briefed participants about the different key technologies that could be employed to deal with residual waste in Warrington.

Following questions of clarification, delegates were invited to indicate their views on the different technologies:

<b>Technology</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Strongly against</b>		<b>No strong opinion</b>		<b>Strongly in favour</b>
<b>Landfill</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>4</b>	1	0	0	0
	<b>Citizens</b>	<b>15</b>	1	1	1	1
<b>Energy from waste</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	1	0	1	0	<b>3</b>
	<b>Citizens</b>	1	0	1	2	<b>12</b>
<b>Advanced thermal</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	0	<b>2</b>	1	0	<b>2</b>
	<b>Citizens</b>	2	0	6	<b>7</b>	2
<b>MBT</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>2</b>	1	1	0	1
	<b>Citizens</b>	1	4	<b>9</b>	1	3
<b>Autoclaving</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>3</b>	0	2	0	0
	<b>Citizens</b>	0	5	<b>10</b>	2	1

## **8) Key messages to the Council**

At the end of the final session, delegates were invited to give one key message to Warrington Council related to the strategy development.

### **Stakeholder group**

- *Reach out to members of the public who don't get involved already*
- *Let's be a shining example e.g. transport by water, hide the site in a wildlife have - think outside the box*
- *Regular collections to suit all residents - apartments/townhouses/older people*
- *Knowledge is everything, consulting people should hopefully work wonders!*

### **Citizens panel**

- *Be realistic*
- *Use a strategy that will be long-term*

- *Circulate lots of information re possibilities*
- *Education and understanding*
- *More information to be made public to keep people informed*
- *Educate, communicate and reward!*
- *Please explain to public chosen strategy via cost/benefit justification*
- *Keep the public up to date with information*
- *Consider residential collections as opposed to kerbside*
- *Warrington should deal with its own waste*
- *Do `120% of any 'estimate'*
- *Think to the future*
- *This is for the future - think carefully*
- *Don't pick the cheapest solution - commercially viable - not a quick cheap fix*
- *Listen to people's views*
- *Take into your decision making public opinion*
- *Your grandkids are depending on you to make good choices*
- *Think people, think environment, forget politics*

**End**

Quest Associates

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