

## **Motion- Waste**

In the context of the mothballing of the waste processing plants at Thornton and Leyland, full council mandates officers to approach County with a view to joint working in order to develop locally-sourced solutions to processing the district's domestic and commercial waste (including organic waste) and solid recyclables, solutions which aim to minimise transportation and other environmental impacts; and which maximise employment in the district. Full council further asks officers to include in their assessment a full investigation of the potential of facilities in both the public and private sectors and to report back in September 2016 on how the aims set out in this motion are being, or are planned to be, achieved in conjunction with County.

Proposed by Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox. Seconded by Cllrs Caroline Jackson, Abi Mills and Andrew Kay

### **Officer Briefing Note-**

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 clearly defines the responsibilities of waste collection authorities (eg Lancaster City Council) and waste disposal authorities (eg Lancashire County Council). In very broad terms it is the responsibility of Lancaster City Council to collect household waste and recycling and the responsibility of Lancashire County Council to make arrangements to dispose of it. The Act makes it very clear that the County Council has powers of direction in this regard- essentially it is for the County Council to determine how the disposal of waste and recyclables will be dealt with and what range of recyclables they will deal with.

The County Council have a Lancashire wide infrastructure and disposal chain in place to achieve that.

What is proposed would represent a significant change in the policies of both the County and City Council. It would also have ongoing implications in terms of finance, governance and service delivery.

The Motion if approved appears to essentially commission a feasibility study that would of course require a detailed business case.

The capacity of the two officers who would have the most direct involvement in this (Chief Officer (Environment) and Waste Manager) is currently directed to delivering the Council's corporate plan, ensuring services run on a day to day basis and delivering the significant changes to service delivery required to balance the Council's budget (eg charging for garden waste, increasing enforcement). This will be case for the whole of 2016/17.

In order to approve this Motion the Council would need to redirect some senior Officer capacity to leading the work. Realistically this would require Council to consider deferring some of its proposed income generation projects in the service area in 2016/17.

Furthermore, there is no capacity in-house to undertake the detailed and specialised assessment work that the development of a business case would require. Therefore the Council would also have to consider how to the allocation of additional resource to fund the services of a specialised consultant to work on the business case.

Additional accountancy resource would also be required to allow modelling of the financial elements of the business case.

Even if the Council were minded to resource all the above consideration would need to be given to the timescales in the Motion. As explained a significant amount of preparatory work would be required before the actual assessment and development of the business plan. In order to do the work properly it would not be possible to report back in September 2016. A more realistic timescale would need to be agreed once a scope had been settled on.

What is proposed would also require the agreement and support of the County Council. At this stage Officers obviously cannot say whether the County would support such a concept. Based on the financial context of the County Council it is a reasonable presumption that only if there was clearly a significant financial saving for the County would this be something that they would consider. Obviously, in order to first make a case to the County Council a business case would be required, which of course requires the resource referred to above.

Clearly this point also applies to the City Council. The City Council's financial outlook is also bleak. Until a detailed business case is developed there is no way of knowing whether what is proposed would be in the City Council's best interests. This is clearly a risk the Council would need to consider.

Chief Officer (Environment)

### **Section 151 Officer Comments**

Drawing on the Officer briefing note above, the s151 Officer would advise Council to focus its use of resources on delivering the already approved programme of service changes / budgetary measures.

### **Monitoring Officer Comments**

The Monitoring Officer has no further comments