

Report No:	RESC11-10-08
File No:	
Date:	13 October 2011
Decision Required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Engineering Services Committee
Meeting Date: 27 October 2011
Report Author: David Stephenson
Subject: **Waste Education Services 2012**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Waste Education to schools, businesses and community groups is currently delivered through a contracted service with the Nelson Environment Centre (NEC).

This report seeks approval to modify this arrangement for the 2012 calendar year with waste education to schools delivered internally by Council staff and for remaining activities to be delivered by the Nelson Environment Centre.

Delivery of waste education and wider behaviour change will be considered in more detail in the upcoming year following adoption of Council's Joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan with Nelson City Council.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Engineering Manager be delegated authority to negotiate an extension of Contract 651 with the Nelson Environment Centre.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Engineering Services Committee receives the report Waste Education Services 2012 RESC11-10-08 and;

THAT the Engineering Manager be given delegated authority to negotiate an extension of Contract 651 with the Nelson Environment Centre from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012, for delivery of waste education services as noted in the report RESC11-10-08.

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report updates the committee on delivery of waste education to schools, businesses and the community and seeks approval for the Engineering Manager to negotiate an extension of Contract 651 with the Nelson Environment Centre (NEC) for waste education services to businesses and the community.

2. Background

- 2.1 Contract 651 for waste education services was awarded to the NEC in June 2005 for the delivery of education services to schools businesses and the wider Tasman District community.
- 2.2 Nelson City Council also engages NEC to deliver these services, and the delivery is well coordinated across the region through joint contract meetings and a high level of cooperation between Tasman District and Nelson City Councils.
- 2.3 In May of this year Nelson City Council (on behalf of the two Councils) sought expressions of interest for delivery of these services for a three-year period commencing January 2012. Three responses were received and assessed by Nelson City and Tasman District staff.
- 2.4 When assessing the responses, it became clear that a wider review of the waste education delivery model was required. Staff of the two Councils agreed that a study of behaviour change in waste minimisation should be initiated following the adoption of the Councils' proposed Joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (in March 2012). Staff agreed that a "businesses as usual" model would be appropriate for the 2012 year.
- 2.5 In parallel with the expression of interest process, Tasman District staff in the environmental education area expressed an interest in delivering waste education services for Tasman District. Engineering and strategic development

staff met to discuss this proposal and have since agreed that waste education in schools, early childhood centres (ECE's) and some community events will be delivered by Council staff, primarily using the Enviroschools model.

- 2.6 Staff have since met with NEC and have received a proposal to extend Contract 651 (in areas excluding schools and ECE's).
- 2.7 Nelson City Council has recently extended its contract with NEC for the 2012 year for waste education in schools, ECE's, businesses and community.

3. Present Situation/Matters to be Considered

- 3.1 Council staff are seeking delegated authority to continue waste education services through NEC on a business as usual basis (excluding schools and ECE's) for the upcoming year, pending the outcome of a wider behavioural change study by the Councils.

4. Financial/Budgetary Considerations

- 4.1 The proposal received by NEC fits within confirmed funding for the 2011/12 year and proposed funding for the 2012/13 year.

5. Options

- 5.1 Council has indicated waste education as a level of service measure in the Ten Year Plan and Annual Plan. Options at this stage are to:
- continue all delivery through NEC
 - deliver all services through Council staff, or
 - a mixture of the two options.
- 5.2 Delivery of services through a new procurement process is not considered sensible at this stage because of the status of the current Joint WMMP and the upcoming study of behaviour change programmed for mid 2012.

6. Pros and Cons of Options

- 6.1 Staff have considered continuing the delivery of all services through NEC on a business as usual basis. This option has advantages in that the current contractor has a good knowledge of the subject area, considerable experience in delivery and extensive contacts. However, there is some concern that waste education delivery in schools and ECE's has significant overlap with Council's Environmental Education delivery.

- 6.2 Delivery of all waste education services could be resourced entirely through internal staff, however it is likely that this capability (except in the area of schools) would take some time to develop. Because the delivery methodology is programmed to be reviewed in the new year, this effort could be considered a waste of time should the delivery model change.
- 6.3 Delivering waste education through a mix of internal and external resources is considered to offer several advantages. Delivery of services to schools and ECE's through the EnviroSchools model will give a single point of contact and there is some evidence to suggest that this model will deliver more sustainable, long term change. Continuing services to businesses and the community through the contracted model will provide a cost-effective, consistent service, provide a good level of co-ordination with Nelson City Council and cost savings through shared services.
- 6.4 Delivery of waste education internally at Tasman District and externally by Nelson City will also allow a comparison of the two options for future work.

7. Evaluation of Options

- 7.1 It is considered that the third option (delivery through a mixed internal and contracted service) provides the optimum delivery of the service for Council at present.

8. Significance

- 8.1 This is/is not a significant decision according to the Council's Significance Policy because the proposed activities do not breach the thresholds in the policy.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 That the report is received.

10. Timeline/Next Steps

- 10.1 The proposed approach has been discussed with NEC who have responded in a constructive manner. Resources, databases and contacts have been offered and NEC are working to provide a seamless transition to internal delivery. Should the contract extension be granted, Nelson City, Tasman District and NEC staff will continue to meet regularly to ensure consistency of delivery and, as much as possible, a common approach.

10.2 Nelson City and Tasman District staff are working to engage a consultant for consideration of behavioural change methods, and this work is expected to commence in March 2012. Results from this work are expected in June 2012, to enable procurement of services for 2013.

11. Draft Resolution

11.1 THAT the Engineering Services Committee receives the report Waste Education Services 2012, RESC11010-08 and

11.2 THAT the Engineering Manager be given delegated authority to negotiate an extension of Contract 651 with the Nelson Environment Centre from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012, for delivery of waste education services as noted in the report RESC11-10-08.