

STAFF REPORT

TO: Chair and Members Engineering Services

FROM: Utilities Asset Engineer, David Stephenson

REFERENCE: CN050651

DATE: 30 May 2006

SUBJECT: **WASTE EDUCATION SERVICES – WORK WITH INDUSTRIAL / COMMERCIAL SECTOR**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to outline to the Engineering Services Committee the current and proposed activities of Waste Education Services (WES) with the commercial and industrial sectors.

2 BACKGROUND

Waste Education Services were awarded a contract in April 2005 to perform waste education services for Council. This contract was for a one year period, on a trial basis and included waste education services for businesses.

At the April 2006 Engineering Services Committee, approval was given for award of a further three year contract to WES, reviewable annually. This extension to the contract is currently being formalised.

3 CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The contract between WES and the Council for the current financial year requires:

- On-site interviews with 50 businesses within the district;
- Gathering of waste stream data from these businesses;
- Education of these businesses in the area of waste minimisation, via the waste survey process; and
- Reporting of these results to Council.

In October and November 2005, WES “cold called” 33 businesses in and around the Richmond CBD. Of these businesses, 21 interviews were secured. Reasons for declined interviews were recorded, and reported subsequently.

Business interviews were initially sought with large TDC credit customers – large waste producers – but quickly established that commercial, or “papery”, businesses were more likely to have recyclable waste than industrial businesses.

Interviews with the 21 business ranged between twenty minutes and one hour. Businesses were introduced to waste minimisation principles, surveyed on their existing waste stream and barriers to further waste minimisation were identified.

In March 2006 WES produced a draft report detailing the findings of the first series of business interviews. Included in this report were the results of the waste stream survey, a list of barriers to waste minimisation and preliminary recommendations. Results to date include:

- A significant number of businesses are not interested or feel the need to practice waste minimisation; these businesses typically were not available for interview.
- In contrast, of those businesses surveyed, most already perform some waste minimisation or recycling activities.
- Cardboard is the waste that is most frequently recycled.
- There is significant demand for a commercial paper and plastics recycling collection in Richmond.
- Most businesses in Richmond stated a lack of space or suitable storage as a barrier to recycling.
- A significant number of industrial businesses identified the need for a suitable reuse facility in the region.

It was agreed with WES that a further 30 interviews would be conducted by telephone and the report finalised upon conclusion of these surveys. These interviews are continuing at present.

4 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The proposal accepted by WES for the upcoming three years provides \$15,400 per annum for business education activities (22% of the annual contract sum).

The proposal is detailed, but in brief it provides for:

- Follow-up visits to businesses visited in Year 1 to assist in the establishment of waste minimisation initiatives.
Twenty five businesses will be visited each year.
- Support of an in-house waste audit at Council (2006/2007).
- Adaptation of nationally available business waste minimisation information and provision of a one-stop information service for businesses (2006/2007).
- Presentations to and discussions with business groups, key contacts and industry clusters to promote waste minimisation and identify success stories (four per annum).
- On-going business survey activities.
- Investigation of and support for the creation of a Business Waste Minimisation Group (2007/2008).

- Investigation of construction waste streams and opportunities for reuse and recycling (2007/2008).
- Support of businesses seeking accreditation to existing Environmental Management Systems (2008/2009).

These activities look to build on the work undertaken in the first year, and provide significant opportunity for Council to actively promote waste minimisation.

5 RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

David Stephenson
Utilities Asset Engineer