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Corporate Plan Output: Solid Waste	

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the recent study done to determine future recycling options for the inner-city area (not covered by the current *Onyx* kerbside collection service).

BACKGROUND

On 12 May 1998 the City Services Committee received a report (RR 7601), and supported a study to determine the views of inner city businesses on the need for increased levels of inner city recycling services (acknowledging that there are already in existence several commercial recycling operators). The study was to address the possible role the Council could play in order to develop a structured approach together with the business community. The study was completed mid January 1999.

THE STUDY AND FINDINGS

The attachment contains the detail of the study including the findings, and as further background also refers to the findings of the October 1998 survey on glass recycling in the hospitality sector done by the Recovered Materials Foundation.

RESULTS

General findings were that:

- Corrugated cardboard, toner cartridges/ribbons, newspapers and other waste paper products constitute the main categories of waste generated by the participants.
- Only 50% of the participants recycled some of their waste. Of the given categories, cardboard recycling achieved greatest participation. (Note that 81% of businesses generate this type of waste.)
- 56% of the participants would prefer once a week and 30% a 2-3 times a week collection of recyclables.
- Strong indication that participants will participate only if it is easy and at ‘no-cost-to-my business’.
- Kerbside collection services for the inner-city area were strongly supported.
- The uncertainty amongst participants about current recycling options suggests that increased and targeted communication and education is required.

The two key findings are that:

- 82% of participants are not prepared to pay for the collection of recyclables. This may be partly based on the perception that recycling is a very profitable business to be in involved in;

- 87% of participants believe collection of recyclables should be a service facilitated by the Council.

These findings indicate that *Education and Communication* needs to be targeted and improved, getting across essential information, knowledge and skills.

THE WAY FORWARD

Seeing that there is an acknowledgment of the role the Council can play as facilitator towards increased inner city recycling, it is proposed that a working group be established. The expected outcome for the group should be to advise the Council on how to best advance inner city waste initiatives. As recycling is lower than reduce and reuse in the international waste management hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and residue disposal), a wider focus than just recycling should be focused on. The working group could consist of interested parties from inner city businesses and business associations together with recycling operators, as well as any other interested parties. The working group will function in addition to the current Green Retail waste minimisation initiative which has worked with 12 inner-city retailers over nine months to reduce waste at source. *Central City Marketing* will also be invited to join the group.

Finalising a strategy for targeted education and communication is important to ensure proper allocation of resources and will be completed in the next few months. Such a strategy is crucial for achieving the overall *goal*, and conforming with the *key principle* of public participation in education and communication, as set out in the *1998 Waste Management Plan for Solid and Hazardous Waste*. In future more resources are likely to be needed for education and communication in order to achieve the goal of *no waste to landfill after 2020*. Communication and education are crucial to advancing reduce, reuse, recycling and recovery of waste.

SUMMARY

Key findings of a recent survey amongst inner city businesses done to determine future recycling options for the inner-city area were that:

- 82% of participants are not prepared to pay for the collection of recyclables;
- 87% of participants believe collection of recyclables should be a service facilitated by the Council.

It is recommended that a working party be established to progress waste issues for the inner city, as well as targeted and improved education.

- Recommendation:**
1. That an Inner City Waste Options working group be established, with representatives from all interested parties, to report quarterly to the City Services Committee on ways to improve waste management options in the inner city.
 2. That a *Strategy for Education and Communication* of Solid Waste issues including inner city recycling be presented to the July 1999 meeting of the City Services Committee. The strategy will also address whether increased funding and other resources are required to help achieve the goal of the 1998 Waste Management Plan for Solid and Hazardous Waste.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.