

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
WASTE MANAGEMENT PANEL – 26 MARCH 2003
FLY-TIPPING AND DUMPING IN HERTFORDSHIRE**

Item 4

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1. Purpose of Paper

This paper is intended to advise the Panel of the Environment Scrutiny Committee's recommendations arising from its scrutiny of fly-tipping and dumping in Hertfordshire.

2. Background

2.1 At its meeting of 18 March 2003, the Scrutiny Committee considered a report on issues surrounding the illegal dumping of wastes in Hertfordshire.

2.2 The report discussed the various issues and grouped them into one or other of four general categories; illegal dumping, fly-tipping, litter, and abandoned vehicles.

2.3 In discussing these issues, the Committee recognised them as being of great concern to the people of Hertfordshire.

2.4 In particular they welcomed the initiatives on:

- Countywide work on abandoned cars
- Waste Aware
- Rural Forum initiative to encourage reporting and minimise fly-tipping
- Fire Service Arson Strategy
- Joint Municipal Waste Strategy

2.5 In conclusion, the Committee recommended that the issues be taken forward through the Waste Management Panel possibly by setting up a joint, multi-agency working group to include the 10 Hertfordshire District and Borough Councils, the Environment Agency, the Police, the Fire Service and the National Farmers Union.

3. Analysis

3.1 The Panel will need to decide the best means by which multi-agency efforts could be brought to bear. The options that might be considered would include:

- Including it in the business of the Joint Waste Management Group (formally the Waste Strategy Development Group)
- Approaching the Environment Agency to set up and lead a group
- Approaching a district or borough council to set up and lead a group

- Setting up a new, specific, County Council-managed, group
- Each of these options has its merits but, given that the County Council's role in dealing with the issues is relatively minor in comparison to the Environment Agency and the District and Borough Councils, the latter would appear to be the least favourable.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 On balance, it would appear that building on the success of the Waste Strategy Development Group would offer the most favourable opportunities for success. The process of developing a waste strategy for Hertfordshire has demonstrated that effective joint working between the County's waste authorities can be achieved and that the network that has been established through the development work can be effective. This network could provide a strong foundation on which to build a wider, multi-agency group, specifically aimed at addressing the issues of illegal dumping and the like.
- 4.2 Any fresh initiative would clearly need to compliment other projects such as those organised by the Rural Forum and Fire and Rescue Service and be consistent with the ongoing Waste Aware campaign.