

Council, Tuesday 26 January, 2010

Administration Policy Item: Councillor Daniel Thomas

The Future Shape of Recycling

Council notes that a landfill tax of £2.50 per tonne for inactive waste must be paid and strict EU targets for reducing the amount of waste going to landfill are in place.

Council believes that in recent years strong progress has been made through increased composting, including the recent decision to move leaves to allotments rather than burn them and the kerbside collection of plastic bottles, tetra paks, cardboard and kitchen waste pilot. Council notes that there is still some distance to go before household recycling rates reach the desired level.

Council believes that to reach this target it is necessary to move away from the outdated concept that it is possible for the state to tax and legislate its way to changing people's behaviour.

Council further notes that successful pilot schemes here and in the United States which rely on incentivising people to recycle more have had a radical effect on increasing the rate of recycling.

Council requests that Cabinet closely examine these pilot schemes and draw up proposals for rewarding residents who reduce their waste, and/or increase their recycling rate, by granting a rebate or other form of reward.