

30 October 2012**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND
ENVIRONMENT****PROGRESS REPORT FROM OUTSIDE BODIES****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides an update to Committee on two outside bodies: The Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) Limited Advisory Panel and the Nottinghamshire Joint Waste Management Committee (JWMC), on which the Chairman of Environment and Sustainability Committee is the County Councils nominated representative.

Information and Advice

2. WREN is a non profit making environmental body (EB) registered to fund eligible projects in communities located close to landfill sites through the Landfill Communities Fund. The majority of the funding for WREN comes from landfill tax levied by FCC Environment (formerly Waste Recycling Group - WRG). The Regional Advisory Panels are responsible for recommending the allocation of funds to the WREN Board, and are made up of local people with experience within community, conservation and heritage organisations. County Councillor Richard Butler represents Nottinghamshire County Council on the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire WREN Regional Advisory Panel.
3. WREN funding can be used for projects for which the primary intent of the project is for the protection of the environment, the provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park; or another public amenity. An amenity is something that makes the environment more pleasant or comfortable and/or improves the aesthetic qualities of an area for the general public. All projects must relate to a park or amenity which protects either the built, natural or social environment. The amenity site must be open and accessible for the general public. It should be somewhere where the general public can go, join or use without any limit or restrictions of use (or with reasonable access costs) being in place. Work must be targeted on a specific amenity at a single location.
4. The Nottinghamshire JWMC was established in July 2009 to allow the various parties to jointly exercise their waste management responsibilities. The JWMC "Board" comprises an executive or other member (as permitted and enabled by the executive arrangements created and enabled by the Localism Act 2011) representing Nottinghamshire County Council, the seven district councils and Nottingham City Council. In addition, Veolia Environmental Services Nottinghamshire (the County Council's Waste PFI Contractor), and a senior officer responsible for waste management within each authority also attends the meetings.

5. Meetings take place approximately four times a year and cover a range of relevant issues as outlined below:
 - develop and implement sustainable waste management policies and practices to achieve best value for the people of Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City;
 - establish a mutually beneficial framework for changes and development of waste collection and disposal services;
 - minimise waste generation in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City and manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy;
 - maximise recycling and recovery levels from waste in order to meet or exceed European Union and United Kingdom targets as far as possible consistent with each party's capacity to fund those processes;
 - maximise value and performance from waste management contracts to the mutual benefit of the parties involved and the people of Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City.
6. Decisions of the Board requiring executive authority are recommended by the Board to each party for decision as appropriate under each party's constitution; the Board does not possess delegated executive powers or duties.

Summary of Progress

7. The WREN Advisory Panel meets 3 to 4 times per year to review potential projects and make recommendations to the WREN Board. So far in 2012/13 there have been two meetings, 19th April and 28th June. WREN only produce annual reports, therefore no quarterly data is available to present to committee.
8. In 2011/12 the following projects were undertaken in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, using funding from WREN amounting to £950,760:

Small Grant Scheme	
Askham Village Hall Improvements	£14,422
Farnsfield Methodist Church Refurbishment	£14,950
Netherfield – Bethesda Community Church Hall Upgrade	£15,000
Radcliffe on Trent – Upper Saxondale Play Park	£6,600
Rainworth Methodist Church Boiler Replacement	£4,000
Rempton Village Hall Upgrade	£10,053
Whetton Jubilee Hall Roof	£13,483
Main Grant Scheme	
Arnold – St Mary's Community Youth Club Renovation	£50,000
Attenborough Nature Reserve Visitor Support	£19,649
Beckingham – Old Willow Works Restoration	£50,000
Clifton Angell Green Park	£50,000
Eaton & Gamston Active Ancient Woodlands	£20,000
Elston Village Hall New Heating & Lighting	£50,000
Everton Playground Upgrade	£49,218
Gedling – Roberts Recreation Ground	£49,999
Newark Friary Gardens Access Improvements	£25,480
North Leverton – Blacksmith Playing Field MUGA	£49,000
Nottingham BMX Track Upgrade	£50,000
Nottingham – Forest Recreation Ground Promenade Refurbishment	£50,000
Nottingham - St Nicholas Church Lift Installation	£17,000
Nottingham Sycamore Park Revitalisation	£48,200

Nottingham – City College All Weather Sports Arena	£47,500
Nottingham – Robin Hood Chase Play Area	£49,999
Oxton Playspaces	£26,155
Retford – Oaklands Pavilion Refurbishment	£50,000
Silverdale Play Area Improvements Phase 2	£29,300
Sutton cum Lound Village Hall Refurbishment	£45,800
Worksop – Priorswell Community Centre Refurbishment	£25,952
Worksop – Langold Bandstand Refurbishment	£19,000
Total	£950,760

Source: WREN Annual Review 2011

9. To date in 2012/13, the JWMC Board has met on 17th April, 11th July and 10th October. Each meeting has included an update to all parties on the Nottinghamshire Waste PFI Contract and an update on service developments and pressures faced by each of the local authorities. This year the Board has specifically agreed the mechanism for 2012/13 trade waste disposal rates for the Nottinghamshire district councils; considered contamination rates in the dry recycling bin and a campaign to improve the levels of contamination; and is in the process of commissioning a University project to looking at synergies across the Waste Collection Authorities to consider potential service efficiencies and joint working.
10. At the meeting on 17th April, the role of the JWMC was formalised by the signing of the Nottinghamshire Waste Partnership Agreement. The Waste Partnership Agreement is included in **Appendix 1** for information.

Analysis

11. WREN provides a significant source of funding for suitable small and medium sized projects within appropriate geographic areas within the County and beyond. The use of WREN funding to support such projects should be encouraged where appropriate.
12. The JWMC continues to provide a useful forum to collectively oversee waste collection and disposal in Nottinghamshire. The signing of the Waste Partnership Agreement demonstrates the ongoing commitment and support of all of the parties.
13. On 10th October, the JWMC district Members provided the following statement regarding the value of the JWMC:

“The Joint Waste Management Committee is a successful partnership between the County Council, the seven district councils, Nottingham City Council and Veolia Environmental Services Nottinghamshire. It is probably the most successful example of partnership working in waste management. It provides a highly effective forum for enabling discussions and developments amongst all of the parties, and also provides a valuable link between officers and councillors for sharing an understanding of political aspirations and operational realities”.

Other Options Considered

14. None – this is an information report.

Reasons for Recommendations

15. The benefits resulting from the direct involvement of the County Council in the Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) Limited Advisory Panel and the Nottinghamshire Joint Waste Management Committee (JWMC) are substantial, and Committee is therefore asked to note the report, and support the ongoing involvement of the Chair of Environment and Sustainability Committee in both of these external bodies.
16. Going forward, it is recommended that information from JWMC and WREN is reported to Committee on an annual basis, following the publication of WREN's annual review.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

18. The significant contribution of WREN funding to the delivery of appropriate projects should be noted.
19. The JWMC has no direct financial implications for the County Council or any of the parties involved. Any financial impacts resulting from discussions held at the JWMC Board will need to be agreed by the appropriate decision making bodies within the partner authorities.

Implications for Service Users

20. WREN funding makes a significant contribution to service users through the delivery of local environmental and community projects.
21. The JWMC helps to shares developments and best practice in waste management, and encourages collaborative working amongst the parties to the benefit of the wider population of Nottinghamshire.

Recommendation

22. That Committee note the contents of the report and agree to further reports from outside bodies being submitted on an annual basis.

Mick Allen
Group Manager, Waste and Energy Management

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Mick Allen, Group Manager, Waste and Energy Management

Constitutional Comments

23. The contents of this report fall within the remit of Environment and Sustainability Committee.

Financial Comments

24. There are no direct financial implications contained in the report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Divisions

All