

Open Agenda

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Memorandum for Executive Council

SUBJECT

Waste Management Policy

Memorandum by the Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources
Committee

ADVICE SOUGHT

1. Executive Council is asked to consider and advise whether the Waste Management Policy, January 2020, (Annex A), should be endorsed.

BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS

2. Volumes of waste being landfilled on-Island are increasing and the available landfill space is rapidly reducing. This has significance for SHG as the need to replace and restore Horse Point Landfill Site (HPLS) will need to take place within a reduced timeframe.
3. There is an opportunity to delay the replacement of this asset through introducing a recycling programme to the Island, reducing volumes of waste being produced and landfilled and consequently increasing the life of the landfill site closer to its design life. This would bring the following benefits:
 - a) Reduce short to medium term capital expenditure by increasing the life of HPLS
 - b) Provide cost efficiencies to SHG and the private sector through export of recyclable wastes and substitution for imported new raw materials; and
 - c) Enables Waste Management Services to be more financially self-supporting.
4. SHG acknowledges the need to create a Waste Management Policy with a view to planning for short, medium and long term environmental changes that are likely to impact on the quality of Island life if left unmanaged.
5. If not properly managed waste is a problem because it:
 - a) Takes up valuable and limited landfill space
 - b) Can cause pollution and other negative social impacts
 - c) Uses up natural resources that could be used again
 - d) Creates reputational impacts on eco-tourism
 - e) Creates greenhouse gases and contributes towards Climate Change
 - f) Creates a lasting problem for future generations.
6. Waste management is essential and integral to the functioning of the Island and the health and well-being of its people. St Helena's continued import

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dependence adds a significant carbon footprint to a number of sectors on St Helena whilst also draining much needed financial resources from the Island. Over reliance on the importation of packaged food and beverages, electrical goods and construction materials are areas in particular that impact both on the Island's climate footprint and contribute to significant volumes of waste.

7. Recycling aluminum beverage cans and exporting them back in to international markets would, for example, contribute towards landfill reduction whilst generating positive reputation towards eco-tourism as well as a revenue stream that could offset a percentage of the annual cost for waste management.
8. At this stage in the process there are no direct financial implications. Council is being asked to endorse the principles and policy objectives outlined in this Waste Management Policy.
9. At this stage in the process an implementation plan (Annex B) has been agreed by the Environment & Natural Resources Committee (ENRC). This forms the next stage of policy implementation where detailed planned actions will be developed and costed. Any new policy initiatives developed will need to be fed through the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) process, and prioritised with all other policy initiatives.
10. There are wastes on-Island with financial value. This can be extracted in a number of different ways:
 - a) Wastes generating revenue as a saleable item on-Island
 - b) Waste to be sorted, compacted and baled for sale as a product into the African recycling market; and
 - c) The extension of landfill life span on this highly space constrained Island (this should not be underestimated, as it is probably the dominant factor).
11. A Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) housed in the Waste Reception Building at HPLS, could be developed where waste materials can be sorted and processed.
12. Once a recycling system is implemented on the Island, then potentially the value generated by the recycled waste streams will pay for some of the waste management service, or at least the capital depreciation of assets.
13. Capital investment would be required for the plant and equipment required to establish a MRF at HPLS. Business cases for this plant and equipment were submitted for the 2018-21 Capital Programme.
14. In addition to this SHG will also continue to seek alternative external funding sources to deliver the implementation plan as well.
15. Proper management of environmental resources is a component of sustainable economic development.
16. Endorsing the policy means some adjustments to our approach to waste management, use of our natural resources and the development of our economy to meet these changing expectations. While these changes would require an upfront investment to deliver long-term sustainability of our environment and

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

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economy, they have been shown to have reduced costs in the long run.

17. Whilst the cost benefit of the implementation plan is currently unknown, particularly because the plan has not yet been delivered, looking anecdotally at waste management actions on St Helena to date, it is likely that there would be a number of win-win actions for the environment, economy, and the government budget.

CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES

18. N/A.

PUBLIC/ SOCIAL IMPACT

19. The Waste Management Policy should have a positive public/social impact as it seeks to plan for short, medium and long term environmental changes that are likely to impact on the quality of Island life, if these changes are left unmanaged.
20. Environmental resources could be globally prized as a tourist product, but they are also essential as they are integral to the functioning of the Island and the health and well-being of its people.
21. In practice we all need to consider how wastes and personal use of resources can have less of a negative impact on the environment and ultimately the climate.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

22. The aim of the Waste Management Policy for St Helena is to make provisions for the development of medium to long term goals to deal with the waste that is produced on the Island, in a manner that is efficient and sustainable, in order to maintain a good quality of life for residents and visitors, promote economic development and bring benefit to the environment of St Helena, now and in the future.
23. The Policy objectives align with the objectives and principles of the Environmental Protection Ordinance (2016). The objectives of this Ordinance are to; preserve and sustain the natural environment of St Helena, including by; preventing, minimising or mitigating pollution, waste and littering. The principles of this Ordinance includes; 'the polluter pays principle', by which the costs of preventing, controlling, reducing and eliminating environmental harm that may be caused or is caused by a particular activity should be borne by the persons who cause or knowingly permit it.
24. The Policy aligns with the National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) which was launched in 2012 and provides the blueprint for environmental management on St Helena for the next 10 years. An objective within the NEMP being; Improve and maintain environmental conditions through better management of solid waste.

PREVIOUS CONSULTATION/ COMMITTEE INPUT

25. The ENRC was presented with an information paper and agreed for a policy to be developed on 15 March 2018. Thereafter internal consultation within the Environmental Management Division (EMD) and external consultation with key Environmental Specialists including; internally – EMD's Landfill Manager, Head of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division (ANRD) and

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externally – former Director of Amberol (UK based plastics recycling company), Environmental Consultant (former SHG Climate Change Officer).

26. On 21 June 2018 a Draft Policy was presented to ENRC for approval.
27. On 17 October 2019 a revised Draft Policy was approved by ENRC for Public Consultation. The consultation exercise was for a period of 4 weeks and allowed the public to feed comments in to the Environmental Risk Manager on the draft policy. Brief comment was received from one member of the public and the draft policy was updated as a result.
28. On 16 January 2020 a final Draft Policy was approved by ENRC for presentation to Executive Council.
29. There was positive reaction to the development of the Policy. Feedback received during public consultation, despite being minimal, was favourable and assisted to develop the policy further.
30. Executive Council’s decision will be mentioned in the radio briefing following the meeting. If endorsed, a further update will be provided to the public and the Policy will be uploaded to the SHG website.

PUBLIC REACTION

PUBLICITY

SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

31. The Policy aligns with the Altogether Greener Goal of St Helena’s 10 Year Plan. It also supports Strategic Objective 7.1 Promote the sustainable management and use of natural resources and the environment.

LINK TO SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS

32. The Waste Management Policy aligns with Goal 7: to Improve Infrastructure and Goal 6: to Sustain and Improve our Natural Capital. Furthermore, this mitigates a common issue, as outlined on page 11 of the SEDP that ‘a circular approach, as set out in the Waste Management Strategy, needs to be acted upon to make the best use of resources’.
33. The Policy aligns with the St Helena’s Sustainable Economic Development Plan (2018-2028) Goal 6; Sustain and improve our Natural Capital by maintaining and enhancing St Helena’s exceptional environment, landscape, heritage and cultural qualities for this generation and the next.

OPEN/CLOSED AGENDA ITEM

34. Recommended for the open agenda.

RKY

Corporate Support
Corporate Services

03rd March 2020

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