



Waste Management Seminar – Local Development Plan Seminar 3 City Chambers, 27th April 2011 – Summary of Discussions

Attendees included CEC Waste Planners, private sector waste representatives, and Community Council representatives.

Presentations were given by the Scottish Government, CEC Planning, and RPS (planning consultancy)

It was agreed that the planning system cannot question *need* for a WM facility, as that consideration has been taken out of our hands by the national Zero Waste Plan (ZWP). When planning authorities assess the operational development or land use implications of applications for WM, they can only determine them on the aspects controllable through planning law.

At the moment, Edinburgh is a net exporter of waste for separation and management.

Whilst all agreed that ZWP targets are desirable, it was acknowledged that they will be very hard to meet in practice. To achieve 70% recycling of all waste will require a broad effort. Much more advertising, publicity, and regulation will be needed.

The point was raised that city centre businesses in Edinburgh are reluctant to devote the necessary space for recycling and other separation for waste mgmt due to the high cost of retail and office space.

In terms of re-use and recycling of waste, it is not simply a question of providing facilities. There needs to be a market for re-used and recycled goods too. If not, the private sector is unlikely to invest in waste management.

In terms of funding, the system will be broadly market-led. The private sector companies observed that upfront costs can be very high as set against length of council-issued contracts. Generally, the private sector needs long contracts to pay off their upfront costs. Asking for money on the basis of a short contract does not make business sense, and may not receive a favourable response in the current financial climate.

Three breakout groups considered the contents of the ZWP, waste management planning issues for the Local Development Plan (LDP), and how the waste management industry works in some detail.

Breakout Sessions



