



# Buckinghamshire County Council

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Community & Environmental Services**  
Chairman – Richard Pushman

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Dear Rodney

## Waste Reduction and Waste Education in Buckinghamshire

The Committee agreed that I should write to you following the very informative presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by David Sutherland and Claire Baldry on 28 September 2005.

I along with other Members welcome the wide range of work that is being undertaken to reduce the amount of waste that is produced by residents. In addition to the financial need to cut the growth of waste arisings in the County, the work by the Waste Reduction team can only help to give the public a better understanding of the waste problem and the need for change.

A number of Members, as I think many of the public are, were unsure about what can and can't be recycled in each district and where their local facilities are. Whilst part of this is a national issue about packaging, labeling and the availability of sub regional facilities to process some types of waste, there is a clear need for better information and guidance to help people who want to recycle. Perhaps a case in point is whether people should put paper and cardboard out for recycling or whether to compost it at home? In some cases information that has been provided to the public may need regular follow campaigns to embed the message. For example, recycling rates for plastic could improve if during perhaps the course of a year the public was told every few months or so how they can tell which plastic items can currently be recycled. Another issue raised by a number of members is the need for consistent signage and guidance at household waste sites across the County.

In terms of changing the public's view of waste, Members were particularly supportive of the work being done by Claire with schools and children. The Committee considered that this work is an effective way to help families to recognize their responsibilities and change the way they look at and deal with their waste.

Turning to the Committee's future work programme Members agreed to consider the draft Waste Strategy on 26 October, and if you were able to attend, your knowledge and contribution to the debate would be most welcome. At present the Committee is gathering information on different waste management options through the series of visits organised by the Partnership Officer. These are designed to assist in the review of waste, which is focusing on the issue of public information and consultation. To that end it is proposed to return the subject of the strategy in January and then have a single issue meeting on public engagement on the waste agenda at the July 2006 committee.

Regards

Richard Pushman

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