

Meeting date: 19 June 2007**Open Govt. Status:** Fully Open**Type of paper:** For debate**Paper File Ref:****Exemptions:**

WATCH COMMITTEE

Recycling, a potential 'new and emerging issue'

Issue

1. In the "new and emerging issues" session at the November 2006 WATCH meeting, one of five topics considered a priority for further consideration was 'Recycling' (topic 4 as described in WATCH/2006/9 Annex 1).

Timing Considerations

2. No particular timing issues.

Recommendation

3. WATCH is invited to consider the issues noted in this cover paper and to respond to the actions in paragraph 10.

Background

4. In its "new and emerging issues" session at the November 2006 meeting, WATCH (expanded with additional Community of Practice and Interest [COPI] members) identified this topic as a priority. It was agreed that the analysis of HSE's Horizon Scanning Unit would be sent to a WATCH/COPI member with particular knowledge of this field, for comment. An insight to work in the recycling industry was presented to WATCH at the February 2007 meeting by a representative of HSE's Policy Group, Manufacturing Sector whose responsibilities cover waste and recycling.

Argument

5. Since first being considered in the November 2006 WATCH meeting more information is now available to members to consider further whether this topic should indeed be considered a priority topic and carried forward accordingly.

6. The information available includes HSE's Horizon Scanning Unit analysis (Annex 1) as sent to the WATCH/COPI member for comment and the comments on the analysis from this member (Annex 2). The updated web version of the HSE document is also attached for completeness (Annex 3). The February 2007 presentation from HSE's Policy Group, Manufacturing Sector (Annex 4) and relevant extract from the February minutes (Annex 5) are also attached. Members are also referred to HSE's Waste and Recycling web page (Annex 6 : only the reference to the website is provided, the document is not provided within this package of information).

Link to HSC Strategy

7. The requirement to identify “new and emerging issues” is an example of a key “activity which delivers other Government objectives” within the HSC/E Strategy.

Consultation

8. No wider consultation on the content of this cover paper beyond HSE has been undertaken at this stage.

European Context

9. There are no specific links to EU procedures or activities.

Action

10. WATCH is asked to consider the information that is now available and to :

- i) Determine whether recycling is a topic that should be considered a ‘priority new and emerging issue’ that merits further action.
- ii) If the answer to i) is that recycling is a priority topic, to recommend ;
 - a) What action needs to be taken to address the concern ?
 - b) How might that action be carried out ?
 - c) Which individuals / organisation is appropriate for taking this action forward ?
 - d) What is an appropriate timeframe for this action to be instigated and completed ?

Contact:

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References / Attachments

Annex 1 Report to Horizon Scanning Intelligence Group – Recycling – Draft Advance Copy for WATCH Members

Annex 2 Comments from a WATCH/COPI member on HSE’s Horizon Scanning Unit’s report

Annex 3 HSE Horizon Scanning Intelligence Group Short Report, SR005, September 2006 (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/horizons/recyclingreport.pdf>)

Annex 4 Presentation by Paul Harvey, HM Principal Inspector, HSE, Policy Group (waste & recycling) made to WATCH on 22 February 2007

Annex 5 Extract from draft minutes of WATCH meeting on 22 February 2007

Annex 6 HSE’s Waste and Recycling web page (www.hse.gov.uk/waste/index.htm)