

AGENDA ITEM No. ...15.....

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

<p>To : ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE</p> <hr/> <p>From : DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</p> <hr/> <p>Date : 10 November 1998      Ref : AA/SP</p>	<p>Subject :</p> <p>RECYCLED CONTENT OF NEWSPRINT BILL</p>
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**PROPOSED DECISION**

That the committee considers the options contained in the recommendations of this report and give support to the Bill by the most appropriate means.

**BACKGROUND**

A letter has been received by the Chief Executive from Friends of the Earth Scotland promoting The Recycled Content of Newsprint Bill which was introduced into Parliament by David Chaytor MP last March. This Bill has now been redrafted to ensure that newspaper and magazine publishers would have a duty to ensure that over 50 per cent of newspapers and magazines are collected and recycled.

**REPORT**

The Recycled Content of Newsprint Bill proposes the introduction of a new legal duty on newspaper and magazine publishers in Great Britain to ensure that a specified amount of newspapers and magazines is collected and recycled. The minimum collection percentage is set at 30% until 2003, 38% until 2006, 45% until 2010 and 52% thereafter. The newspaper and magazine publishers will be required to make returns to the appropriate authority every six months, setting out, inter alia, the amounts of newspapers and magazines collected and recycled.

There will be a requirement to ensure that a minimum content of recycled fibre is contained in the newsprint used by that publisher over a six month period. The minimum content is set at 50% until 2003, at 65% until 2006, at 70% until 2010 and 80% thereafter. A newspaper publisher will be required to make a return to the appropriate authority every six months setting out, inter alia, the amounts of recycled fibre contained in the newsprint used by that publisher.

The appropriate authority to which returns require to be made, as far as Scotland is concerned, is the Scottish Environment Protection Agency who will require to produce and keep a public register comprising the returns provided to them. The publishers will be required to clearly mark any newspapers, placed by them on the market, to show the average recycled fibre content of the newsprint used over the relevant six month period.

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The Bill will not only guarantee that less paper will be disposed of by landfill but will require the newspaper and magazine industry to fund newspaper and recycling schemes with no cost to local authorities.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee consider supporting the Recycled Content of Newsprint Bill in one or all of the following ways.

- (a) Contact all Members of Parliament within North Lanarkshire Council and request that they each support the Bill in principle, and/or
- (b) Write to the Rt. Hon. Michael Meacher MP, Minister for the Environment at D.E.T.R., Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU asking him to support this Bill, and/or
- (c) Write to the Convention of Scotland Local Authorities, COSLA requesting that the Convention support the Bill.

*M'Kenzie L. Hutton*