

Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee – 18 July 2006

Minutes of the meeting of the **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **18 July 2006** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr P K Savill

Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr C A Hungate
Cllr C J Lumley

Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr M G B Starke

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Bourne - Leisure and Contracts Manager
A Lovett - Street Scene Manager
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

38 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to noting that M Chilton, Recycling Officer, had been in attendance.

Matters Arising

It was noted that a special meeting of the Environmental Services Committee would be arranged in October to which all Members of the Council would be invited to hear a presentation from the Council's consultant on the undertaking of a waste composition analysis. The consultant had been unable to attend an earlier session due to other commitments.

39 KERBSIDE RECYCLING SCHEME

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update from the Leisure and Contracts Manager on progress with respect to the kerbside recycling scheme. Copies of recycling tonnage figures for the current municipal year, together with illustrative graphs, were circulated to Members of the Sub-Committee.

Officers advised that there had been a noticeable increase in the kerbside recycling rate each month so far this municipal year. It was pleasing to note progress with the green waste scheme. More green waste had been collected during April to June this year than during July 2005 to March 2006. At the end of June 2006 1700 households had signed up for the scheme and there were very few instances of customers not renewing at the end of their first year. Tonnages collected at bring banks had reduced slightly, in line with increased tonnages for kerbside recycling.

Members stressed the importance of investigating the possibility of introducing cardboard banks and plastic banks at which residents could deposit all plastic containers, rather than just plastic bottles at bring banks

within the District.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to noise nuisance associated with bottle bring banks, officers advised that there had already been instances of bottle banks being moved further away from residential properties in direct response to complaints about noise made by residents. As kerbside recycling increased further consideration would be given to a phased withdrawal of bottle banks if the demand became minimal.

Responding to a further Member query about the green waste scheme, officers confirmed that the green waste tonnages listed for this year included green waste collected by means of the Saturday morning collection rounds.

Members drew attention to the need to determine whether the Saturday collections were giving good value for money, particularly as this service could dissuade many residents from signing up for the green waste scheme. Tonnages for the Saturday morning collections should be carefully monitored and leaflets distributed on these dates advertising the purchasable green waste scheme.

In response to concerns raised by Members relating to late collection of green waste in the Hockley / Hawkwell and Ashingdon areas, and on occasion at an unacceptably early hour on Saturday morning, officers advised that tonnages tended to be higher at this time of year, which could occasionally result in vehicles filling up before the end of a collection round. In such instances Greens would arrange for the vehicle to return to properties it had missed the following morning. These issues would, however, be raised with the contractor. It was further noted that, as the scheme had developed, it had become necessary to increase the number of days on which green waste was collected. When the scheme was first introduced collections took place two days a week; collections were about to be increased to four per week as a result of increases in tonnages and subscribers to the service.

Members indicated that there had been recent instances of Serviceteam operatives not disposing of carrier bags on the recycling vehicle that had been used for putting out paper. This had resulted in carrier bags being scattered around the streets. There had also been recent occasions when red bags had not been secured under blue boxes, resulting in lost red bags. It was noted that these issues would be raised urgently with Serviceteam, as they constituted an unacceptable level of service.

Members, although recognising that there was a steady increase in recycling rates, were disappointed that the rate was not higher. Responding to a Member enquiry about how best to identify ways of increasing recycling levels, officers confirmed that a waste composition analysis would be very informative in providing detailed information as to what recyclable materials were actually being collected, as well as what recyclable materials were ending up in grey bins. It was stressed that some Local Authorities with higher recycling rates were operating a weekly, rather than fortnightly,

recycling service.

It was noted that officers would, for the next meeting of the Sub-Committee, collate data comparing how other Essex Local Authorities operate recycling and green waste services, including frequency of collection, costs to residents, receptacles for recyclables and green waste, compared to this Council. Analysis would also be provided for Unitary Authorities, separating out recycling tonnages for the kerbside recycling collection from the recycling tonnages for civic amenity and recycling centres.

Members expressed disappointment that the Council received no recycling credits for the Rayleigh civic amenity and recycling centre, particularly in light of it having a higher recycling rate than the national average.

Members observed that many residents took all their recycling to the large Tesco supermarket situated within Southend Borough. Members therefore concurred that there would be merit in siting a bring bank at the new Rochford supermarket behind Market Square and at the former Park School site in Rawreth. Members perceived that this site would be preferable to the current bring bank site in Rawreth Lane.

Resolved

That data be provided at the next Sub-Committee comparing how other Essex Local Authorities operate recycling and green waste services, including frequency of collection, costs to residents, receptacles for recyclables and green waste, compared to this Council, together with analysis for Essex Unitary Authorities separating out recycling tonnages for the kerbside recycling collection from the recycling tonnages for civic amenity and recycling centres. (CD(ES))

40 DETAILED PROPOSAL FOR KERBSIDE RECYCLING PARTICIPATION MONITORING PROJECT

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) providing Members with a detailed and fully costed proposal for a period of participation monitoring and targeted leafleting, in relation to the Council's kerbside recycling scheme and requesting approval to pay for this project with monies from the Council's Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant (WPEG).

Members considered that the proposal to employ three temporary members of staff for a period of six weeks, attached to rounds 1, 2 and 3 for the first week, then rounds 4, 5 and 6 for the second week, returning to rounds 1, 2 and 3 the following week and alternating thereafter for the remainder of the six weeks was laudable. There was, however, concern expressed about delivering 3 different leaflets to households that were observed not to be recycling, as it was perceived that this would require increased monitoring.

Although some Members believed that some households would not heed a leaflet outlining all the reasons why they should be recycling, others nevertheless considered that there would be merit in distributing such a leaflet at the end of the six-week monitoring period to all those who had not put out recycling, as this had not been done before and could, potentially, have an effect on recycling participation.

Members considered that the wording of the leaflet was vital, as it could potentially have the effect of getting across a strong message, without alienating those residents who were already recycling. It was agreed that a draft leaflet should be circulated to Members of the Sub-Committee for comment.

Recommended to Council

That a programme of participation monitoring of the Council's kerbside recycling scheme be implemented at a cost of £9,500 funded from the Council's Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant, as described in section 3.1 of the officer's report, subject to only one leaflet being distributed to all those households that had not recycled during the period of monitoring, the wording of the leaflet to be approved by the Sub-Committee at its September meeting. (CD(ES))

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved

That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

41 ESSEX JOINT PROCUREMENT SCHEME

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update from the Leisure and Contracts Manager on the Essex Joint Procurement process.

It was noted that the KAT (kerbside analysis tool) modelling was now being conducted across various districts and the results would be considered at a future meeting of the Thames Gateway Joint Committee (likely to be September). This should provide useful information on optimum recycling systems, on the basis of cost and performance.

Southend on Sea Borough Council would be running a soft market testing exercise in order to gain industry's views on long-term contracts for waste disposal. It was hoped that this Authority might be able to link into the event and also gain industry feedback.

42 OVERVIEW OF CONTRACT RENEWAL PROCESS FOR REFUSE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

The Sub-Committee considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (External Services) providing Members with an overview of the current situation and the required future programme of work in relation to the procurement of new contracts for the Council's refuse collection and recycling services.

There was a detailed discussion of the required future programme of work in relation to the procurement of new contracts for the Council's refuse collection and recycling services. The detailed discussion is set out in the exempt appendix to these Minutes.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 12.40 pm.

Chairman

Date