

## Review Committee – 4 December 2012

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **4 December 2012** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J R Lumley

Cllr Mrs A V Hale  
Cllr B T Hazlewood

Cllr I H Ward

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr M J Steptoe

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J R F Mason, T E Mountain, R D Pointer and Mrs C E Roe.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

R Evans - Head of Environmental Services  
P Gowers - Overview and Scrutiny Officer  
M Power - Committee Administrator

### **251 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 October 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **252 SITA UK**

The Committee received an update on the SITA waste management and street cleansing contract from Dave Swire, Regional Manager South East and James Goodwin, Contract Manager.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- SITA crews will notify the office of any contaminated bins they have not collected; however, generally the bin will not be collected until the next scheduled collection as the system works on the basis of collection of recyclable/non-recyclable waste on each alternate week. There is, however, the option of collecting contaminated bins on other days if this is necessary. A sticker will be put on the bin that identifies on what basis the bin has been contaminated. If contamination persists the Council may issue follow-up letters. Rochford District Council and SITA are working in partnership in order to achieve a minimal contamination level; this is currently running at just below 5%. (UPM, who process the Council's recycling, can impose financial penalties if contamination levels rise to above 5%; no penalties have been received so far.)

- An 'app' that is compatible with smart phones has been designed that enables the user to report street scene issues such as fly tipping and littering on-line. Feedback is sent when the issue is resolved. Because the system is run on an 'app', it is normally free of charge to the user, although this would depend upon the data allowance with the service provider. The system is currently being trialled by some Rochford District Councillors. In time there will be an integrated system that will re-route queries from the public to the appropriate services.
- There is the full-time equivalent of 2.5 Street Scene officers employed by the Council, with one post currently vacant.
- The two Councils that are in first and second place ahead of Rochford District Council in the recycling league table work in partnership with each other. A freedom of information request has previously been made to these Councils to ascertain how this increase in recycling levels had been achieved. A contributing factor was that the total tonnage per household in these areas is lower than at Rochford (due largely to the green waste element, which is offered free of charge in Rochford but is usually a chargeable service).
- Essex County Council is currently achieving a recycling rate in the region of a 57% (which is calculated from the material taken to the Recycling Centres throughout the county).
- The service provided to flats could be improved; the high turnover of the District's residents living in flats can be an issue in terms of recycling and contamination of dry recyclable waste. A recycling 'welcome pack' with details of how the recycling system works could be delivered to all new tenants. The monies received from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government are to be used to improve arrangements for flats including the purchase of additional bins and small recycling freighters. Revenue monies have also been provided for the employment of additional crew by SITA. A new Planning Policy is being developed to ensure that any future applications for building new blocks of flats will include an area for housing recycling bins as part of the planning application.
- An Essex County Council assessment of all waste going to landfill from the county's districts is being undertaken (one of the real issues is the disposal of nappies in landfill). It is hoped to introduce a process in 2015/16 whereby landfill material can be treated to enable it to be used as fuel, which could provide them with an income as well as reduce the volume of material sent to landfill.
- A periodic renewal of the instruction labels on each of the bins in the District would be useful.

- The issue of bins being left blocking the driveway, spillage from recycling vehicles not being cleared up and the importance of providing a quality service would be raised as an issue at the regular ‘toolbox talks’ that are held with SITA crews. Courteous/safe driving by crews should also be raised as an issue. With the new tracking system fitted in the majority of SITA vehicles any incidents of bad driving can be traced to ascertain who the driver is. The importance of reporting incidents promptly was noted.
- There has been a significant decline in the Council’s bulky-waste service since charges were introduced. There is a policy in place to provide larger bins for larger families.
- It is requested that a breakdown of what is recycled across the District is provided to the Committee.
- A visit to a SITA recycling centre can be arranged for Members of the Committee. Members were also invited to join a SITA crew in a recycling truck during a waste collection round in the District.
- There is a link on the UPM website to a video guide showing how Recycling material is processed.

### **253 KEY DECISIONS DOCUMENT**

(Cllr I H Ward declared an interest in this item by virtue of his being on the Board of Governors at Grove Wood School, Rayleigh.)

The Committee reviewed the Key Decisions document.

#### **Grove Woods Capital Works (08/12)**

Clarification was requested on an item previously on the Key Decisions Document relating to Grove Woods capital works. It had been agreed that lighting and improvement to the access road to the car park would be prioritised. These improvements would be effected via a Portfolio Holder Decision.

#### **26/12 Asset Review**

It was noted that this item had not been included in the Key Decisions document within the prescribed 28-day period prior to the decision being made. As required, the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services had obtained agreement from the Chairman of the Review Committee that the decision could be made.

### **254 WORK PLAN**

It was decided that the Rochford District Community Safety Partnership item would be scheduled for the 5 February 2013 meeting.

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At the 5 March 2013 meeting the Local Strategic Partnership item would focus on the Health and Wellbeing Board, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the outcome of the Primary Care Trust monies budget structure.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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