

# **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee**

## **– 22 September 2006**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **22 September 2006** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr P K Savill

Cllr C J Lumley  
Cllr Mrs J A Mockford

Cllr M G B Starke

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T G Cutmore and C A Hungate.

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllr K H Hudson.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

G Woolhouse	- Corporate Director (External Services)
J Bourne	- Leisure and Contracts Manager
A Lovett	- Street Scene Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

### **43 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed.

### **44 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. Comparative figures were included for April to August 2006 compared to the previous year.

These figures demonstrated that the recycling figures for cans were noticeably lower this year compared to the same period in 2005. The July and August recycling figures for green waste were markedly higher than for 2005. At the end of August 2006, 1,811 residents had signed up for the green waste service..

Bin lifts were in the process of being fitted to the kerbside recycling vehicles and recycling receptacles, including blue boxes and red bags, had been ordered. It was anticipated that the kerbside recycling service would commence being rolled out to flatted properties in November. Tonnages for round 6 were starting to increase, which was encouraging. Responding to a Member enquiry relating to flats, officers confirmed that around 93-94% of

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households would be able to access the kerbside recycling scheme once flatted properties were added to the rounds.

In response to a query about caravan parks, officers advised that refuse was collected from specific collection points in bags. It was probable that when the kerbside recycling scheme was rolled out to these sites collections would be made from communal recycling bins at these collection points although a specific assessment would be made of each site.

Members observed that recycling tonnages for the bring bank sites around the District had not decreased in line with kerbside recycling tonnage increases.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to glass bring banks near to residential properties, officers advised that currently all glass bring banks were yielding good tonnages and that it would thus be ill advised to withdraw any at this time. Individual bring banks would, however, continue to be monitored and the situation kept under review.

Members had been provided with a proforma leaflet that it was suggested might be distributed to residents not putting out blue boxes and red bags during a specific period of kerbside recycling participation monitoring. Members did not consider that the leaflet would be suitable for use with the participation monitoring and felt that the leaflet should include the following:-

- Details of what residents can recycle and how they can recycle it.
- Half full tins are unacceptable and that tins should preferably be rinsed out.
- Future costs of waste collection without recycling would be very high for the Council and therefore for residents (“You cannot afford not to recycle”).
- Help us to keep your atmosphere clean and healthy. Focus on the local environment.

Members concurred that the participation monitoring leaflet should be drafted quickly, to include the elements cited above, and approved for use by the Chairman of this Sub-Committee.

Members further considered that there would be merit in including an article in *Rochford District Matters* reassuring residents that all recyclable materials collected in the District went to domestic recycling plants and not abroad to landfill.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That a recycling participation monitoring leaflet be drafted quickly and approved for use by the Chairman of this Sub-Committee.

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- (2) That an article be included in *Rochford District Matters* confirming that all recyclable materials collected within the Rochford District go to domestic recycling plants. (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.

#### **45 COMPARISON OF WASTE AND RECYCLING SYSTEMS WITHIN THE THAMES GATEWAY AUTHORITIES AND POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT WORKING WITH SOUTHEND ON SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Members considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (External Services) providing Members with information on the waste and recycling services of the other Thames Gateway Authorities and outlining the possibilities and methods of joint working with Southend on Sea Borough Council on the procurement process for the new refuse collection and recycling contracts.

Particular reference was made to the fact that this district's green recycling rates were markedly lower than for the other Thames Gateway Authorities and that this was impacting on the Authority's overall recycling rates. Members considered that this could partially be attributed to the rural nature of the district; many residents undoubtedly composted their green waste at the bottom of their gardens.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the collection of cardboard and textiles, officers advised that the current capacity of the kerbside recycling vehicles was such that it was not possible to introduce another material to the service. It would, however, be possible to explore options for different materials as part of the forthcoming contract process.

In response to Member enquiries, the following was noted:-

- The contract tendering process would include a request for costings associated with a green recycling service that would be free to residents.
- Officers would investigate whether the Council might be able to link up with a charity to provide a monthly kerbside textile recycling service for residents in different parts of the district.
- The overall recycling rate for the Authority in the last 2-3 months had been between 16% and 16.5%.

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- The Council was exploring the feasibility of obtaining grants that would help to facilitate a collection of kitchen waste in different parts of the district.

There was a detailed discussion of the possibilities of working with Southend on Sea Borough Council on the procurement process for the new refuse collection and recycling contracts. The detailed discussion is set out in the exempt appendix to these Minutes.

### **46 ESSEX JOINT PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update from the Leisure and Contracts Manager on the Essex Joint Procurement process. The detailed discussion is set out in the exempt appendix to these Minutes.

The meeting closed at 1.00 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....