

## **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee – 26 March 2007**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **26 March 2007** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr P K Savill

Cllr T G Cutmore

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr K H Hudson.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C A Hungate, C J Lumley, Mrs J A Mockford and M G B Starke.

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllr C G Seagers.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

G Woolhouse	- Corporate Director (External Services)
J Bourne	- Head of Community Services
R Evans	- Head of Environmental Services
A Lovett	- Street Scene Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

At the commencement of the meeting the Chairman, on behalf of Members of the Sub-Committee, conveyed all good wishes to Cllrs Mrs M A Starke and M G B Starke during this difficult time.

### **63 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **64 KERBSIDE RECYCLING SCHEME**

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update from the Head of Community Services 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 2006 to February 2007 compared to the previous year. In addition, comparative figures were provided for street cleansing tonnages and landfill tonnages for the current municipal year compared to 2005/6 and 2004/05.

Particular reference was made of the overall recycling rate for February 2007, which at 19.08%, was the highest to date. It was pleasing to note that the rate

had been in excess of 17% since September 2006, with the figure in excess of 18% for 3 of these months. It was perceived that the February recycling rate was probably attributable to the completion of the roll-out of the kerbside recycling scheme to flats accommodation, coupled with good participation rates. Tonnages for paper, glass and cans and green waste were all notably higher than for the previous year. It was noted that there were just under 2,000 households currently on the green waste kerbside scheme. Tonnages for bring banks were similar to those for January and higher than in February 2006. Reference was made to the non availability of data for February for fridges/freezers tonnages, which would almost certainly result in a higher overall recycling rate for the month.

It was observed that street cleansing tonnages were lower than last year; Members felt that it was possible that the Council's environmental campaign may well have impacted on these tonnages. Although it was noted that January's landfill tonnage was higher than the previous year, it was pleasing that the overall landfill tonnages for the year were lower than last year, which was contrary to the national trend of 1 to 2% annual increases.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the Authority's official recycling target, officers confirmed that the Council's official Government recycling target for 2007/08 was 20%. Although there was no official target for the current year, the overall internal recycling target was 19.3%. It was anticipated that next year's target of 20% was within reach, given that the process for rolling out the kerbside recycling scheme to caravan parks and schools was now underway. It was noted that Sub-Committee Members would each be sent a copy of the finalised schools recycling pack. The schools scheme was being presented as an educational tool, with sessions taking place with the children in advance of the scheme being introduced into the schools. Paper collections would be introduced initially, with other materials added gradually, depending on the success of the scheme.

Officers advised that a meeting was held on Friday at the first of the caravan parks, which went well, with the park owners very supportive of the kerbside recycling scheme.

Particular reference was made to the fact that there would undoubtedly be a real impact on the amount of potentially recyclable materials currently deposited in the grey bins should Rochford residents be able to use the Stock Road civic amenity and recycling centre free of charge. Officers advised that it was difficult to quantify numbers of Rochford District residents using the Stock Road centre, although they would ask the County Council for data relating to refunds claimed back by residents for using the centre and would, similarly, ask Southend on Sea Borough Council for data relating to the number of people using the Stock Road centre both before and after introduction of the £3 charge to residents outside the Southend boundary.

### 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.

### 65 TENDERING PROCESS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT, STREET CLEANSING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update from the Head of Community Services on outline proposals received from bidding companies with respect to the contracts for waste management, street cleansing and grounds maintenance.

The Sub-Committee noted that the Environmental Services Committee, at its meeting on 13 March, agreed that the terms of reference of this Sub-Committee should be expanded to oversee the progress and development of the contract procurement process for street cleansing. It was anticipated that the Leisure, Tourism and Heritage Committee would agree to further expand the Sub-Committee terms of reference to include grounds maintenance at its meeting on 27 March.

There was a detailed discussion relating to the different options suggested by contractors for fulfilling the requirements for each of the three contracts. The detailed discussion is set out in the exempt appendix to these Minutes.

### 66 ESSEX JOINT PROCUREMENT PROCESS

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update from the Head of Community Services on the Essex Joint Procurement process.

Members were advised that a Joint Committee meeting had taken place on 14 March, with a further meeting scheduled for 25 April. The KAT modelling had taken place for Rochford, Basildon and Tendring and it was anticipated that the results of this would be made available at the April Joint Committee meeting.

The planning application process was underway for the 3 waste sites; the planning application for Courtauld Road, Basildon was currently out to public consultation. Discussions were continuing between Basildon, Castle Point and Brentwood Councils on proposals for a possible combined DSO initiative and any associated economies of scale.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the involvement of the County Council in this Authority's procurement process, officers advised that dialogue was continuing with Southend on Sea Borough Council and with the Essex

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County Council; it was important to keep this dialogue open, given that the County Council was the disposal Authority. The County Council was taking a keen interest in this Council's procurement process, with regular officer level meetings taking place. There would be more detailed discussions with the County Council, once detailed costings of contractors' proposals for the waste management contract were known, in order to explore the possibility of County Council funding for recycling initiatives. It was observed that the County Council could be receptive to providing funding towards, for example, the introduction of a kitchen waste collection service, given that this could be preferable to any potential Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) fines.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 12.55 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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