

Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee – 19 February 2007

Minutes of the meeting of the **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **19 February 2007** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr P K Savill

Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr C J Lumley

Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr M G B Starke

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C A Hungate.

OFFICERS PRESENT

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

57 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Copies of the waste management and recycling forward plan were circulated to Members, which had been updated to include the key stages of the waste management procurement process. It was noted that the next iteration of the plan would incorporate the 'traffic light' system for ease of monitoring progress on the different actions listed within the plan.

58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr T G Cutmore declared a personal interest in items on the agenda relating to waste management by virtue of his son's employment with Contact Waste at Purdeys.

59 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 January 2007 compared to the previous year. It was particularly noteworthy that the January recycling rate was 18.64%, the highest rate to date. The overall recycling figure for the year currently stood at 17.5%, with 2 more months left to go.

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In response to Member enquiries the following was noted:-

- The recycling rate was lower in December, possibly due to the Christmas Bank Holidays resulting in less recycling collections during that month. There had, similarly, been less refuse deposited in landfill in December.
- Street cleansing waste collection totals would be monitored, as the rates during the winter months were notably lower than in other months. Officers would examine last year's figures to see whether there was a similar pattern.
- Landfill depositing was on the increase nationally, but this District had remained static, contrary to this national trend. Officers would, however, compare current landfill deposit figures with last year's.
- Charges for new customers signing up to the green waste contract after April 2007 would have to be apportioned, given that the contract would expire in March 2008.
- Flatted properties were being closely monitored to gauge whether additional bins were needed, etc. The kerbside recycling service had been rolled out to approximately 98% of flatted properties to date with the remainder due to be added to the scheme within the next few weeks. It was hoped that the scheme would be rolled out to caravan sites from the end of March.

It was agreed that Members would be provided with additional charts detailing comparative figures for street cleansing waste collections for this year and last year and, similarly, for landfill depositing at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

60 WASTE COMPOSITION ANALYSIS RESULTS SUMMARY

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Community Services providing a summary of the results of the waste composition analysis that was conducted in December 2006 and an update following completion of the recent kerbside recycling participation monitoring exercise.

Members were pleased to note that there had been no complaints from residents relating to the analysis. The results of the analysis provided valuable, factual information that would help to inform the contract procurement process. The analysis clearly showed that there was still a lot being placed by residents in the grey bins that could be recycled. The detailed breakdowns of materials would provide a focus for the procurement process.

During debate, the following points were noted:-

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- The presence of plastic bags in the sample grey bins could be as a result of people's use of plastic bins in kitchen bins.
- If bigger recycling bins were to be introduced, they would need to be wheeled bins because of the difficulties of carrying anything bigger than the current blue boxes, particularly for the elderly and infirm. Alternatively, residents could be provided with additional blue boxes.
- It was surprising that 76% of the sample grey bins contained newspapers or magazines. It was clear that more work needed to be done in educating residents about the importance of recycling.
- It was felt that the presence of tins in 72% of the bins sampled could be attributed to the need to rinse out tins before placing them out for recycling.
- There would be merit in including an article in *Rochford District Matters* outlining to residents the conclusions of the analysis and making residents aware of the landfill allowance trading scheme (LATS) fines, as outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the officer's report. The article should urge residents to help try to reduce the amount of recyclable materials put in grey bins and remind them that all paper, with the exception of Yellow Pages, can be put out for recycling and that glass jars, as well as glass bottles, can be recycled.
- Given that food waste made up approximately 32% of the total waste sampled from the grey bins there was a general consensus that consideration should be given during the procurement process of a weekly collection of kitchen waste. Officers would arrange for samples of kitchen waste receptacles to be brought to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.
- It was important to make recycling as simple as possible for residents and it was felt that a co-mingled collection for dry recyclables, plus either a combined weekly collection of food and green waste or separate collections for kitchen waste (weekly) and for garden waste, plus retention of the blue box for collection of glass could be the way forward, subject to costs.
- Officers would explore the possibility of producing a separate waste management / recycling information pack for residents who move home within the district.
- Officers would establish whether or not drinking glasses could be put out for collection as part of the kerbside recycling scheme.

Resolved

- (1) That through the procurement process consideration be given to collecting additional materials, particularly card, cardboard, plastics, kitchen waste (separate, weekly collection) and green waste.
- (2) That through the procurement process alternative types of containers be considered and/or the frequency of collection be increased.
- (3) That, as part of the new contract, consideration be given to rejecting residual bins containing garden waste where a free green waste option is offered in the new contract.
- (4) That officers ensure that each household on the scheme has at least one recycling container to enable the resident to participate in recycling or in the case of most flatted accommodation, has access to a communal recycling bin. (HCS)

61 PROPOSALS FOR THE SPENDING OF THE WASTE PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY GRANT 2007/08

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Community Services outlining proposals for the spending of this year's funding received from the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant (WPEG).

In response to a Member enquiry relating to recycling credits, officers confirmed that estimates were made for these in the budget and that monies generated from the kerbside recycling contract profit share were used to offset the costs of the green waste scheme.

Officers advised, in response to a Member query relating to the costs of the proposed textile collection, that £13,300 would cover the costs of the Salvation Army delivering bags to households, collection of the filled bags and production and distribution of leaflets advertising the service. There would be a formal contract with the Salvation Army for them to carry out the service on behalf of the Council. The service would be carefully publicised, highlighting that it was an official Council collection and referring any enquiries or complaints to the Council. The credits from this new service would go to the Council, and the tonnages collected would contribute towards the Council's overall recycling rate.

It was noted that a grant had been obtained from Rotate that would cover the costs of employing someone on a consultancy basis for a year to work solely on promoting recycling to residents via publicity, leaflets, road shows, etc. It was felt that £9,504 of the WPEG could be well used to further complement this education / awareness initiative.

Responding to a Member question relating to the consultation item included within the proposals, officers advised that, given that the new contract was likely to result in changes to recycling collection, a consultation exercise would assist in gathering public opinion on the potential new systems.

It was observed that it was still unknown whether the WPEG would continue beyond 2007/08 and, if so, how this would be administered by the County Council.

Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee

That the spending of the Council's Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant of £68,554 for 2007/08 be allocated to the items listed in the table in section 3.1 of the officer's report. (HCS)

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.

62 ESSEX JOINT PROCUREMENT PROCESS

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

Rochford Procurement Process

It was noted that proposals would be made to Committee soon that the terms of the Sub-Committee be expanded to include provision for overseeing development of the procurement process for the street cleansing and grounds maintenance contracts and ensuring proper Member representation at Sub-Committee meetings for all 3 contracts.

The bidders' conference took place on 29 January and was attended by 20 companies. Two further companies had also expressed interest, although were unable to attend the conference. The companies that had attended had been pleased to meet Members at the conference and were glad that Members were closely involved in the procurement process. A representative from the County Council had also attended and had indicated that ECC would be happy to be involved in the process as much as required by this Council. Positive feedback had been received from the industry after the conference, particularly with respect to the quality of information received.

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A series of one to one interviews have been held with the companies that had attended the conference in order for the Council to find out more about the companies and other contracts they had undertaken. Each of the companies was asked to develop ideas on how to improve the Council's recycling rate. A deadline of 8 March was set for companies to provide the Council with outline proposals. These proposals would be brought forward to the next Sub-Committee meeting. Each company was being asked for their views on the ideal length of contracts in terms of affordability and spreading the costs of the contracts, in terms of vehicle, equipment and staffing costs.

All the companies met the financial criteria set by the Council, although it was anticipated that some would drop out at different stages of the procurement process, indeed one had already done so. It was noted that around 10 of the companies were interested in all 3 contracts.

There was regular communication between Southend on Sea Borough Council and this Authority, although it was unlikely that the two Authorities would come together until towards the end of the procurement process, as different procurement methods are being used but with the same date of 1 April 2008 for the commencement of the new contracts.

Essex Joint Procurement Process

A Thames Gateway Joint Committee meeting took place on 31 January. The County Council was still working with Defra on its PFI bid. The County Council had also started the procurement process for the interim waste management solution which would then link into the long term solution and associated infrastructure. A planning application had now been made for Courtauld Road. Castle Point, Basildon and Brentwood were currently investigating the potential for a large DSO running all 3 Authorities' contracts and would not be going out to private industry. The results of the next phase of KAT modelling, which includes this Authority, would be available at the end of March which would fit in well with the Council's own contract procurement timetable.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 1.00 pm.

Chairman

Date

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