

Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee – 8 January 2007

Minutes of the meeting of the **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **8 January 2007** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr P K Savill

Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr Mrs J A Mockford

Cllr M G B Starke

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C A Hungate and C J Lumley.

OFFICERS PRESENT

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

51 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52 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.

53 WASTE AND RECYCLING FORWARD PLAN

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Community Services providing an update on progress with the delivery of the waste and recycling forward plan.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the duration of the plan, officers advised that the plan was intended to cover the period between January 2006 until 31 March 2008, after which new waste management contracts would commence.

During debate Members concurred that there would be merit in updating the plan to include the key action points relating to the detailed timeline for the contract procurement process. There was further consensus that the plan should also feature the established 'traffic light' system in order to better monitor progress.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the service action plan and progress towards

achieving targets set in the Forward Plan be noted.

- (2) That the forward plan be updated to include the key action points detailed within the timeline for the contract procurement process and to also feature the established 'traffic light' system. (HCS)

54 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 to November 2006 compared to the previous year.

Officers advised that the overall recycling rate for 2005/06 was 14.5%. During April 2006 to August 2006 the monthly rate had stayed between 15% and 16.5%. In September to November 2006 the monthly rate had risen reasonably significantly to as high as 18.38% in November providing a very encouraging trend. Officers further stressed that this upward trend, coupled with the kerbside recycling service being rolled out to flats and caravan parks and to schools made the recycling target of 20% for 2007/8 appear more attainable.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the increased recycling figure for November, officers confirmed that the roll out of the kerbside recycling service to flats was having an impact on the Council's recycling rate. Feedback from residents of flatted properties was very positive and encouraging. Around one third of flats were now receiving the service; the remaining flats would be included on rounds in a phased introduction due to be complete by the end of February 2007.

It was noted that there had been a marked increase in the number of requests from residents for blue boxes since the kerbside recycling participation monitoring exercise had been conducted. No complaints had been received from residents relating to the monitoring.

Members observed that the bring bank recycling rates had not decreased appreciably, despite the steady increase in the number of properties on the kerbside recycling scheme.

Members stressed the importance of further promoting recycling to residents, making particular reference to the mobile trailer being utilised for this purpose. Officers advised that the Council had been successful in obtaining funding that would be sufficient to employ someone to work specifically on promoting the recycling services for several months.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the green waste service, officers confirmed that they had not been advised by the contractor of any increase in

the annual charge of £39.90.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the recent waste composition analysis, officers advised that there had been a few questions from residents about the analysis, but no complaints had been made. The analysis had broadly highlighted that around 33% of waste deposited in bins was food waste, 9% was garden waste, 22% was paper/cardboard, 9% was combustible materials, 6.5% was plastic bottles and 3% was animal excrement. It was particularly noteworthy that 99% of bins contained cardboard.

Members observed that this highlighted that around 70% of materials placed in the grey bins were recyclable. It was further noted that, had the analysis been conducted in the spring/summer months, the garden waste percentage would inevitably have been much higher.

It was noted that a full report on the results of the analysis would come back to the Sub-Committee, and that comparisons would be made with similar analysis conducted by other Local Authorities.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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.

55 ESSEX JOINT PROCUREMENT PROCESS

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

The Thames Gateway Joint Committee meeting held on 13 December focused on the results of KAT (kerbside analysis tool) modelling conducted in Braintree and Harlow districts analysing the effectiveness of different combinations of waste and recycling collection methods. KAT modelling would be conducted in Rochford district before the end of March.

A recent soft market testing exercise run by Essex County Council in order to gain industry's views on long-term contracts for waste disposal had been well attended by industry, with over 50 companies in attendance, including the main industry players. Industry's response to the County Council's current procurement approach to their future waste management had been very positive.

Officers advised that the County Council had indicated that, in the event of this Council wishing County officers to attend meetings as part of the contract

procurement process, the County Council would be happy to be involved and to provide as much input to the process as the District Council required.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to gate fees for refuse disposal, it was noted that Members would be provided with information relating to the gate fees levied by the County Council for waste disposal, with a breakdown of what percentage of the costs of the Council's waste management contract these fees constituted.

56 PROGRESS REPORT: WASTE MANAGEMENT, STREET CLEANSING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE PROCUREMENT

The Sub-Committee considered the exempt report of the Head of Community Services providing an update on the progress of the waste management, street cleansing and grounds maintenance contract procurement process. The detailed discussion is set out in the exempt appendix to these Minutes.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 12.45 pm.

Chairman

Date