

Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee – 14 June 2006

Minutes of the meeting of the **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **14 June 2006** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr P K Savill

Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr C A Hungate
Cllr C J Lumley

Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr M G B Starke

OFFICERS PRESENT

G Woolhouse	- Corporate Director (External Services)
J Bourne	- Leisure & Contracts Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

36 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Civic Amenity & Recycling Centres

Members expressed concern about the distance residents living in the east of the District needed to travel in order to access a civic amenity and recycling centre. Members felt that many residents would be unaware that they could claim back the £3 fee levied by Southend on Sea Borough Council for using the Stock Road centre to non-Southend residents. Members concurred that an article should be placed in *Rochford District Matters* in order to advertise this.

Members felt that, given the ongoing work on the Essex joint waste management procurement process, the County Council did not perceive investigation of an additional site in the east of the Rochford District for a civic amenity and recycling centre as a high priority.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the possibility of this Council setting up its own site in the east of the District, officers advised that this would not be practicable on the grounds of the associated large revenue and capital costs and the timescale required to set up such a facility. Responding to a supplementary Member query relating to facilities in neighbouring Authorities, officers confirmed that Castle Point and Basildon Councils each had civic amenity and recycling centres that Rochford District residents could use.

Recycling

Officers advised that at the end of May there were 1,475 properties subscribing to the green waste scheme. It was anticipated that this figure should continue to increase. The average monthly tonnage of green waste collected in the District in February/March was approximately 14 tonnes. In April the monthly tonnage increased to 35.5 tonnes. An update on these tonnages would be provided at the next Sub-Committee meeting.

In comparison to recycling figures for 2004/05, it was clear that the trend, month on month, was for increased recycling. The overall percentage for recycling during 2005/6 was 14.5%, however the green waste service was only in place for 9 months during that period. In addition, the kerbside recycling service has now been rolled out to properties with access difficulties, as a result of the purchase of the new, smaller recycling vehicle. The kerbside recycling service would also be rolled out to flatted properties within the District during the current municipal year and it was hoped that all these factors would help the Council move towards its 2006/07 recycling target of 19%.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to profit share from the kerbside scheme, officers confirmed that the Council was on track to receive profit share at the end of 2006/07.

Responding to a Member query relating to street litter picking, officers advised that any such litter was not currently recycled, but went to landfill. Officers would question with Serviceteam whether it would be practicable for items collected during litter picking rounds, such as cans and bottles, to be recycled.

Officers advised, in response to a Member question relating to the introduction of cardboard recycling, that this was not possible at present, given that there was insufficient capacity on the recycling vehicles.

Essex Joint Waste Management Procurement Process

Members expressed their disappointment that Defra had still not given a final decision with respect to the PFI bid for waste disposal. Officers advised that there was a possibility that the County Council might provide this Authority with funding to be used to help meet future recycling targets, given the likely delays associated with the joint procurement process.

It was noted that the agenda for the next Sub-Committee meeting should include an item relating to the renewal of the Authority's waste management contracts in spring 2008.

Members felt that there would also be merit in all Members of the Sub-Committee receiving copies of the Minutes of the Thames Gateway Joint Committee meetings.

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.

37 PROPOSALS FOR THE SPENDING OF THE WASTE PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY GRANT FUNDING AND A TARGETED EDUCATION / AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Sub-Committee considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (External Services) providing Members with proposals for the spending of this year's funding received from the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant (WPEG) and providing a detailed education / awareness campaign for the promotion of recycling around the District.

There was a detailed discussion of various options for using the WPEG funding which were aimed at improving the overall recycling participation in the district. The detailed discussion is set out in the exempt appendix to these Minutes.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 1.30 pm. The next meeting was scheduled to take place at 10.00 am on 18 July 2006.

Chairman

Date