

## **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee – 13 November 2006**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **13 November 2006** 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 - Leisure and Contracts Manager  
A Lovett - Street Scene Manager  
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

### **47 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **48 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 September 2006 compared to the previous year.

Members observed that tonnages for cans continued to be lower than for the corresponding month of the previous year. This could possibly be partially attributed to cans being used less in packaging by manufacturers, with more plastic and sachets being used instead. It was noted that officers would investigate whether this was a trend that was also occurring in other districts. Officers would also establish whether it might be possible for the sachets to be recycled, given that many of them contained tin foil.

Members were disappointed to note that, despite additional kerbside recycling rounds this year and the recycling awareness campaign, tonnages for glass and paper were similar to those of the previous year. It was, however, recognised that the recycling rate for September, at 17.58%, was encouragingly close to the Authority's 18% target. Members emphasised the importance of everything possible being done to increase awareness of residents as to the importance of recycling.

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Members also remarked that the green waste tonnages were disappointingly low. 1900 households within the District had signed up for the green waste collection service, to date. The green waste tonnages during 2004/05 when some of the District's households had a free green waste collection scheme, were appreciably higher.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the possibility of the Council and Greens sharing the costs of providing wheeled bins to all households within the District, officers advised that this would be difficult, given that there was only a short time left to run on the contract. In addition, there would be a need for additional vehicles and staff in order to extend the service District-wide, which would be prohibitively expensive.

Responding to a supplementary question relating to potential difficulties associated with the possible introduction of a free, District-wide green waste collection service, officers confirmed that those residents currently on green waste rounds paid an annual charge for the service, rather than a sum to cover the cost of the green, wheeled bin. However, there was no doubt that some of the residents who had previously paid for the service might be unhappy to see a free service subsequently introduced District-wide.

Members commented that there was currently a lot of negative publicity in the press about recycling, which would inevitably have some form of negative impact on recycling take-up. Officers confirmed that it was unavoidable that the weekly collection of grey bins made it easier for some residents not to recycle.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to shredded paper, officers confirmed that this should not be left out for recycling, as it was too easy for it to mingle with other recyclable materials. Shredded paper could, however, be deposited at the District's bring banks.

Members expressed surprise at the high volume of paper and glass that continued to be left at the bring banks, despite the kerbside recycling service.

Responding to a further question relating to zero tonnages for cans in May and August, officers advised that delays in receiving figures during those two months had resulted in the May and August totals being carried over into June and September respectively.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the recycling of textiles, officers confirmed that discussions were taking place with Serviceteam and charitable organisations, including the Salvation Army and LMB (Lawrence M Barry) to explore partnership possibilities for a kerbside collection of textiles, with a view to the Authority obtaining recycling credits for any collected materials.

Officers confirmed, in response to a Member enquiry relating to recycling credits associated with the civic amenity and recycling centre in Castle Road,

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Rayleigh, that they would explore with the County Council the possibility of the District Council obtaining a proportion of these recycling credits.

Responding to a Member enquiry about the possibility of District Councils taking over the running of County civic amenity and recycling centres, officers advised that this issue would be discussed with County officers, but it was likely that the costs associated with this would be prohibitive.

In response to an enquiry about the recycling participation monitoring leaflet, officers confirmed that the leaflets would not be distributed until late November; copies would be circulated to all Members in advance.

### **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.

### **49 TENDERING PROCESS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT AND STREET CLEANSING SERVICES**

The Sub-Committee considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (External Services) relating to the waste management contracts procurement process that would be considered at item 16 of the agenda of the Environmental Services Committee on 14 November 2006.

Officers observed that the competitive dialogue tendering process would allow the Council to develop contract specifications through dialogue with industry ahead of inviting companies to bid for the contracts. The process would offer the Council an opportunity to use the knowledge and experience of potential contractors to develop the contract specifications.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the placing of a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), officers confirmed that this would be done jointly with Southend on Sea Borough Council, as it would be likely to maximise the number of potential contract bidders. Advertising in the Journal was a statutory requirement.

Members expressed concern that the tendering process for the grounds maintenance service was being overseen by a different Committee, ie, the Leisure, Tourism and Heritage Committee. Mindful of the necessity of the specifications for the ground maintenance contract to be defined by the Leisure, Tourism and Heritage Committee, Members nevertheless considered that the procurement process for all contracts due to commence in April 2008 should be handled jointly by that Committee and this Sub-Committee in order to ensure best practice and value for money. It was observed that contract

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negotiation meetings conducted by this Sub-Committee should also be attended by representatives from the Leisure, Tourism and Heritage Committee.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to consultation with Parish and Town Councils on contracts, officers confirmed that individual consultations were in the process of being conducted with each of the local Parish and Town Councils. Officers advised, in response to a supplementary question relating to consultation with local residents, that a street cleansing survey had already been conducted, via *Rochford District Matters*. In addition, the County Council had been using a kerbside analysis tool, the results of which would be made available in December. It was further observed that the Council's waste composition analysis, due to be conducted later that month, would provide the Authority with useful information.

In concluding the debate, Members all concurred that they supported the recommendations contained within the officer's exempt report.

### **50 ESSEX JOINT PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update from the Leisure and Contracts Manager on the Essex Joint Procurement process.

A Thames Gateway Joint Committee meeting had been held last week. Officers advised that Defra had still not made a decision with respect to the PFI bid for waste disposal. The Joint Committee was examining a series of interim measures for delivering the waste process in the event of the PFI funding not being forthcoming.

Officers confirmed that a number of planning applications had been made for waste disposal sites. The process appeared to be moving forward again.

The meeting closed at 12.35 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....