

Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee – 18 July 2005

Minutes of the meeting of the **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **18 July 2005** when there were present: -

Chairman: Cllr P K Savill

Cllr T G Cutmore

Cllr M G B Starke

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn, C A Hungate and C J Lumley.

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
J Bourne	- Leisure and Contracts Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

18 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19 DEFRA/ALLOCATION OF RECYCLING FUNDING

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) providing Members with the outcome of the recent bid for additional DEFRA funding for the smaller recycling vehicle and also outlining proposals for the allocation of other external recycling funding received.

Officers confirmed that written confirmation had now been received that DEFRA were awarding the Authority £61,355 towards the costs of the smaller recycling vehicle.

Officers advised that the estimated costs at paragraph 4.2 of the report for the collection of the old green bins was on the basis of 6,500 bins having to be collected. There was a general consensus that officers should write to those residents who had been on the old kerbside recycling scheme to ask whether they would like their green bins collected within a specified timescale. The Council had a responsibility to arrange collection of the bins, in the event of residents requiring this, and it was also important that the bins should be recycled.

Members congratulated officers on the successful DEFRA bid.

During debate it was noted that there were indications that it would not be necessary to collect all 6,500 green bins originally distributed to residents on

the old kerbside recycling scheme and that it was likely that these costs would therefore decrease.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the blue boxes, officers confirmed that the costs in the report were sufficient to cover the purchase costs of 5,000 blue boxes.

Members observed that Serviceteam had provided the blue boxes for those residents currently on the kerbside recycling scheme and found it disappointing that this was not the case with the outstanding households. Discussions would be held with Serviceteam to confirm how many blue boxes had already been distributed on the new scheme since November and, if the full number that they had allocated within their initial proposals had not been used, this could be used towards this further expansion to the last 4,500 properties.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the provision of blue boxes for flatted accommodation, officers advised that there would be a mixture of the individual blue boxes and larger, communal blue boxes for this kind of accommodation. The estimated costs within the officer's report took account of this requirement.

It was noted that no forthcoming recycling targets had yet been set for 2007/8 onwards; the County Council had also not received any indications. These would, however, be communicated to Members as soon as they became available. Members concurred that any future decisions about expanding the District recycling service to include additional materials for collection should be made in accord with the direction being taken by the Essex Joint Procurement process.

Members noted that the officer's report included no mention of providing the re-usable red bags for the collection of paper to the outstanding 4,500 properties. Officers advised that this was because a recent questionnaire completed by around 1,500 households had highlighted that residents were happy with a combination of using the red bags, carrier bags and placing papers in the blue boxes.

Members all concurred, however, that the extension to the kerbside recycling scheme should be launched with both blue boxes and red bags, as this would appear more professional and would ensure that all households started the kerbside recycling service on an equal footing.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the 18% recycling target for 2005/06, officers advised that it was difficult to know whether this target was likely to be met, as the extension to the kerbside recycling scheme, due to start in November, would help progress, but it was impossible to predict take-up. Currently the Authority seemed likely to achieve 16.5% recycling for the year.

There was a general consensus among Members that, whatever recycling targets were ultimately set, it was very unlikely that kerbside recycling alone would be able to meet them and that some form of anaerobic digestion would therefore be required. Infrastructures would need to be put in place county-wide, as a result of the joint procurement process that would enable recycling targets of 50% and over to be met. In the meantime it was important that the momentum of the kerbside recycling scheme was maintained, particularly in light of residents becoming increasingly more receptive to recycling.

It was noted that officers would discuss various options with Serviceteam and Greens for best utilising the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant in the next two years.

With respect to the existing kerbside recycling scheme, the following was noted:-

- It was anticipated that the kerbside recycling scheme would be rolled out to the outstanding 4,500 properties from November 2005.
- Participation in the kerbside recycling service currently stood at 67%.
- Of the 1500 completed questionnaires received, 87% expressed themselves as either satisfied or very satisfied with the service.
- During the first 36 weeks of the kerbside recycling service 2,542 tonnes were collected in the District.
- The fortnightly average for the first 36 weeks of the service, excluding the first two weeks of the scheme, was 145.9 tonnes.
- Serviceteam's annual target of 2,260 tonnes was met at the start of week 33 of the service. Any recyclables collected after this would yield profit sharing of the credits for the Council.
- The green waste collection service had commenced on 4 July with 350 people signing up for the service to date.
- 4,000 leaflets had been distributed, targeting the Hullbridge area in particular, with 5,000 leaflets due to go out around the District this week via a newspaper. There had been articles on the service in the Evening Echo and Rayleigh Times and in Rochford District Matters.
- Whenever a green bin is delivered to a new customer, leaflets advertising the green waste service are delivered to neighbours on either side and opposite.
- It would be useful to include, with Greens' agreement, a prominent article on the Council website publicising the service, while making it clear that this was run by Greens.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the Saturday morning collections of green waste for areas not covered by the scheme, officers advised that in the second week of the service there had been Saturday morning collection points in Foulness and in Great Wakering to which 6 and 12 people went along respectively. These Saturday green waste collection points had been advertised in Rochford District Matters. It was noted that there would be merit in also advertising the Saturday morning service in parish newsletters.

Recommended to Council

That Members agree that the following recycling initiatives be implemented:

- Purchase of smaller recycling collection vehicle.
- Collection of old green bins for recycling.
- Purchase of blue boxes and red, re-usable bags.
- Continue with emptying of plastic recycling banks on a weekly frequency. (CD(F&ES))

The meeting closed at 11.30 am.

Chairman

Date