

## **Recycling Sub-Committee – 8 March 2004**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **8 March 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr C A Hungate  
Cllr C J Lumley  
Cllr C R Morgan

Cllr P K Savill  
Cllr M G B Starke

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

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

#### **1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor P K Savill was appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee

#### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor C R Morgan declared a personal interest by virtue of representation on the Waste Management Advisory Board and the Consortium of Waste Collection Authorities.

#### **3 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Sub-Committee noted its Terms of Reference.

### **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 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

#### **4 KERBSIDE RECYCLING EXPANSION/ADDITIONAL DEFRA FUNDING**

The Sub-Committee considered in greater detail the exempt report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services), which had been presented to the meeting of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

on 11 February 2004 outlining proposals for the expansion for the kerbside recycling service and utilising the additional DEFRA funding.

It was noted that, since the report had been published, one of the contractors had contacted officers asking if they could introduce a new submission based on published District-wide recycling targets. Officers had asked them to supply details of any such submission in writing by the end of the week. Whilst full details were awaited, it appeared that the new submission would involve the rolling out of a District-wide scheme by 2005/06. The scheme would concentrate on paper and glass (being high tonnage materials). It was envisaged that proposals would include a collection of dry recyclables in addition to the weekly collection of grey bins.

Members agreed that it would be inappropriate to introduce any arrangements that took the Council beyond 2008 (the date when recycling contracts were set for renewal). It was likely that, by this time, new possibilities/opportunities for recycling would be available. Members also recognised that, from the perspective of volume, the Council should be mindful of the recycling of plastic. To drop the recycling of this material could be a retrograde step.

It could be recognised that the Council's current recycling programme was now relatively settled. Any changes to the nature of the programme should be considered with care. It could also be recognised that, whilst a number of advantages could be associated with the introduction of a weekly grey bin collection, there would be some disadvantages - such as a likely overall increase in the amount of material placed in them, including from commercial sources. The Council would need to be mindful of the financial implications associated with any proposals involving a weekly grey bin collection.

Reference was made to the relatively minimal amount of green waste currently placed in green bins. Some problems could be associated with the existing blue bins – specifically insufficient capacity and lost tops. There may well be merit in replacing these bins with sacks. Reference was also made to the fact that the Council's recycling targets formed part of a nationally agreed programme and to the particular interest that younger age groups were taking in effective recycling.

The Sub-Committee received a schedule tabled by the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services). This set out the possible costs of meeting the Government's recycling targets that could be associated with submissions to date.

Responding to questions, officers advised that:-

- The expansion of kerbside recycling needed to be in place early in the next financial year. A final decision should be made at the meeting of Full Council scheduled for 27 April (perhaps via a report from the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee). The County Council was to be the auditing body for DEFRA funding.

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- In introducing a District-wide kerbside collection, the Council would need to be mindful of the impact on existing recycling bank sites. The amount of material taken to bank sites would probably reduce, although kerbside collections have proved to generate a higher tonnage.
- Bidding contractors would be asked to be clear about precisely which materials they would recycle, including their approach to plastic, polystyrene and cardboard. They would also be asked to submit costs on the basis that arrangements would be in place up to 2008. Officers would be making appropriate checks with regard to the reliability/ability and financial capacity of bidders (which would include contact with operating locations).

Members concurred with the view of the Chairman that it would be appropriate to invite bidding contractors to present their proposals in detail to the Sub-Committee, following which recommendations could be made on the way forward.

It was agreed that Sub-Committee meetings be scheduled as follows:-

10.00am on Thursday 18 March (contractor presentation)  
10.00am on Monday 22 March (contractor presentation)  
10.00am on Monday 29 March (finalisation of proposals)

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and closed at 11.21am

Chairman .....

Date .....