

Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee – 5 January 2006

Minutes of the meeting of the **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **5 January 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

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

28 MINUTES

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

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 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

29 ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION – POTENTIAL STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES AND AREAS OF FOCUS

The Sub-Committee considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) apprising Members of the inspectors' preliminary views of the services provided.

The Audit Commission inspectors had conducted a desk top review of the service, based on the Council's service self assessment and supporting evidence. An initial meeting had been held with the Audit Commission inspectors on 14 December at which officers and Members had been presented with potential findings.

The potential findings indicated that the Council would need to conduct more work in particular on the outcomes and performance management sections of the self assessment.

It was likely that the inspectors would look closely at the recycling service, particularly in light of the District's comparatively low recycling percentage rate in comparison to other Authorities within the county, although it was

recognised that the Council was making progress and moving in the right direction.

It was noted that the inspection would take place in the week commencing 9 January. The inspection team would meet frontline staff on Monday, contract managers on Tuesday, Members and Human Resources Manager on Wednesday and senior officers on Thursday. Contact telephone numbers had been requested for the churches involved in the environmental campaign, for Riverwatch, members of the Citizens Panel and for neighbouring Authorities. It was anticipated that the inspection should be completed by close of play on Thursday, 12 January.

The inspectors had indicated that they would accept quarterly performance review (QPR) figures for the first two quarters of 2005/2006 as proof of service improvement.

Resolved

That the preliminary potential strengths, weaknesses and areas of focus be noted. (CD(F&ES))

30 ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION – KEY LINES OF ENQUIRY (KLOE)

The Sub-Committee considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) providing Members with the KLOE's which support the self assessment submitted to the Audit Commission in respect of the above.

It was noted that the self assessment was very much based on the key lines of enquiry document.

During a page by page examination of the KLOE document, the following was noted:-

- Serviceteam would update the inspectors on training put in place for operatives that was designed to minimise instances of missed bins.
- the rolling out of the kerbside recycling scheme to properties not currently on the scheme, excluding flatted properties, would take place at the end of January and would increase the percentage of households within the District on the scheme from 83% to 95%.
- The county-wide review of how best to implement recycling collections for flatted properties should be completed in March/April. It was therefore hoped that the kerbside recycling scheme could be rolled out to such properties by the summer.
- Leaflets relating to refuse collection or recycling services could be provided in different languages to residents, as the Council had access to

an interpretation service.

- Concerns relating to delays in effecting repairs at Great Wakering Leisure Centre had been formally raised with the leisure contractor, Holmes Place.
- Graffiti of an offensive nature was removed within 24 – 48 hours of it being reported to the Council. Other graffiti was generally removed within a month. There were, however, occasions when difficulty was experienced in obtaining agreement from private landowners for the removal of graffiti, even when there were no associated costs to the landowners.
- Some local churches had been given graffiti removal kits and had used these to good effect in their locality and had, in addition, cleared away litter. It was often youngsters who took part in these kinds of initiatives.
- The Council was currently liaising with the business community in order to conduct a waste audit of local businesses. Although the Council did not collect trade waste it was hoped that it could help facilitate recycling initiatives among local businesses.
- It was disappointing that the Authority could be penalised by the inspectors for the delay in the kerbside recycling service being rolled out to other parts of the District, particularly given that the delay was due to the new vehicle not being available from the manufacturer later than originally cited. At the time of the inspection 83% of the District's households would be on the scheme.
- It was hoped that the Authority would not be penalised for lack of enforcement with respect to dog fouling and litter dropping; the scale of the problem was marginal and it was considered that increasing education would be a more effective means of dealing with the problem.
- No additional site had yet been identified in the east of the District for a civic amenity site.
- The percentage of recyclable materials collected at the Castle Road civic amenity and recycling centre was producing a higher than average recycling rate. The recycling credits were not, however, claimed by the Council, but by Essex County Council.
- There could be merit in investigating the possibilities of charging for bulky goods removal.
- It was possible that the weekly collection of grey bins could be viewed in a negative light by the inspection team; it was, however, stressed that this had been introduced in response to overwhelming resident demand for a weekly collection following several complaints, particularly during summer months, relating to a fortnightly collection during the previous kerbside

recycling scheme.

- The comments relating to the Essex Waste Strategy and the Essex Joint Procurement process on page 6.43 of the report should be included in the middle section of the KLOE document.
- The comments relating to corporate links with business development relating to recycling on page 6.44 of the report should similarly be included in the middle section of the KLOE document.

Resolved

That the key lines of enquiry appended to the officer's report be noted.
(CD(F&ES))

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 1.30 pm.

Chairman

Date