

## **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee – 27 January 2006**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **27 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 and External Services)
J Bourne	- Leisure and Contracts Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

### **31 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **32 WASTE & RECYCLING FORWARD PLAN TO 2008**

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) requesting Members' input with respect to the waste and recycling forward plan to 2008.

Officers advised that inspectors indicated during the recent environmental inspection that the main areas for improvement were in relation to performance management of waste management and recycling. The Council should have in place a Waste Management and Recycling forward plan covering the period until 2008 when the outcome of the Essex-wide waste project would be known. It was further reported that a bid had been included within next year's budget for the appointment of a Street Scene Manager to work for the Authority on the Essex procurement process and joint waste strategy. Officers circulated a summary that provided Members with analysis of waste tonnage and recycling rates for Essex districts.

In response to enquiries raised by Members relating to other Local Authorities, officers confirmed that for the next meeting of the Sub-Committee they would provide information on what commodities were being recycled by other Local Authorities in Essex and on whether there were any District Councils within the county that were responsible for the management of their civic amenity sites.

Officers advised that the expansion of the Council's kerbside recycling service to those properties not currently on the scheme (excluding flatted properties) would be delayed, as a result of manufacturing delays with respect to the new, smaller vehicle. The order for the vehicle had been placed in July 2005.

The vehicle supplier had been informed that the delays were unacceptable and had subsequently agreed to secure an alternative vehicle for the Council to use until such time as the ordered vehicle was delivered to the Authority.

It was anticipated that an interim hire vehicle would be delivered to enable the scheme to be extended to approximately two thirds of the outstanding properties that could be accessed by the ordered vehicle from 27 February 2006. The supplier would bear the costs associated with the hire of the vehicle. Officers would also seek to obtain a reduction in the purchase price of the new vehicle, in light of all the delays.

Officers emphasised that none of the properties not on a kerbside recycling round had yet received any notification about the service. It was anticipated that this would be done over the next few days, and that the delivery of blue boxes and red bags would commence to these properties in the week commencing 13 February 2006.

In response to a Member concern relating to possible delays in delivering the hire vehicle, officers advised that Serviceteam had been provided with the vehicle specifications and were working on what properties could be accessed using that vehicle. These properties would then receive leaflets and notification of their kerbside recycling round, prior to delivery of blue boxes and red bags.

During debate, the following points were noted:-

- It would not be appropriate to consider issues relating to kerbside recycling collection for those properties with driveways of 200 yards or more until such time as the Essex Joint Waste Strategy commenced in 2008.
- It would, similarly, be premature to explore the possibility of a co-mingled kerbside recycling service until after introduction of the Essex Joint Waste Strategy in 2008.
- This Council had commenced recycling services later than many other Authorities and, as such, had some ground to cover in order to catch up.
- 2006/7 would be the first full year that this Council has operated both kerbside recycling and green waste recycling services, therefore the recycling percentage should increase accordingly.
- It was generally the rule that those Authorities with large tonnages for green waste tended to have higher overall recycling percentages.
- There would be merit in officers determining whether there would be any contractors interested in collecting hard core waste, including bricks and rubble, directly from residents.

- It was important that the Council started to educate residents about the negative implications of not recycling, including the financial penalties associated with placing excess waste in landfill and how this could have an impact on levels of Council Tax.
- More work should be done in schools highlighting to children the benefits of recycling.
- The new leaflets for the kerbside recycling expansion make particular reference to the recycling of catalogues and the next edition of *Rochford District Matters* would also highlight that these can be recycled.
- There would be merit in exploring the possibilities of introducing an incentive scheme, on a monthly basis, for example, such that individual properties could receive a reward for high levels of recycling.
- The Council should explore the possibilities of increasing the types of plastic collected in the District's bring banks.
- The kerbside recycling service should be extended to include cardboard and the possibilities for including cardboard collections at bring banks should also be explored.
- There would be merit in writing to the LGA asking that manufacturers being asked to consider decreasing the volume of packaging for their products.
- Increasing participation in the green waste recycling scheme would greatly help the Authority's recycling percentages.

During debate of the green waste recycling scheme, Members concurred that the waste and recycling forward plan should also include the Saturday morning collections of green waste for areas not covered by the green waste scheme. Members also felt that there would be merit in using a portion of the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant in order to do more marketing of the green waste scheme.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the Saturday morning collections of green waste by lorry, officers confirmed that they could explore with Greens the possibility of increasing the number of collections made, although there were likely to be some costs associated with this. Responding to a further query relating to the costs of the service, officers confirmed that they could also investigate the possibilities of a subsidy for the costs of the service for those residents on a low income and the charge for the service overall.

In concluding the debate, there was a general consensus among Members that the waste and recycling forward plan to 2008 should be monitored by the Sub-Committee every six months. Officers confirmed that the forward plan would be circulated to the environment inspectors.

### **Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee**

That the content of Appendix A to the officer's report form the basis of the Council's Waste and Recycling Forward Plan up to 2008, subject to inclusion of the Saturday morning collections of green waste by lorry in areas not covered by the green waste scheme. (CD(F&ES))

The meeting closed at 4.35 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....