

## **Contracts Sub-Committee – 15 October 2007**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Contracts Sub-Committee** held on **15 October 2007** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr M G B Starke

Cllr T G Cutmore  
Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr C J Lumley  
Cllr P F A Webster

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs J A Mockford.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

G Woolhouse	-	Corporate Director (External Services)
J Bourne	-	Head of Community Services
R Evans	-	Head of Environmental Services
A Lovett	-	Environmental Street Scene Manager
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

## **8 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **9 KERBSIDE RECYCLING SCHEME**

The Environmental Street Scene Manager gave the Sub-Committee a verbal update on progress with respect to the kerbside recycling scheme.

Members were advised that there had been a significant increase in glass being recycled and, although the bring-bank paper collection had been lower in August, the trend for recycling was upwards, with a recycling rate recorded during August 2007 of 20.2%.

## **10 CONFIGURATION OF THE NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE CONTRACT**

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services outlining the results of the modelling undertaken on behalf of Essex County Council using the Kerbside Analysis Tool, which provided a cost-benefit analysis of different types of waste collection systems.

Although it was a County Council led report and Rochford District Council was not bound to accept any of the proffered options, the table appended to the report indicated that the waste collection systems explored would allow an increase in recycling of between 36 and 42%. If the Council's current method

were retained, an increase of no more than 22% could be achieved, which would not meet Government imposed recycling rate targets. It was emphasised that whichever option was adopted, kitchen waste would be collected on a weekly basis.

It was noted that an extension to the tender submission date had been granted following a request from several of the companies tendering for the Rochford waste contracts. This was due to companies being involved in the process of bidding for waste contracts of one of the larger London Borough's. The revised date had been accepted by all the companies concerned and tenders had now all been received. Details of the bids would be brought before the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

In response to a question, Members were advised that until prices had been agreed with the successful contractor, it would be impossible to estimate what the costs to ratepayers would be. However, money had been allocated in the budget to cover a potential increase in the cost of recycling. It was further noted that the building locally of a Material Recycling Facility would be considered via the contract process and was also being examined separately by Essex County Council.

Members noted that it was vital that any recycling scheme adopted by the Council was adequately promoted, in order to increase public awareness and consequently the rate of recycling.

### **Resolved**

That the options set out in the report be used to inform the Selection for the new Waste Services Contract. (HES)

## **11 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE CONTRACT**

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services advising Members of the consultation arrangements that are in place in respect of the new waste management contract.

A report containing additional information would be brought to the next meeting. However, it was noted that the waste management service contract being negotiated at present would deal with many of the issues raised by the public consultations. The Sub-Committee was advised that focus groups would be run in Rayleigh and Wakering later in the month.

In respect of the question in the public consultation that asked for residents to specify how much of an increase in Council Tax they would be prepared to accept in order to have a broader collection of waste materials, it was suggested that the wording be altered to show a range of specific amounts that could be selected.

The possibilities regarding the recycling of batteries were discussed. One suggestion was for the Council to request electrical shops/battery retailers to provide a facility within the shop where people could deposit used batteries. Although the Council would not gain any recycling credits for a scheme such as this, neither would it incur any cost. There would also be a reduction in the amount of pollution in the landfill sites from batteries and retailers would be given the opportunity to become involved in the recycling initiative.

Discussion ensued regarding composting and green waste recycling. It was appreciated that many people in the more rural areas of the District would welcome the opportunity to participate in the kerbside green waste collection service and this would be borne in mind when discussions with contractors took place. Members were advised that the Council would be awarded with credits in accordance with the levels of composting achieved in the District.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the customer focus groups be consulted on the issues outlined in the Appendix.
- (2) That the key messages from the door-to-door canvassing campaign on recycling be noted. (HES)

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

## **12 ESSEX JOINT PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

The Sub-Committee considered the exempt report of the Head of Community Services providing Members with an update on progress with respect to the Essex Joint Procurement process.

It was noted that, since the report had been written, there had been a meeting of the Thames Gateway Waste Management Joint Committee on 3 October that had raised issues that needed to be addressed.

### **Resolved**

That the content of the report in relation to the progress of the Essex Waste Management Procurement Project be noted. (HES)

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The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 12.10 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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