

Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee – 25 May 2005

Minutes of the meeting of the **Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **25 May 2005** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr P K Savill

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
Cllr C A Hungate

Cllr M G B Starke

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T G Cutmore and C J Lumley.

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Bourne - Leisure and Contracts Manager
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16 KERBSIDE RECYCLING SCHEME

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update from the Leisure and Contracts Manager on progress with respect to the kerbside recycling scheme.

It was noted that, with respect to the kerbside recycling scheme, total tonnage for the first 29 weeks of the scheme equalled 2,062 tonnes. This equated to around 148 tonnes per fortnight, if the first two weeks of the scheme where tonnage was very low were omitted. Should current tonnage rates remain steady, Serviceteam's annual target of 2,260 tonnes would be met after just 32 weeks of the scheme and profit share possibilities would start to be realised.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to profit sharing, officers confirmed that, with respect to all tonnages over 2,260 tonnes, the recycling credits from Essex County Council would be split 50 / 50 with Serviceteam, therefore the District Council would obtain a profit of approximately £21.50 per ton. In addition, the District Council would receive a share in the profits accruing from the value of the recyclable materials.

Responding to a further enquiry relating to the promotion of the kerbside recycling scheme, officers advised that District Councillors would receive copies of all leaflets sent out to residents relating to the scheme. Promotional events were being held utilising the mobile exhibition unit and, in addition, door to door task forces funded by the County Council were going out and

talking to residents about recycling and conducting a survey of residents relating to their satisfaction with the scheme. There would be a large article on the kerbside recycling scheme and the new green waste collection service in the next edition of *Rochford District Matters*.

During debate, Members, while expressing satisfaction with the way in which recycling tonnages were consistently good, nevertheless felt that there was room for improvement. Members identified a number of factors which could be contributing to residents not using the service, these included:-

- Some Rochford residents took their recycling to the civic amenity site in Stock Road or to bring banks at major supermarkets, all situated within the Southend Borough.
- The current kerbside recycling service did not include collection of plastics, textiles and cardboard.

Members considered that there would be merit in residents being informed by means of any recycling literature produced by the Council that taking recyclables to bring banks outside the Rochford District would result in the profits from these materials being allocated to Southend on Sea Borough Council, therefore not benefiting Rochford residents.

Responding to Member enquiries, officers confirmed that they would explore the possibilities and potential costs of increasing the number of materials collected within the kerbside recycling scheme from 3 to 5 and, similarly, would investigate the practicalities and costs of trailers being towed by the recycling vehicles for the collection of surplus recyclables.

Bring Banks

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to bring banks, officers advised that the Council received approximately £43 per tonne of recyclables deposited in the District's bring banks. During debate of bring banks, the following points were noted:-

- officers would investigate the feasibility of introducing bring banks at Purdeys Industrial Estate.
- It was important that there was adequate space at bring banks for people to unload recyclables without fear of obtaining a penalty notice.
- It was important that bring banks were correctly located; the Hockley Community Centre bring bank, for example, was poorly used.
- Appropriate signage should be placed at the Freight House to inform residents that there was a bring bank there.

Members were particularly pleased to note that Council officers were actively

monitoring bring banks with a view to reducing the incidences of people depositing incorrect items in the banks.

Members concurred that there would be merit in a large banner being used around the District to inform residents of the presence of a recycling bring bank.

Extending the Kerbside Recycling Scheme District-Wide

Officers, in liaison with Serviceteam, had now identified a smaller vehicle that would be suitable for providing a kerbside recycling service for the 4,500 properties not currently on a round. A bid for £72,000 had accordingly been made to the County Council against a sum of approximately £350,000 DEFRA funding that was available across the County this year. It was anticipated that a decision would be made about all bids received for DEFRA funding by the end of June. In the event of a successful bid it would be possible to roll out the kerbside recycling service District-wide in November.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to any failure to secure DEFRA funding, officers advised that the Council had been awarded a waste performance and efficiency grant of £25,000 for this year and had £15,000 remaining from a similar grant last year. There would be approximately £65,00 available to the Authority in 2006/7 and around £68,000 in 2007/8. It had already been determined that some of this grant would be used towards covering the costs of the new green waste collection service. In the event, however, of DEFRA only awarding part of the required £72,000 for the smaller vehicle, some of this waste performance and efficiency grant would remain in order to address any shortfall.

Concluding this debate, it was noted that a meeting of the Sub-Committee would be required as soon as was practicable after the decision on bids for DEFRA funding had been taken.

Receptacles for Kerbside Paper Collection

The door to door task forces have been obtaining feedback from residents on the kerbside recycling scheme, which has included feedback on residents' preferred receptacles for paper. Around 1,000 completed questionnaires have been analysed to date which indicate that 17% of residents would prefer to continue using the current, re-usable red bag; 32% would prefer an alternative re-usable bag; 17% would prefer a lidded box; 14% were happy to use ordinary carrier bags; 10% were happy to simply place papers in the blue box and 5% said that they would prefer disposable bags.

87% of residents declared themselves satisfied or very satisfied with the current kerbside recycling scheme. Officers advised that the remainder of the questionnaires distributed to residents should be available by the next meeting of this Sub-Committee, together with details of which parts of the District were covered by the task forces.

Officers had investigated the various receptacle options, drawing on information obtained from other Local Authorities and from Serviceteam and had concluded that the most cost effective option would be re-usable bags. Lidded boxes cost approximately £4 per box which was financially prohibitive; rolls of disposable bags would cost between £17,000 - £25,000 p.a.; good quality, re-usable bags would cost approximately £15,000 - £16,000 p.a.

Members noted that the questionnaire results to date indicated that the majority of residents were happy with the current receptacles, ie a combination of red re-usable bags, blue boxes and carrier bags.

Green Waste Collection Service

It was noted that the first green waste collections would commence at the beginning of July. Residents would be able to telephone Greens of Maldon from 1 June in order to book the service. Greens have already taken delivery in their depot of 240 litre green bins with yellow lids, which were very striking and would, in themselves, serve to promote the service. A series of advertisements were being placed in local newspapers, together with an article in the next edition of *Rochford District Matters*. A5 flyers would be placed through residents' letter boxes, at the Rochford and Civic Suite Reception areas and in the libraries. The mobile exhibition unit would also be used to promote the scheme.

Officers advised that the costs of the service to the Council had been reduced by Greens in proportion to the recent increase in recycling credits for green waste. Further, Greens had agreed to include Rawreth in the list of areas within the District to be covered by the kerbside service. It was planned that there would be two separate locations in Wakering for Saturday morning green waste collections, although this would not be available from November – January.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the delivery of the A5 leaflets, officers confirmed that Greens had already requested, and obtained, details of those households who had been on the previous kerbside recycling scheme, which had included a green waste collection.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to green waste recycling credits, officers confirmed that although Greens would retain any profits from the credits, the tonnages collected would go towards the Council's annual recycling percentages.

In response to a further enquiry, officers confirmed that, with respect to the Saturday morning collections, green waste should be placed in black bags, but a bin facility would be made available for the disposal of the black bags.

EXCLUSION OF 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 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

17 UPDATE ON ESSEX WASTE PROCUREMENT PROJECT

The Sub-Committee considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) updating Members on the current status of the Essex Waste Procurement Project and outlining future stages and associated timescales.

It was noted that a soft market testing event had been held on 19 May, which had been very well attended, and notably by the main waste management companies.

Members expressed concern about an article that had appeared in the *Evening Echo* relating to the possibility of an anaerobic digestion plant being sited in Titchfield Road. Officers would investigate this further.

Resolved

That progress be noted to date on the Essex Waste Procurement Process and future work and stages still to be implemented and that Members reaffirm their commitment to supporting this procurement project. (CD(F&ES))

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 12.35 pm.

Chairman

Date