

RECYCLING AND WASTE STRATEGY MOTION

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following a motion reported at Council on 25 April 2002 from Councillors Hoskin, Leach and Mrs Hall, it was resolved that it should be given further consideration at this committee.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The above mentioned motion is as follows:

“This Council:

- a) Welcomes the progress of Rochford District Council (RDC) in raising recycling levels, the positive results of our residents in Hawkwell and parts of Rayleigh are to be commended.
- (b) Is concerned at the apparent continuing differences between Essex County Council (ECC) and the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) in respect of the Waste Plan and the emerging Waste Contract Strategy and urges the County Council, the Unitary Authorities and the WCAs in Essex, through their membership of the Waste Management Advisory Board, to establish an agreed, sustainable and flexible waste management strategy for Essex, which will form the basis of a truly constructive partnership between all parties.
- (c) Re-affirms RDC’s waste strategies of seeking to: Maximise reduction, re-use and recycling in the District; Extend the life of available landfill and avoid incineration; Encourage local residents and businesses in those respects; Promote appropriate local waste treatment and recycling businesses; Seek a meaningful sharing of plans and financial resources with ECC, and response by WCAs to current and future developments.
- (d) Regrets that the adoption of the Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan did not take account of the final modifications proposed by RDC and the Consortium, particularly in respect of incineration.
- (e) Commends a similar motion to other Boroughs and Districts in Essex for debate and resolution. “

3 RECYCLING AND WASTE STRATEGY PROGRESS

- 3.1 The Council's recycling level has continued to rise with last year's figure being 8% of the total household waste collected. A full report detailing the progress of the recycling projects is also being presented at this committee.
- 3.2 The Waste Management Advisory Board (WMAB) is now meeting on a monthly basis and is attended by all the Authorities in Essex, including the County Council and the two Unitary Authorities, Southend and Thurrock.
- 3.3 One of the principal projects being dealt with at present by the WMAB is overseeing the production of the draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex, Southend and Thurrock. Specialist Technical Consultants, ERM / Babtie have been appointed to produce the draft strategy which will be presented to the WMAB on 29 July 2002.
- 3.4 A report has recently been presented at the Environmental Services Committee on 4 July 2002 that provided further details on the draft strategy process. The report also highlighted a number of items that this Authority could wish to put forward within the strategy consultation process and in particular, the consultation with industry, which in turn covers the issues detailed in part (c) of the motion.
- 3.5 From the discussions taking place at the WMAB, it is apparent that there is a constructive partnership being created which is producing a concerted approach towards the production of the draft Waste Management Strategy and also a number of other related issues.
- 3.6 Representatives from the different Authorities are often raising similar issues and would therefore concur with the principles of this motion. A report that was endorsed at a recent meeting of the WMAB very much stressed the need for all Authorities to input into the strategy process, in order to achieve the best results.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The production of an effective Waste Management Strategy that includes input from all the County's Authorities can have a significant impact on the environmental conditions that exist within the District.

4 RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the content of this report with particular reference to the progress being made by the Waste Management Advisory Board and determine a view to be forwarded to Environmental Services Committee in respect of the proposed motion set out in the report.

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Background Papers:

None

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