

Environmental Services Committee – 6 June 2006

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **6 June 2006** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr M G B Starke
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr R A Amner
Cllr J P Cottis
Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr C J Lumley
Cllr Mrs J A Mockford

Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr P R Robinson
Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

VISITING MEMBER

Cllr P K Savill

OFFICERS PRESENT

G Woolhouse - Corporate Director (External Services)
J Bourne - Leisure & Contracts Manager
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

180 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs M J Webster declared a prejudicial interest in item 9 of the agenda, relating to the report of the Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee by virtue of having purchased a second bin, and left the Chamber during discussion of that item.

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.

181 REPORT OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee recommending a series of measures to address the conclusions of the Audit Commission's final report on the waste management and open spaces inspection.

Members congratulated Mr G Woolhouse (Corporate Director (External Services)) on his promotion, which they considered to be well earned. They also extended their warm thanks to Mr J Bourne (Leisure and Contracts

Manager) for all his hard work over the past two years, not just on the Essex joint waste management procurement process and the waste management and kerbside recycling contracts, but also on the refurbishment of Clements Hall Leisure Centre and the development of the new Rayleigh Leisure Centre. Members also expressed their gratitude to Cllrs M G B Starke and P K Savill for all their hard work on the Thames Gateway Joint Committee.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the Street Scene Manager post, officers confirmed that interviews had been conducted and that it was anticipated that an appointment would soon be made.

Members concurred that it was vital that the Council should develop an alternative solution for waste collection and recycling in order to address the possibility that the Essex joint waste management procurement process might not be completed in advance of the expiry of this Authority's current waste management and kerbside recycling collection contracts.

Officers advised that the Authority's own procurement process would therefore start officially in January/February 2007, with advertisements being placed inviting contractors to tender for the services, but work was already being commenced on developing tender specifications and formulating what services would be required.

During debate of the possible introduction of a charge for the removal of bulky items and white goods, some Members felt that the charge should be waived for elderly residents and those on income support.

Members expressed concern that residents living in the Wakering area had to undergo a 22-mile round trip in order to take larger items to the civic amenity and recycling centre. Members voiced their disappointment that residents in the eastern part of the District were unable to use the Southend on Sea Borough Council civic amenity and recycling centre in Stock Road, without the inconvenience of having to claim back the charge levied.

Members further considered that it was the perception of residents that refuse collection and recycling were 2 of the few services that they actually paid for as part of their Council Tax.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to white goods, officers advised that collected white goods were taken to the depot and then picked up by County Council contractors, free of charge, and subsequently properly disposed of.

Members, while mindful of the rising administrative charges associated with this service and the fact that the majority of Authorities within the County all levy a charge, nevertheless believed that a charge should not be introduced until such time as there was a civic amenity and recycling centre in the east of the District.

During debate of the proposal to discontinue collections of second wheeled

bins not meeting the proposed criteria outlined in paragraph 1.3 of the Sub-Committee report, Members felt that there would be no substantive financial advantage in introducing this proposal, which was likely to be unpopular with residents, given that only a very small percentage of residents had a second bin. Members did, however, concur that the Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee should review whether a charge should be re-introduced for second wheeled bin collections.

On a Motion moved by Cllr C G Seagers and seconded by Cllr P R Robinson it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That no charge should be made to residents for the collection of bulky items or white goods.

It was further:-

Resolved

- (2) That the Council continue to be part of the Essex Waste Procurement process, exploring possibilities of joint working, but to run its own procurement process in the event of Essex timescales not meeting this Authority's requirements.
- (3) That regular monitoring be undertaken of the Council's waste management and recycling forward plan, by means of 6-weekly meetings of the Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee, as required, with measurement against statutory targets, and that this be one of the key headline performance monitoring issues for the Policy, Finance & Strategic Performance Committee.
- (4) That no changes be made with respect to collections of second wheeled bins and that the Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee consider the issue of introducing a charge for second wheeled bin collections. (CD(ES))

(Note: Cllr M G B Starke wished it to be recorded that he had abstained from voting for items (1) and (4) above.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman

Date