

Recycling Sub-Committee – 17 January 2005

Minutes of the meeting of the **Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **17 January 2005** when there were present:-

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
Cllr C A Hungate
Cllr C J Lumley

Cllr G A Mockford
Cllr P K Savill

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr P K Savill was appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Sub-Committee, in noting its terms of reference, concurred that the name of the Sub-Committee should also reflect the remit to examine long term waste management solutions.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to timescales with respect to the Essex joint waste strategy, officers advised that the Council had agreed to enter into the joint procurement process for long term waste management solutions in November 2004. The timetable for carrying out this process was by 2007 with the aim of the waste management systems and infrastructure being operational in 2007/8 or 2009 at the latest.

It was noted that at a meeting of the Waste Management Advisory Board on 13 December 2004 all other Districts in Essex, with the exception of Thurrock, agreed to be part of the joint procurement process. Three working groups had been formed, comprising east, west and Thames Gateway. Rochford District fell within the Thames Gateway, which was still a viable grouping, even without Thurrock's participation. The expiry of this Council's refuse collection and recycling contracts on 31 March 2008 broadly coincided with the expiry of Essex County Council waste contracts.

It was further noted that it was vital that any information emanating from Waste Management Advisory Board meetings that could be considered sensitive in the context of future contract negotiations, should be kept confidential. Future agendas of this Sub-Committee should therefore include provision for the discussion of confidential material.

In response to a Member concern relating to the possibility of losing local control over refuse collection and recycling contractors in the event of large, county-wide contracts being introduced, officers advised that this concern had been highlighted by several other Local Authorities and it was clear that the same level of local control would be maintained.

Contractors, as part of the procurement process, would be asked to supply a number of costings based on the Local Authority's own specification for refuse collection, kerbside recycling and street cleansing, on an individual basis, and also as part of the Gateway as a whole. The contractors would also be asked to provide proposals based on their ideas for the best waste management solution for Essex.

Officers confirmed that, in advance of the next meeting of the Sub-Committee, Members would be provided with a summary of the history of the strategy, including any relevant documents from the County Council, together with charts distributed at the last Thames Gateway Area Waste Management Group, giving detailed breakdowns of the timescales for the process over the next 6 months and detailing the broader process over the next two – two and a half years.

It was noted that Essex County Council would be organising officer and Member training sessions on PFIs.

During debate there was a general consensus that, given future large increases in landfill tax, it would be necessary to consider all alternative methods of waste disposal, including anaerobic digestion and incineration. It would, however, given the lack of public support for incineration, be necessary to establish that incineration carried no health risks. Members concurred that it could be of interest to conduct a site visit to an incineration plant in Birmingham. It was also considered that there would be merit in establishing the level of charges made to residents by Local Authorities on the continent for the disposal of large, household goods.

On a Motion moved by Cllr P K Savill and seconded by Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn it was:-

Resolved

That this Sub-Committee be re-named Waste Management and Recycling Sub-Committee.

3 KERBSIDE RECYCLING SCHEME

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

It was noted that the kerbside recycling scheme, after some initial difficulties,

Recycling Sub-Committee – 17 January 2005

had now settled down well. There were a lot less telephone calls to the recycling office, which had resulted in the recycling assistant being able to go out around the District monitoring collections and participation levels, which had highlighted that these participation levels were high in most areas. Contamination levels were, in addition, low.

A number of calls had been received relating to refuse collections over the Christmas period, but on the whole collections had gone smoothly, with normal service resumed by 10th January. Those residents on Week 1 Monday/Tuesday kerbside recycling rounds had been programmed to miss a collection over the Christmas period and some residents had telephoned in to clarify dates.

Discussions were soon to take place with Serviceteam on how to include those properties, around 4000 – 4500 properties, not currently on the kerbside recycling scheme. One vehicle had been fitted with an additional bin lift, aimed specifically at collecting from communal bin areas, but it was clear that much work was needed on addressing the logistical problems of collecting recyclables from properties in more rural areas of the District. The intention was to provide these properties with the service as soon as possible this year. Proposals would be brought back to the Sub-Committee at a later date for consideration.

Officers confirmed that the tonnages of recyclables collected since the introduction of the kerbside recycling service exceeded original estimates. In week 1 collections were made from more properties and so 3 vehicles were used, compared to 2 vehicles in week 2.

The following tonnages were confirmed by officers:

Week commencing 1/11/04

35 tonnes

Week commencing 8/11/04

26 tonnes

Week commencing 15/11/04

81 tonnes

Week commencing 22/11/04

69 tonnes

Week commencing 29/11/04

87 tonnes

Week commencing 6/12/04

64 tonnes

Week commencing 13/12/04

81 tonnes

Week commencing 20/12/04

64 tonnes

Week commencing 27/12/04

45 tonnes (3 days only)

Week commencing 3/01/05

65 tonnes

In the week commencing 10 January around 80 tonnes had been collected by mid-week.

Recycling Sub-Committee – 17 January 2005

Since the introduction of the new kerbside recycling scheme, tonnages at bring banks were lower than previous levels, but not significantly so. This included tonnages for glass and paper. The plastic recycling banks placed around the District to coincide with the introduction of the new kerbside recycling scheme were being heavily used, to the extent that an additional, small bank had been placed at 4 to 5 of the sites, and these were also being filled. The plastic banks had been emptied initially on a fortnightly basis, but this had had to be increased to a weekly collection. A bid had been made to the County Council for grant funding to offset the additional costs of a weekly collection for the next financial year.

The Council wished to offer a green waste service to residents in the spring. Residents would have to pay for the service on an annual basis and the Council was going through a tender process to ensure value for money. Proposals would be brought back to this Sub-Committee for consideration, once finalised.

During debate Members concurred that there would be merit in providing all Members with a breakdown of tonnages of recyclables collected at the end of the first quarter.

There was also a consensus that there were now much fewer complaints from residents about the kerbside recycling service.

The following key points were noted:-

- Some residents who had been on the old recycling round were unhappy that the current kerbside recycling service did not include all the materials previously collected.
- The red bags should not be removed, but consideration given to incorporating handles on them.
- Blue boxes tended to get blown into the roads during windy weather.
- It was difficult for residents to use the recycling bank in Rawreth Lane on Saturdays as a result of the car park being full.
- There was the potential risk that some residents not wishing to pay for a green waste service could dump green waste on unadopted roads and in ditches.

4 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A meeting would be arranged in February, to commence at 10.00 am.

Recycling Sub-Committee – 17 January 2005

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 11.55 am.

Chairman

Date