

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 19 October 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **19 October 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr P A Capon (Vice-Chairman) in the chair

Cllr Mrs S A Harper
Cllr K H Hudson
Cllr C A Hungate

Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr M G B Starke

VISITING MEMBERS

Cllrs R A Amner, Mrs T J Capon and Mrs M J Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn, T E Goodwin and P K Savill.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr J R F Mason

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance and External Services)
G Woolhouse	- Head of Housing, Health and Community Care
J Bourne	- Leisure and Contracts Manager
F Laycock	- Senior Environmental Health Officer
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

REPRESENTING ANGLIAN WATER

J Mitchell

REPRESENTING SERVICETEAM

D Lester
G Such

ALSO PRESENT

A Bates of Stambridge Parish Council.

439 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

440 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs T J Capon declared a personal interest in item 7 of the agenda by virtue of being a resident of Stambridge and Chairman of Stambridge Parish Council.

Cllr P A Capon declared a personal interest in item 7 of the agenda by virtue of being a resident of Stambridge and a Member of Stambridge Parish Council.

441 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Committee received the Schedule relating to Progress on Decisions and in response to Member questions the following was noted:-

Rochford Town Map

It was anticipated that this would be installed as soon as the frame was delivered.

Bus Routes Within Rochford District – Liaison Issues

The visit to the First Bus Group control centre at Hadleigh was due to take place on 1 December.

442 ANGLIAN WATER LIAISON ISSUES

The Chairman welcomed Mr J Mitchell of Anglian Water Services, who was in attendance to provide an update on issues relating to Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works.

Mr Mitchell confirmed that, in line with Central Government directives that, where possible, sewage should be treated at source, a sludge treatment plant planning application had been submitted to Southend on Sea Borough Council, copies of which had been forwarded to Rochford District Council and Stambridge Parish Council. It was anticipated that the application would be considered by the Planning Committee in January.

Anglian Water Services subsequently received a request from Southend on Sea Borough Council Planning and Environmental Health officers for a site visit to the Southend Sewage Treatment Works and to Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works. This had taken place today.

During debate, Members expressed disappointment that a copy of the planning application had only just been received by this Council, although it had originally been submitted to Southend on Sea Borough Council more than a month ago.

There was a general consensus among Members that communication with

Anglian Water had not been improved by the establishment of a liaison group, as, over the years, there had been a series of planned meetings attended by representatives from Anglian Water, Rochford District Council, Stambridge Parish Council, Sludgewatch, the Environment Agency and Essex County Council. The dissemination of information relating to the Works had not, however, improved as a result of these meetings.

The Anglian Water representative was unable to confirm when, in the event of the planning application being successful, work would be likely to be completed at the Southend Sewage Treatment Works, as a tendering process would have to be undertaken in the first instance. A likely timescale would be better known in January. Conversely, should the application not be successful, Anglian Water would lodge an appeal if there were good planning reasons so to do.

Responding to an enquiry relating to a fallback position in the event of an unsuccessful outcome to the planning application, the representative confirmed that Anglian Water's preferred option was to develop the Southend Works, but that consideration would have to be given to the continuation of treatment of Southend sewage at the Stambridge Works, should the application fail.

Concluding the debate, Members confirmed their wholehearted support for the planning application and asked that they be informed of the course of action that Anglian Water would wish to take after the application had been considered by the Planning Committee of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

443 SERVICETEAM UPDATE

Members considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) to which had been attached a progress report provided by Serviceteam on the progress and development of the refuse collection and street cleansing contracts.

In response to a Member concern relating to residents' expectation that all properties within the District would receive a kerbside recycling service from 1 November, the Serviceteam representatives confirmed that a small vehicle would need to be purchased to access properties such as farms. Around 4,000 properties would accordingly not receive the service until this purchase had been made. A press release would be issued advising residents of the situation.

In response to Member questions, it was noted that:-

- It was usual for Local Authorities to introduce new recycling schemes on a fortnightly basis, initially, in order to assess the take-up by residents. Once a scheme was well developed and working well it could be possible to consider increasing the frequency of collection to a weekly basis, dependent on tonnages of material being collected and the level of

additional collection costs that would be incurred. The kerbside recycling vehicles purchased had the capacity for a fourth bay and it might be possible, at a later date, to introduce additional materials for collection, such as plastic and cardboard.

- The delivery of the blue recycling boxes had begun early to allow time for any reported instances of non delivery to be resolved.
- The existing lidded blue recycling boxes would be retained by residents for use with the new kerbside recycling service.
- The red sacks were approximately half the size of black refuse sacks, with an extended 2 inch gusset at the bottom, and a thickness of 100 micron; they were designed to last for approximately 26 collections.
- Red sacks, when emptied, would be placed into the blue boxes and Serviceteam operatives would carry supplies of the sacks on the recycling vehicles.
- Serviceteam and Rochford District Council were currently in negotiations with respect to how a green waste recycling service might be provided to residents.
- All recycling vehicles had dustpan and brushes on board in order to deal with any kerbside breakages. Any broken bottles left out in the blue boxes would not be collected, for reasons of health and safety, and in such instances an explanatory leaflet would be left for residents.
- Residents unhappy about losing the current green waste service would be reminded that the new recycling service would result in substantially more households within the District receiving a kerbside recycling service and that all residents would in future receive a weekly grey bin collection, rather than the fortnightly collection those currently on the recycling round received.
- Shredded paper should be put into the grey bins for collection.
- The frail and elderly should contact the recycling team to ask for an assisted collection service.
- Drivers of the mechanical sweepers were required to manually sweep the roadside areas missed by the machines. Any instances of this not being done should be reported to Contracted Services.
- Hot spot rounds were being used to address the issue of missed grey bins.
- Instances of grey bins falling into the refuse vehicles were mainly associated with the age and weight of the bins. All such bins were

replaced, once reported.

Concluding the debate, Members concurred that Serviceteam were to be commended for introducing the kerbside recycling scheme to the majority of households within the District before the end of November, earlier than originally targeted.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman

Date