

Recycling Sub-Committee - 29 March 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the **Recycling Sub-Committee** held on **29 March 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr P K Savill (Chairman)

Cllr C A Hungate
Cllr C J Lumley

Cllr C R Morgan
Cllr M G B Starke

VISITING MEMBER

Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts - Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
J Bourne - Leisure & Contracts Manager
J Bostock - Principal Committee Administrator

8 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C R Morgan declared a personal interest by virtue of representation on the Waste Management Advisory Board and the Consortium of Waste Collection Authorities.

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 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

10 KERBSIDE RECYCLING EXPANSION/ADDITIONAL DEFRA FUNDING

The Sub-Committee had convened to develop recommendations following presentations from the two bidding contractors. To assist the process officers had produced paperwork providing further detail on each of the bids and the possible costs which could be associated with meeting Government recycling targets.

It was noted that, whilst lower costs could be associated with the first contractor to present to the Sub-Committee, the bid from the second bidding contractor was more robust and included provision for relatively cautious tonnage estimates.

During debate it was observed that, whilst the first bidding contractor had introduced an element of freshness, innovation and competition, a key advantage of the proposal from the second contractor was whole District coverage. Such coverage would enable equal involvement by all residents and place the authority in good stead for any future increased recycling targets. Reference was made to the Hawkehill East trial that had identified problems with recycling bin lids blowing away and associated difficulties with loose paper. This pointed to the value of introducing sacks for paper. Reference was also made to the recycling activity of other authorities that dealt with a wide variety of materials and to the importance of education to the recycling ethos.

It was noted that the second bidding contractor recognised educational aspects. It was also noted that the public should be aware of the need to move forward on recycling given the high level of nationwide publicity on the subject. It was observed that the second contractors estimated charge for introducing a "buy into" green collection scheme was relatively low in the context of actual costs associated with delivering such waste to recycling sites. It was considered that, whilst the contractor could be approached about the possibility of the Council introducing green waste collection across the District, costs were likely to be very high and, given the need to move forward within a limited timeframe to achieve DEFRA funding, it would be more appropriate to include such considerations when the full waste contract is under review. It was felt that, with a weekly collection, the introduction of smaller bins was unlikely to be an issue.

Responding to questions, officers advised that:-

- The Council's recycling team was currently endeavouring to gauge from other Local Authorities the levels of tonnage associated with the type of scheme proposed by the second bidding contractor.
- From information received it appeared that an increase in kerbside recycling was unlikely to have any noticeable impact on the level of recycled materials seen at bank sites.
- Boxes could fill up relatively quickly. The second bidding contractor could be approached on the introduction of sacks for paper recycling. The contractor could also be approached with a view to ensuring that effective arrangements are in place for areas where there are blocks of flats, caravans and unmade roads.

- Based on current targets, there is a need to recycle 18% of waste by 2005/06 and provide kerbside recycling of two items to the whole of the District by 2010.
- As part of the DEFRA arrangement a specific communications bid is being made to WRAP for assistance with the education and promotion of recycling schemes. There would be an element of monies for each District and a high profile could be given to activities within Rochford.
- The sorting of materials at kerbside kept materials clean and costs low.
- The second bidding contractor was proposing that, when existing bins are replaced, this is with smaller bins. The Council could introduce a policy whereby smaller replacement bins are introduced as a matter of course for families of less than five members. Families of five or more could retain a larger bin on request.
- Green bins can be recoloured grey as appropriate.
- The first bidding contractor would appoint a sub-contractor to store any bulk material. The sub-contractor would be the day-to-day contact for the Council on operational issues.

Members agreed that, on balance and subject to provisos, it would be appropriate to recommend that the Council proceed with the bid submitted by the second bidding contractor.

Recommended

- (1) That, subject to the following provisos, the bid submitted by the second bidding contractor be accepted:-
 - The introduction of a waterproof sack for the recycling of paper.
 - The introduction of a policy whereby replacement bins are of a smaller (180 litre) size, subject to families of five or more being able to retain larger bins on request.
 - The ending of current policy whereby a second bin can be purchased for use and the introduction of a policy requiring that bin lids must be flat if the bin is to be collected.
 - Consultation with the contractor to achieve appropriate arrangements in respect of areas where there are blocks of flats, caravans and unmade roads.

- (2) That there be maximum scheme publicity (including an article within Rochford District Matters) and an appropriate press release following decisions by Full Council indicating that kerbside recycling was likely to be introduced across the District from October 2004.

At the conclusion of this item there was some discussion on the work which would be associated with the County Council introducing a private finance initiative for the new municipal waste management contract. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to recommend to the parent Committee that consideration be given to the reconstituting of this Sub-Committee with revised terms of reference to facilitate consideration of the issues.

Recommended

That consideration be given to reconstituting this Sub-Committee with revised terms of reference for the purposes of giving consideration to the issues associated with the County Council delivering a private finance initiative in relation to the new municipal waste management contract.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and closed at 12.06pm.

Chairman

Date