

Contracts Sub-Committee – 15 January 2008

Minutes of the meeting of the **Contracts Sub-Committee** held on **15 January 2008** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr M G B Starke

Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr K H Hudson
Cllr C J Lumley

Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr P F A Webster

VISITING MEMBERS

Cllrs Mrs J R Lumley and Mrs M J Webster.

OFFICERS PRESENT

G Woolhouse	- Corporate Director (External Services)
R Evans	- Head of Environmental Services
A Lovett	- Street Scene Manager
C Cook	- Communications Co-ordinator
T Burton	- Corporate Communications Officer
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

19 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20 BRING BANKS SERVICE

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services providing information about the current arrangements for the provision of bring banks throughout the District and proposals for the new financial year.

It was noted that, with respect to the appendix to the report, the Travellers Joy Public House recycling bank site did have one textile bring bank.

In response to Members' concern relating to the use of the District's bring banks by small, commercial companies, officers advised that it was difficult in general to determine whether any of the material deposited at bring banks was commercial waste.

In response to Member questions, the following was noted:-

- Under the new contract, officers would continue to monitor bring bank collections. Given the increase in materials to be collected kerbside from 1 April 2008, however, it was important to encourage residents to use the kerbside service by educating them as to its convenience.

- There would be no withdrawal of the bring bank facilities until such time as all residents were on the new kerbside recycling service. Monitoring of the bring bank and kerbside recycling tonnages would continue after introduction of the new kerbside service to establish whether there were any appreciable decreases in deposited materials at the bring banks.
- Officers would continue to monitor all recycling tonnages on a monthly basis, as was currently the practice.

Recommended to the Executive Board

- (1) That the current bring bank contracts for all materials other than plastics be extended for one year from April 2008.
- (2) That the facilities for plastics recycling be limited to a maximum of one bring bank for each site, collected once a week, as soon as the new kerbside collection arrangements are in place.
- (3) That the need for the bring banks for all materials be regularly reviewed. (HES)

21 ADDITIONAL BIN CRITERIA

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services seeking Members' approval to specific criteria being used as the basis for a fair, transparent and consistent assessment of a household's request for additional bins.

During discussion of the disadvantages of providing residents with additional bins for green waste, it was emphasised that Defra would in future expect Local Authorities to encourage residents to compost garden waste, rather than providing a garden waste collection service. Defra's policy on garden waste was developing in line with 'the three R's' – reduce, re-use and recycle; and would specifically be seeking to reduce CO₂ emissions. The Council would also face severe financial penalties if it did not meet the required reductions in municipal waste arisings. Members concurred that it would therefore be imprudent to issue residents with additional green bins for kitchen/garden waste, unless they were prepared to pay the total cost of any additional bin.

In response to a Member concern about the difficulty of siting 3 wheeled bins at terraced properties within the District, officers advised that recycling officers would visit any residents communicating such an issue to the Council to conduct a survey in order to try and establish an alternative location for bins, other than outside the front of the property. It was recognised that it would be important to address this issue for properties located within a Conservation Area. It was also emphasised that flatted properties would, where appropriate, have communal recycling bins.

Officers confirmed that, under the new kerbside recycling service, residents should only put items such as cling film, crisp packets, disposable nappies, batteries, light bulbs and dog faeces in the residual bins.

During debate of the issue of whether or not to supply residents with additional residual waste bins, Members commented that the demand for second bins was minimal. There was a general consensus that such small demand did not warrant the costs of monitoring the contents of bins in order to establish whether any requests for additional bins should be granted.

Members concurred that the Council should provide additional residual waste or green recycling bins to those residents requesting them, provided the residents were prepared to pay the full costs of providing and servicing any additional bins. It was, however, emphasised that, under the new contract, each household would have greater bin capacity, and it was likely that demand for additional residual bins would be even lower than was presently the case.

Members concurred that families with children in nappies, or with family members requiring incontinence pads, should be provided with additional residual waste bins free of charge. It was considered that the first bullet point detailed at paragraph 3.1 of the officer's report was sufficient criteria to determine such provision and that residents should have the right of appeal to the Council's Appeals Committee.

It was noted that it would cost approximately £70,000 to install microchips in the bin lids of the 2 new bins to be provided to each household within the District. Members concurred, however, that there was no economic justification for chipping the bins at this time.

Recommended to the Executive Board

- (1) That the criteria detailed below be used as the basis for assessing requests for a second wheeled bin for residual waste to be provided free of charge and that householders would have the right of appeal to the Appeals Committee in the event of their request being refused:-
 - Households must have 6 or more residents (discretion for children in nappies or specific medical needs).
- (2) That additional residual waste bins should be provided to residents upon request, providing that the residents pay the total purchase and service costs of the additional bins.
- (3) That any requests for an additional bin, for the purposes of disposing of kitchen or garden waste, will be refused, unless the householders are prepared to cover the total purchase and service costs of the additional bin.

- (4) That there shall be no maximum on the number of bins provided for dry recycling materials, provided that the need for such facilities can be established. (HES)

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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.

22 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The Sub-Committee received an exempt presentation relating to proposals for a communication strategy for the new waste and recycling arrangements. Details of the discussion, questions and observations arising from the presentation and the Sub-Committee's final recommendations for a communication strategy for the new waste management service are set out in the exempt appendix to these Minutes.

The meeting commenced at 2.30 pm and closed at 5.15 pm.

Chairman

Date

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