

## **Review Committee – 5 October 2010**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **5 October 2010** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr Mrs P Aves

Cllr T Livings

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr M J Steptoe

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs K A Gibbs, Mrs G A Lucas-Gill, Mrs J R Lumley and M Maddocks.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

R Evans	-	Head of Environmental Services
A Lovett	-	Street Scene and Open Spaces Manager
P Gowers	-	Overview and Scrutiny Officer
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Melvin Dhorasoo (Contract Manager, SITA)  
Paul Madden (Assistant General Manager, SITA)

### **251 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn was appointed to chair the meeting.

### **252 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2010 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **253 SITA UK**

The Committee heard an update on the waste and street cleansing contracts from the Contract Manager, Melvin Dhorasoo.

In response to Member questions, the following responses were provided:-

- SITA had addressed the initial uncertainty felt by staff under the new contract management by better communication between staff and the SITA management and improved systems of working and reporting. Toolbox talks with operatives, including a monthly Health and Safety talk,

empowered crews and enabled them to raise any issues they might have.

- It was hoped that the current paper-based system used by the crews to record information received during the course of their rounds would eventually be replaced by an electronic system.
- Although SITA had done everything required under the terms of the contract in the bad weather last winter, the company's aim in future is to provide additional help to the District with snow-clearing, etc, subject to safety considerations for the crews.
- All crew members are trained as both drivers and loading operatives.
- SITA's company ethos is to treat all staff as equals; in pursuit of this aim, there is a scheme whereby staff are issued with company shares.
- SITA provides all crew members with overalls, safety shoes and, where necessary, hard hats. Employees are responsible for the upkeep and cleaning of their uniforms, but there is a stock of uniforms for any replacements needed. A safety hat is kept in each cab and must be used by employees on the landfill sites.
- With reference to an article in the autumn Rochford District Matters, it was confirmed that neither 'crocodile bins', nor any extra waste which has been left by the side of the bins, would be collected. The Council is working in conjunction with SITA to establish which households have second bins, which are issued to larger families for non-recyclable material. Large bins, that is, 360 litres compared with the standard 240 litres, are issued to households where a greater volume of recycling is being achieved. A revised policy for additional bins is being developed in consultation with SITA.
- Volumes of garden waste being placed in the green bins during the summer were high. However, Essex County Council would not sanction larger bins for garden waste collection as its aim is to encourage home composting as far as possible.
- SITA was responsible for street cleansing. Although pavement washing is undertaken on a regular basis, it is not guaranteed to remove chewing gum. There was not a large volume of complaints about dog fouling on the streets.
- Positive responses have been received from residents about the designated street cleansing operatives in Rochford and Rayleigh.
- The public toilets in Back Lane, Rochford were a constant target for vandalism and Police were involved in discussions around how to address the situation. SITA operatives often received abuse from young people congregating by the toilets and SITA was considering whether it would be

necessary to employ two operatives at this facility rather than just one. Part of the problem is the location of the toilets, which have become a meeting point for people. It had been agreed in principle to look at using the Continuous Improvement Fund to try to provide a solution to the problem of vandalism.

- Congratulations were passed to SITA on the progress that had been made on the Contract. It was requested that a copy of the SITA presentation to the Committee be sent to all Rochford District Councillors.

### **254 THE FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee reviewed the Forward Plan and the following points were noted, in response to Member questions:-

#### **Item 3/10 Rochford Office Electrical Works**

The gas and electricity infrastructure at the Council's Rochford offices was being updated, which would result in energy savings in the longer term.

#### **Item 7/10 Rochford Reception and Office Improvements**

Financing for these improvements was currently being discussed.

#### **Item 21/10 Economic Development Strategy**

The action plan was being updated. All Members had received a copy of the original plan.

#### **Item 22/10 Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park**

The three-year programme of capital works is being reviewed and a consultant had been engaged. The Friends of Cherry Orchard group will be consulted in this respect and a Members' Advisory Group, chaired by the Portfolio Holder for the Environment, would meet. The availability of external funding for a walk-way through the woods was being examined.

Negotiations were taking place with Grove Wood Primary School regarding a proposal to extend the car park and install a play area at the Cherry Orchard Way end of the park. A planning application had been submitted for a car park at the Cherry Orchard Way end of the park. Planning for the fruit orchard was underway with work commencing in November 2010. A meeting of the Advisory Group would be organised to discuss the detail of all the proposals for the park. A board depicting the photos of the works at Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park had been placed in the Members' Lounge at the Civic Suite, Rayleigh.

The meeting closed at 8.41 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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