



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

A655

Cabinet 28 April 2010

West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee: 26 March 2010 (May10/05)

(The following is a summary of the recommendations to and decisions taken by the Joint Committee. This is for information only and no decisions are required by the Cabinet.)

*Cabinet Member: Cllr Peter Stevens Chairman of the Joint Committee:
Cllr Peter Stevens*

1. Joint Service Plan: 2010/2011 (Report A593)

RECOMMENDED:- That

- (1) the Joint Service Plan for 2010/2011, as detailed in Appendix A to Report A593, be approved; and**
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Head of Environmental Services at Forest Heath District Council and to the Head of Waste Management and Projects at St Edmundsbury Borough Council, in consultation with the Chairman of the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee to make any minor typographical, grammatical and/or factual changes to the Joint Service Plan for 2010/2011.**

Recommendations approved.

A new Joint Service Plan for the period 2010/2011 has been drafted and approval was sought by the Joint Committee. This document will also form the Business Plan for the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Partnership. The Joint Service Plan is intended to aid the integration of service delivery and enable the Joint Committee to manage and oversee the delivery of services in accordance with the Partnering Agreement.

2. Joint Waste Collection Round Reorganisation: Update (Exempt Report A594)

RECOMMENDED:- That

- (1) the progress of the project to redesign Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils' domestic waste collection rounds be noted;***
- (2) regular updates on progress, including a report for consideration at the next meeting of the Joint Committee, be received; and***
- (3) a briefing with the Joint Committee be held prior to the roll-out of the Joint Waste Collection Round Reorganisation Project.***

Recommendations (1) and (2) noted and recommendation (3) approved.

The Joint Committee had previously noted that Suffolk County Council (SCC) had retendered the arrangements for the transfer and disposal of residual (black bin) waste collected within West Suffolk. Members had also noted that the retendered contract involved residual waste only and therefore, excluded waste from compostable waste (brown bin) and recycling waste (blue bin) collections, which would continue to be delivered to the Lackford composting plant and transfer station respectively. Furthermore, it had been acknowledged that the change would also impact on the disposal of other waste such as street cleansing residues, albeit this would be to a lesser extent than household waste. These changes will therefore, impact on the Waste and Street Scene Services provided by Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) and St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC), which has resulted in the preparation of a project to redesign waste collection rounds across the two districts.

The Joint Committee noted that the project will contain five principal elements to enable its implementation and these were outlined in Paragraph 7 of the Exempt Report. At the meeting, Members received a presentation which provided further details of the Round Reorganisation Project and the measures that will be taken to implement the changes.

3. Service Level Agreements: 2010/2011 (Exempt Report A595)

RECOMMENDED:- That

- (1) subject to the changes to the fees identified in Sections 3.0 and 3.3 of Exempt Report A595, the extension of the Service Level Agreements for a further period of one year relating to Vehicle Maintenance and A14/A11 Cleansing be approved; and***

- (2) ***should St Edmundsbury Borough Council agree to appoint a Vehicle Maintenance Apprentice but be unable to secure external funding, the additional fee identified to fund the post identified in Section 3.2 of Exempt Report A595, be approved.***

Recommendations approved.

Approval was sought from the Joint Committee to extend the existing Service Level Agreements (SLAs) relating to Vehicle Maintenance and A14/A11 cleansing for a further year.

The SLA relating to Vehicle Maintenance had been in operation for almost two years following an initial 12 month contract that preceded the Partnering Agreement. During that period, there had been an overall improvement in vehicle compliance and annual testing pass rates. Whilst the Vehicle Maintenance Agreement was basically the extension of St Edmundsbury Borough Council's (SEBC) existing workshop facilities to incorporate additional vehicles, the SLA relating to A14/A11 Cleansing was a new operation for both authorities. Consequently, it had taken longer to achieve its original objectives but had also had to operate in circumstances that were not completely in its control, such as adverse weather conditions and increased public expectation against a restricted budget. Nevertheless, the SLA has been kept under review by both partners and in general is considered to be operating satisfactorily.

Sections 3.0 and 3.3 of the Exempt Report detailed the proposed fees charged by SEBC to Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) for 2010/2011, in respect of both SLAs including an additional fee detailed in Section 3.2 relating to the funding of a new Vehicle Maintenance Apprentice post.

An opportunity had been identified to fund a Vehicle Maintenance Apprentice and investigations will be undertaken into seeking external funding to fund this post, but with the condition of the current economic climate this may prove difficult. The officers had suggested that if external funding was not forthcoming the two authorities should fund this from existing budgets. Whilst accepting that budgets were constrained at present, this opportunity had been viewed positively by the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Partnership, which would enhance both Councils' reputations in supporting young people whilst also providing a degree of successor planning.

4. Co-Mingled Collections to Include all Food Waste in the Brown Bin (Exempt Report A596)

RECOMMENDED:-

That the introduction of all food waste into the Brown Bin Scheme as a partnership project between Forest Heath District Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Green View Environmental Limited, as detailed in Exempt Report A596, be approved.

Recommendation approved.

At present, both authorities excelled in terms of maximising the diversion of materials from landfill through the implementation of the Councils' current refuse collection schemes. However, in order to increase performance, the Councils need to increase the amount of recycled or composted waste. It is proposed that food waste be co-mingled with garden waste within the existing brown bin with minimal disruption to the current service. This system has been successfully introduced by Suffolk Coastal District Council. In addition, discussions with SEBC and FHDC's service provider, Green View Environmental Limited, identified that modifications required to the existing composting process could be made relatively easily to accommodate the co-mingled food waste.

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