



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

B457

Cabinet 16 February 2011

West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee: 14 January 2011 (Feb11/08)

(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 Joint Committee Vice-Chairman:
Cllr Peter Stevens*

1. Joint Service Plan: 2011/2012 (Report JWC11/034)

RECOMMENDED:- That,

- (1) the draft Joint Service Plan for 2010/2011 be noted;*
- (2) the comments/amendments as detailed in the minutes be included in the final version of the Joint Service Plan; and*
- (3) the final Joint Service Plan 2011/2012 be submitted to Members at the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Joint Committee in March 2011.*

Recommendation (1) noted and recommendations (2) and (3) approved.

A new Joint Waste Service Plan for the period 2011/2012 has been drafted and views were sought by the Joint Committee. This document will also form the Business Plan for the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Partnership. The Joint Waste 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.

Members asked that the following comments/amendments be included in the final version of the Plan before it is presented to the Joint Committee for approval in March 2011:-

- (a) Section 1a: Key Service Objectives:** Item 3 be amended to read: *'The programmed and co-ordinated removal of litter, refuse and detritus from all public open space in order to meet the requirements of the Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse';*

- (b) **Section 2a and 2b: Risk – Strategic Issues/Service Risk:** Clarity is required in the document with the inclusion of a description of each service risk alongside the 'Ref: existing risk number' column, as currently this was detailed in the 'notes' column;
- (c) **Section 2b: Service Risk WSS R7: Absence and Disciplinary Management:** A review had been undertaken within the Waste and Street Scene Service to pilot a joint Absence and Disciplinary Management policy. As the pilot had been successful, this policy will be applied to other service areas across both Councils, subject to receiving approval from both individual authorities;
- (d) **Section 4: Equality Delivery Plan: EDP 4:** The acronym 'CRM' be expanded to read Customer Relationship Management;
- (e) **Section 5b: Future Workforce Development Issues:** A partnership agreement between both authorities had been agreed with the objective of advertising vacant posts within both Councils. Advertising via external means will be used only as a last resort; and
- (f) **Section 6.3: Performance Indicators: Other Targets:** Blue bin contamination figures for Forest Heath District Council contained in the 'Actual 2009/2010' column be expressed as a percentage and the formatting be corrected for the 'Number of trade customers on recycling scheme'.

2. Progress on Delivering the 2010/2011 Joint Waste Service Plan (Report JWC11/035)

RECOMMENDED:- That,

- (1) the progress made to date against the projects identified in the Joint Service Plan 2010/2011 be noted; and**
- (2) the current performance in relation to the national performance indicators be noted.**

Recommendations noted.

The Joint Committee was updated on the progress made on the key tasks and the related national performance indicators identified in the Joint Waste Service Plan 2010/2011 since previously updated on 22 October 2010.

Further opportunities to progress the operation of the Joint Waste Partnership are currently being developed in respect of the future delivery of areas such as fleet management, street cleansing and waste data management.

The Joint Committee noted the report with interest with particular regard to Appendix A and Tables 2 and 3, which provided summaries of current progress against the individual project milestones and the national performance indicators. Members acknowledged future challenges facing the Service, including the proposed increase in blue bin glass and food waste collections, and the impact of

Suffolk County Council's proposals to reduce the number of household waste sites across the county.

3. Cleansing Review (Report JWC11/036)

RECOMMENDED:- That,

- (1) the progress of the project to redesign the Cleansing Services be noted; and***
- (2) regular progress updates be received and a report be submitted to the next meeting of the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee.***

Recommendation (1) noted and recommendation (2) approved.

A comprehensive redesign of the Cleansing Service across Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough was now underway and the progress made on the project, together with the future activities and timescales were outlined to the Joint Committee.

The Cleansing Services Review contributed to the ongoing programme of continuous improvement to frontline services. The workstreams identified for improvement were street cleansing, channel sweeping, dog and litter bins availability and emptying, and strategy and policy.

The Joint Committee noted that the revised routing data connected with the redesign would be completed by April 2011. A rolling programme will then be introduced ensuring that any changes will improve the overall level of service; are in accordance with resources available and in compliance with statutory legislation.

4. Joint Branding (Report JWC11/037)

RECOMMENDED:- That,

- (1) the information outlined in Report JWC11/037 be noted;***
- (2) the adoption of a white cab and orange body for refuse vehicles be approved; and***
- (3) the 'West Suffolk' joint branding logo be displayed on the future Personal Protective Equipment to promote a 'single face' to the public and a replacement 'swap out' programme be established.***

Recommendation (1) noted and recommendations (2) and (3) approved.

Common branding had been developed to promote the shared service partnership between Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils. As part of the forthcoming joint vehicle replacement programme, the Joint Committee considered it appropriate for a common vehicle livery of a white cab and orange body to complement the 'West Suffolk' joint branding logo displayed on the fleet vehicles.

Members also considered that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should also show the 'West Suffolk' joint branding logo to promote a 'single face' to the public and allow employees to be easily identifiable and approachable. The Joint Committee noted that the term 'swap out' refers to the programme whereby old work wear and PPE is replaced by the new articles of clothing with the new logo, which will not happen immediately as this will be too expensive. Clothing will be replaced with the new type as it wears out over the course of approximately one year.

5. Re-use of Wheeled Bins Policy (Report JWC11/038)

RECOMMENDED:- That,

- (1) the work to align the current and new policies be noted; and***
- (2) the policy proposal outlined in Paragraph 11 of Report JWC11/038 be approved and adopted.***

Recommendation (1) noted and recommendation (2) approved.

The Joint Committee noted that wheeled bins are currently procured collectively, stored at all depot sites and are distributed to customers free of charge and on demand. For both environmental and financial reasons, it is also expedient to re-circulate used bins, which may have become available due to customers requesting different sized bins, sharing bins or following repair of previously damaged bins, for example, the replacement of bin lids or wheels.

The following policy statement was approved by the Joint Committee in respect of distributing second hand and/or new replacement bins, as contained in Paragraph 11 of Report JWC11/038:-

'The council will have full discretion to supply the available stocked bin(s) (new and second hand) when requested by household and commercial customers, as long as the following provisions are met:

- 1. The bin is of the appropriate size and is the colour associated with the collection scheme for which the bin is required;*
- 2. The bin is in full working condition, in terms of the lifting rim, handles, wheels and lid, and has no defect hindering its correct use;*
- 3. The bin is clean and sufficiently free of odour. This excludes normal wear and tear, commensurate with its age; and*
- 4. No paint or sticker identification is left on the bin.*

It is normal that new properties are allocated new bins on demand. However, both councils have the right to vary this policy subject to approval and to be excluded from provision (1) in emergencies, for example, bin shortages.'

6. Response to the Government's Consultation on the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 and the Implications for FHDC and SEBC (Report JWC11/039)

RECOMMENDED:-

That, the response to the consultation on Controlled Waste Regulations (CWR), attached at Appendix 1 to Report JWC11/039, with the additions listed in the minutes, be noted.

Recommendation noted.

The Controlled Waste Regulations (CWR) 1992, made under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, define the categories of household waste for which collection duty applies and also details household waste for which a collection charge can be made, such as heavy or bulky items, garden waste, asbestos or dead domestic pets. Also included is waste collected from premises such as hospitals, schools and prisons.

The Government is reviewing the effectiveness of the existing CWR and both authorities are being consulted on proposals for amending and updating the current legislation. The draft response was attached as Appendix 1 to Report JWC11/039 and the Joint Committee largely considered it to be acceptable; however, it wished the response to reflect that clarification was required on the current definitions for clinical waste and charitable organisations, together with the proposed hierarchy responsible for dealing with waste.

7. Bank Holiday Arrangements 2011/2012 (Oral Report)

RECOMMENDED:-

That the oral report be noted.

Recommendation noted.

The Joint Committee noted bank holiday collection arrangements for 2011/2012 in respect of those bank holidays in close proximity to each other, namely, Good Friday, 22 April 2011, Easter Monday, 25 April 2011 and Mayday, 2 May 2011. The Royal Wedding day on 29 April 2011 has also been granted public holiday status.

Alternative collections to cater for these bank/public holidays were considered by the Joint Committee and it was confirmed that any additional cost for extra collections have been factored into the budget expenditure.

8. Update on the Inter Authority Agreement (Oral Report)

RECOMMENDED:-

- (1) the oral report be noted; and***
- (2) the Directors of each Council be delegated to complete the wording and signature of the final Inter Authority Agreement in liaison with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.***

Recommendation (1) noted and Recommendation (2) approved.

The Joint Committee noted an oral update on the Inter Authority Agreement and confirmed that the underlying principles of the agreement are to seek consistency of services across Suffolk. Negotiations continue between the authorities involved and work is progressing with the Legal Teams on recently introduced changes prior to the signing of the agreement expected to be concluded by the end of January 2011.