

FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL
ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

WEST SUFFOLK WASTE AND STREET SCENE SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on Friday 23 October 2009 at 10.00 am
in the Conference Chamber West, F1R09, West Suffolk House, Western Way,
Bury St Edmunds

PRESENT: Forest Heath District Council
 Councillor Roman
 Councillor Simmons

St Edmundsbury Borough Council
 Councillor Ray
 Councillor P A Stevens (Chairman)

13. Substitutes

No substitutions were declared.

14. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

15. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. Declarations of Interests

Members' declarations of interest are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

17. Progress on Delivering the 2009/2010 Joint Service Plan and Suggested Priorities for 2010/2011

The Joint Committee considered Report A262 (previously circulated) which updated Members on progress made against the key tasks identified in the 2009/2010 Joint Service Plan and sought approval for the priorities to be developed and included in the draft Joint Service Plan for 2010/2011.

On 20 March 2009, the Committee approved the Joint Service Plan for 2009/2010 (paper JWC09/023X referred). The Plan was intended to aid the integration of service delivery and enable the Joint Committee to manage the delivery of services in accordance with the Partnering Agreement.

Attached to Report A262 was a table that provided information on progress achieved against the tasks and initiatives identified in the Joint Service Plan 2009/2010 as at 23 October 2009, which the Joint Committee considered in detail. Consideration was also given to Section 7 of the Report which detailed operational projects and activities that had been identified as priorities proposed for inclusion in the 2010/2011 Joint Service Plan. In addition to the seven items identified, the Strategy and Policy Manager informed the Joint Committee that the *'Introduction of food waste collections to be rolled out across both authorities'* was an additional priority that required consideration.

The Joint Committee was pleased to note the current progress made and agreed that the items identified in Section 7 of the Report, with the additional priority concerning food waste collections be worked up into a draft Joint Service Plan 2010/2011 for consideration at the meeting of the Joint Committee on 15 January 2010.

RESOLVED:-

That subject to the inclusion of *'Introduction of food waste collections to be rolled out across both authorities'* as an additional priority, the priority partnership operational projects and activities to be developed for inclusion in the 2010/2011 Joint Service Plan, as detailed in Section 7 of Report A262, be approved.

18. Update on the Start of a Project to Investigate Opportunities to Improve Efficiency in the Collection of Bulk Refuse

The Joint Committee considered a narrative item which updated on the proposal to introduce operational changes for the collection of bulk refuse.

An Operations Project Team had been established to review potential areas of further joint working to demonstrate and deliver instantly recognisable benefits, resolve specific operational problems and constraints, and to improve service efficiency. A three-month trial commencing from 1 October to 31 December 2009 had been implemented to facilitate a number of operational changes for the collection of bulk refuse, as detailed in the narrative item.

The Joint Committee noted the changes adopted during the trial and agreed that a progress report be presented at the next meeting of the Joint Committee on 15 January 2010.

RESOLVED:-

That a progress report on the trials detailed in the narrative item be presented to the next meeting of the Joint Committee on 15 January 2010,.

19. Suffolk Waste Partnership Consultation Responses

The Joint Committee received and noted a narrative item and Reports A263 and A264 (previously circulated) which sought endorsement of the consultation responses submitted by Suffolk County Council (SCC) on behalf of the Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP) to the Stage One Consultation on the Transposition of the Revised Waste Framework Directive, and the Strategy for Hazardous Waste Management in England.

Attached as Report A263 was the response submitted by SCC on behalf of the SWP and had been endorsed through a separate joint submission by Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) and St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) to the Stage One Consultation on the Transposition of the Revised Waste Framework Directive (WFD) consultation paper. This Stage One consultation sought views on the transposition and implementation of various provisions contained within the WFD and these were summarised in the narrative item.

A detailed discussion was held and particular reference was given to the proposal for separate collections of different waste materials, as referred to in *'Article (11)1: Separate Collections of Waste, Question 6'* of the consultation paper. If implemented, this could result in several domestic wheeled bins being stored by each residential property, thereby the onus being placed on residents to sort their waste materials to a greater extent than the arrangements currently operated under the three-bin scheme.

Members considered that five or more receptacles was impractical for many domestic households and it was important to maintain a balance between encouraging further recycling but also assessing the impact the introduction of additional bins may have on householders' approach to recycling. Members also recognised that it was important to ascertain whether any changes to the operation of current waste collections were technically feasible, efficient and economically viable.

In response to a question, the Joint Committee was informed that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) encouraged the re-use of materials and the consultation paper had sought views on this issue under *Article 11 (1): Re-use and Preparing for Re-Use Activities, Question 5*. SCC, on behalf of the SWP had responded to this issue, which was provided in detail on Page 4 of Report A263, by stating that it would require further clarification from DEFRA on a number of issues before it could actively promote the re-use of materials and it considered there was greater scope for the promotion of re-use through adopting the principles of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Scheme which aimed to reduce the amount of this type of waste going to landfill.

The purpose of the Strategy for Hazardous Waste Management was to provide clarity on how the requirements of the WFD should be implemented with respect to the management of hazardous waste. The Strategy was also intended to facilitate the provision of infrastructure for the management of hazardous waste. It comprised seven high level principles for the management of hazardous waste and consultees had been invited to comment on whether they supported each of the seven principles which were categorised under a number of headings, as detailed in the narrative item.

Similarly with the aforementioned, a response to this consultation paper had been submitted by SCC on behalf of the SWP and was included in Report A264 and this had been endorsed through a separate joint submission by FHDC and SEBC.

20. Dates of Future Meetings

The Joint Committee confirmed the following dates for future meetings in 2010:-

15 January;
19 March; and
11 June.

All meetings would be held on Fridays and would commence at 10.00 am with a pre-briefing session held from 9.30 am.

EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED:-

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

21. Partnering Update

The Joint Committee considered Exempt Report A265 (previously circulated) which sought approval for the unified management restructure for the delivery of Strategy and Policy within the Partnering Arrangement between Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) and St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC).

On 12 June 2009, the Joint Committee had noted that further work would be undertaken to identify additional measures for closer collaboration. A joint workshop had been held between Waste and Street Scene Service staff of both authorities to identify the principal issues to support and enable the progression of further harmonisation between Waste and Street Scene Service officers at both Councils. Options were considered by the officers and considering the impact on the economic downturn and the strategic opportunities for shared services, it was identified that further integration of the waste services would offer the prospect of tangible savings together with improvements in service delivery to customers. In order to progress the amalgamation of services, officers of both Councils considered a unified management structure, as outlined in the initial business plan for the development of waste management services across the two districts, was the most appropriate way to proceed.

Following the resignation of its Operations Manager, SEBC had recruited a replacement. This was an important position within the Partnering Arrangement and the postholder was required to work collaboratively on operations at both Councils. Subsequently, SEBC's Strategy and Policy Manager had resigned and this provided an opportunity to integrate the staffing structure for Strategy and Policy at both authorities. As a result, FHDC's existing Strategy Manager was employed across the two Councils to address issues involving strategy, policy and enforcement. The revised unified management restructure for Strategy and Policy was detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the Report. As a shortfall in capacity was now evident to cover elements of the duties previously undertaken by SEBC's outgoing Strategy and Policy Manager, a new, more junior post of Waste Development Officer had been created. The holder of this post would undertake duties such as providing education on waste issues, delivery of campaigns, assisting collection crews with contamination matters and dealing with general waste collection and street scene issues across the combined district/borough.

The Joint Committee recognised that the unified management restructure for Strategy and Policy would impact significantly on the waste management operation provided by both authorities. The success of the restructure would be closely monitored and financial savings recorded and the outcomes of these would be reported to the Joint Committee in due course.

RESOLVED:-

That the unified management restructuring within Strategy and Policy, as outlined in Section 5 of Exempt Report A265, be approved.

22. Potential Impact on Revised Residual Waste Tipping Points in the West of Suffolk

The Joint Committee considered Exempt Report A266 (previously circulated) which presented details of the potential impact revised residual waste tipping locations in West Suffolk would have on the Waste and Street Scene Services provided by Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) and St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC).

FHDC and SEBC, as Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs), had a statutory duty to collect household waste, such as bin collections, bulky waste, street cleansing residues, litter etc. This duty also included the requirement to arrange for the collection of commercial waste on request. Suffolk County Council (SCC), as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), had a duty to arrange for the disposal of waste collected and presented by the WCAs. As part of SCC's future long term strategy for managing the waste that was disposed at landfill sites, residual waste tipping locations were in the process of being revised. As a result and to comply with SCC's long term strategy, work had progressed by SCC on developing an interim solution for residual waste treatment in the west of Suffolk and this had presented opportunities to review the Waste and Street Scene collection services provided by FHDC and SEBC.

The Joint Committee noted that a further report in connection with SCC's long term waste disposal arrangements would be presented to the Joint Committee for consideration on 15 January 2010.

RESOLVED:- That,

- (1) the partnership approach adopted by FHDC and SEBC to maximise efficiencies in refuse collection rounds by redesigning collection rounds and ignoring the current borough/district boundary, as detailed in Paragraphs 9 to 12 of Exempt Report A266, be approved; and
- (2) regular updates on progress, including a report for consideration at the next meeting of the Joint Committee on 15 January 2010, be received.

The meeting concluded at 11.19 am

**P A STEVENS
CHAIRMAN**