

# Forest Heath District Council St Edmundsbury Borough Council

**MINUTES** of the **WEST SUFFOLK WASTE AND STREET SCENE SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE** held at the District Offices, College Heath Road, Mildenhall on Friday 11 June 2010 at 10.00 am.

## **PRESENT:**

### **Councillors:**

#### Forest Heath District Council

T Simmons – Member Champion for Environment  
E Stewart – Substitute Member for Councillor N A Roman

#### St Edmundsbury Borough Council

D A Ray – Portfolio Holder for Organisational Performance and Development  
P A Stevens – Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Street Scene

#### Also in Attendance:

M Christie, Service Manager, Environment and Waste (FHDC)  
P Clifford, Fleet and Technical Manager (STEDSBC)  
D Lingard, Operations Manager (FHDC)  
N McCurdy, Strategic Director (Services) (FHDC)  
K Marley, Head of Environmental Services (FHDC)  
E Parfitt, Solicitor (STEDSBC)  
L Rosenthal, Strategy Manager (FHDC)  
C Silverwood, Operations Manager (STEDSBC)  
M Walsh, Head of Waste and Street Scene Services (STEDSBC)  
P Weller, Legal Executive (FHDC)  
T Sutton, Committee Administrator (FHDC)

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N A Roman.

## **SUBSTITUTES**

Councillor E Stewart attended the meeting as substitute for Councillor N A Roman.

### 655. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2010/2011**

Councillor N A Roman be elected Chairman for 2010/2011.

### 656. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN 2010/2011**

Councillor P A Stevens be appointed Vice Chairman for 2010/2011.

In the absence of the elected Chairman, Councillor P A Stevens (Vice-Chairman) took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

657. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions/statements from members of the public.

658. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2010 were unanimously accepted by the Committee as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

659. **PERFORMANCE UPDATE 2009/10 (REPORT NO JWC10/026)**

The Strategy Manager for Forest Heath District Council presented this report which informed Members of the statutory duty to report performance against the national indicators during 2009/10 as had been outlined within the Joint Service Plan.

The performance data for the period 1 April 2009 and 31 April 2010 and the quantities of waste (per tonne) collected by both authorities were detailed in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Report No JWC10/026. These allowed for comparison and by identifying and monitoring national and local trends, areas requiring improvement could be identified. The key points to note from the data were listed and the activities and projects for 2010-2011 were detailed.

Discussion took place around the possibility of combining the waste collection statistics of both authorities and it was reported that while it would be beneficial to note the combined data to see what had been achieved, it would still be necessary for the performance statistics to be reported separately to Central Government, to allow for direct comparisons to be made with similar authorities.

The Service Manager (Environment and Waste) of Forest Heath District Council confirmed that the data could be combined to confirm the achievements and highlight the differences between the two authorities in the Waste Partnership. However, by putting the data together the trend variances could be diluted and problem areas specific to an authority might not be as obvious.

A Member expressed concern that no costs per household for waste collected had been included within the performance data and these statistics could factor highly in light of expected decreases in funding from Central Government. The Strategy Manager reported that the final costs per household figures were available for the year 2009/10 and these could be included within the next quarterly performance report.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That;

1. The performance outlined for 2009/10, be noted.
2. The performance (to include costs per household for waste collected) for 2010/11 to be reported to the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee on a quarterly basis, be approved.

**660. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The following dates of future meetings were agreed and would be held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Forest Heath District Council Offices, College Heath Road, Mildenhall:

15 October 2010  
14 January 2011  
25 March 2011

**661. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That, under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and 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 prescribed in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and indicated against each item.

**662. CONFIRMATION OF CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2010 were unanimously accepted by the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Joint Committee as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**663. UPDATE ON THE JOINT WASTE COLLECTION ROUND REORGANISATION (REPORT NO JWC10/027X) (PARA 1)**

The Operations Manager of St Edmundsbury Borough Council presented this report which updated Members on Report A594 which had been considered by the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee on 26 March 2010. A comprehensive redesign of the domestic waste collection rounds across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury was underway following Suffolk County Council's award of a new contract for the transfer and disposal of residual (black bin) waste in West Suffolk.

A presentation was given to Members which detailed the recent progress made on the project and outlined the future activities and timescales. Also discussed were the development of the new waste collection rounds, the internal and external communications and the impact of the changes for residents. The project status report was detailed at Appendix A to Report No JWC10/027X and maps showing the zones and routes were circulated to Members. Examples of the documents to be distributed to residents advising them of how the changes would specifically impact on them were also circulated for information. It was confirmed that these documents would be posted to residents by Royal Mail from 17 June 2010 onwards.

Discussion took place regarding the meeting which had taken place on 17 May 2010 at Red Lodge about the collection round changes and use of the transfer station. At the request of the Chairman, the Strategic Director (Services) of Forest Heath District Council suggested that waste related newspaper articles relating to either authority be circulated to Members of the Committee by the Communication Teams at both St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council. The Head of Waste and Street Scene Services of St Edmundsbury Borough Council confirmed that a frequently asked questions sheet would be circulated to Members prior to the commencement of the new bin collection changes to help them answer any queries their Ward residents might have.

In answer to questions by Members about kitchen waste and project cost concerns, it was confirmed by the Chairman that the project for the disposal of kitchen waste within the brown bin collection would not occur at this time and the Head of Waste and Street Scene Services of St Edmundsbury Borough Council confirmed that there were no budget concerns regarding the collection round reorganisation project.

The Chairman and Officers thanked the staff support team at Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council for their hard work involved in the staff negotiations and preparation of data involved in the reorganisation of the waste collection rounds, especially the I.T. Department and in particular the GIS/LLPG Technical Support Officer.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That:

1. The progress of the project to redesign the domestic waste collection rounds, be noted.
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.

664. **UPDATE ON THE INTER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT AND JOINT WASTE AUTHORITIES (VERBAL) (PARA 1)**

The Strategic Director (Services) from Forest Heath District Council gave a verbal update on the Inter Authority Agreement and Joint Waste Authorities and reported that after discussions having been held across the County it was anticipated that a Project Group would be set up to explore the options around a Joint Waste Committee.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the verbal update be noted.

The meeting closed at 11.27pm.