

**Forest Heath District Council  
St Edmundsbury Borough Council**

**WEST SUFFOLK WASTE  
AND STREET SCENE  
SERVICES JOINT  
COMMITTEE**

**22 OCTOBER 2010**

**JWC10/031**

**Report of the Strategic Director (Services) (FHDC)  
and the Corporate Director (Economy & Environment)  
(SEBC)**

**DEFRA REVIEW OF WASTE POLICY – JOINT RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION**

**Synopsis:**

**Defra is undertaking a review of waste policy and delivery in England. The review will look at all aspects of waste with an aim of taking the right steps towards a 'zero waste economy'. Consultation closed on 7 October 2010 and early results will be made available by Defra in Spring 2011. This report contains a copy of the joint response to the consultation submitted on behalf of Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council.**

**Commentary:**

1. On 15 June 2010, the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP, announced that the Government would undertake a full review of waste policy in England.
2. The Government's ambition for waste management in England was defined in the Coalition's Programme for Government and Defra's Structural Reform Plan as 'working towards a zero waste economy'. The purpose of the review is to look at all aspects of waste policy and waste management in England to ensure that we are taking the right steps to delivering this ambition.
3. In doing this, the review also aims to take forward the Government's commitments to:
  - a) **Tackling the fiscal deficit** – maximising the economic potential of the waste management industry, the potential benefits of resource efficiency to businesses and households, and looking carefully at the cost of services.
  - b) **Environmental protection** – protecting the environment and preserving natural resources at home and abroad;

- c) **Localism** - decentralising decision making powers on matters that affect local communities to local authorities and to communities themselves;
  - d) **Big society** – developing and delivering policy in a way that involves and engages voluntary organisations, social enterprises and community groups while reducing unnecessary state activity; and
  - e) **Addressing climate change** - avoiding dangerous green house gas emissions from landfill and contributing to our statutory carbon budget targets and UK renewable targets through energy recovery.
4. Defra is seeking the views of organisations involved in waste by way of comments, suggestions and evidence. Information could be submitted in two ways:-
- a) By completing an online questionnaire (the deadline for this closed on 9 September 2010)
  - b) By submitting detailed evidence (the deadline for this closed on 7 October 2010).
5. The call for evidence set-out a number of questions under the following six headings:-
- a) **General** – covering questions about ambitions, the contribution of waste to the economy, the responsibilities of Local Government, regulation and minimising illegal activities;
  - b) **Waste prevention** – covering the roles of various organisations, business design for less waste and priorities for waste prevention;
  - c) **Preparing for reuse** – covering activities to prepare waste for reuse, barriers to reuse and who is best placed to deliver increases in reuse;
  - d) **Recycling** – covering roles and responsibilities, motivation to recycle more, how collection services impact on recycling and greater use of recyclable materials;
  - e) **Energy recovery** – covering barriers to Energy from Waste (EfW), the role of government and encouraging community ownership in EfW; and
  - f) **Disposal** – covering how to further reduce the waste going to landfill.
6. Further information on the Review of Waste Policy can be found at Defra’s website at the following link:-
- <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waste-review/index.htm>
7. Attached as **Appendix A** is the detailed evidence that Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury have submitted to Defra in response to their call for evidence. This response was reviewed and approved by Cllr Tony Simmons (Member Champion at

Forest Heath District Council) and Cllr Peter Stevens (Environment & Street Scene Portfolio Holder at St Edmundsbury Borough Council) before being sent to Defra by their deadline of 7 October 2010.

8. The bulk of our response has focused on contextualising Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, our current methods of collection, the extensive trials they were based upon, customer participation and satisfaction and the cost of collection.

### **Environmental Impact and Sustainability**

9. Our response to Defra includes statements on the environmental impact of our waste collection services compared to other methods of collection.

### **Policy Compliance/Power**

10. There are no policy, compliance or power implications in responding to this consultation.

### **Performance Management Implications**

11. There are no performance management implications in responding to this consultation.

### **Legal Implications**

12. There are no legal implications in responding to this consultation.

### **Human Rights Act and Diversity Implications**

13. There are no human rights and diversity implications.

### **Crosscutting Implications**

14. Our response to Defra highlights the extent of our partnership working on waste across the county and our engagement nationally as leading authorities on waste collection.

### **Risk Assessment**

15. It is important that our views and perspectives on waste collection are submitted to Defra and are taken account of in the assessment thereafter. If we do not respond there is a greater risk that policy could be adopted that runs counter to our approach to waste management.

### **Council Priorities**

16. **Forest Heath**
  - Community engagement and communication; and
  - Street scene and environment.

### **St Edmundsbury**

- Raise standards and corporate efficiency; and
- Secure a sustainable and attractive environment.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

17. **Members are requested to note the joint response made to Defra's by Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council for the consultation on the Review of Waste Policy. This document was reviewed by Cllr Tony Simmons (Member Champion at Forest Heath) and Cllr Peter Stevens (Portfolio Holder at St Edmundsbury) before being sent to Defra by their deadline of 7 October 2010.**

### **Document Attached**

Appendix A – Defra Review of Waste Policies – A response from Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council

Nigel McCurdy  
Strategic Director (Services)  
14 October 2010

Sandra Pell  
Corporate Director (Economy & Environment)  
14 October 2010

### **CONTACT OFFICERS**

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