

# 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 22 October 2010 at 10.00 am.

## **PRESENT:**

### **Councillors:**

#### Forest Heath District Council

N A Roman (Chairman)  
T Simmons

#### St Edmundsbury Borough Council

D A Ray  
P A Stevens (Vice Chairman)

#### Also in Attendance:

M Christie, Service Manager, Environment and Waste (FHDC)  
P Clifford, Fleet and Technical Manager (STEDSBC)  
D Lingard, Operations Manager (FHDC)  
K Marley, Head of Environmental Services (FHDC)  
E Parfitt, Solicitor (STEDSBC)  
S Pell, Corporate Director for Environment (STEDSBC)  
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**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **SUBSTITUTES**

There were no substitutes at the meeting.

### 887. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

### 888. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2010 were unanimously accepted by the Committee as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Minute No 659 - Performance Update 2009/10 (Report No JWC10/026)

It was recognised that performance statistics would no longer be required to be reported to Central Government since the abolition of Comprehensive Area Assessment.

889. **PROGRESS ON DELIVERING THE 2010/11 JOINT WASTE SERVICE PLAN (REPORT NO JWC10/028)**

The Service Manager, Environment and Waste of Forest Heath District Council gave a presentation to Members about the information contained in the report on the progress made against the key tasks in the 2010/11 Joint Services Plan and the related key performance indicators.

The key issues were reported, including the changes to the Performance Indicators and the vision and purpose was confirmed as being; to work in partnership and provide value for money in the delivery of efficient, responsive and accessible services whilst striving for continuous improvement. The nine Service Plan actions were discussed and the key areas of progress noted. It was confirmed that the Suffolk wide 'Suffolk Streets Ahead' project would be completed by December 2010.

An Officer responded to a question by a Member about the negotiations for the introduction of a food waste collection. The issues were identified as being difficult trading conditions, changes to Environment Agency regulation and associated operational costs. Discussions were taking place with the supplier to discuss the way forward, the result of which would be reported back to Members. In response to an enquiry by a Member about the reduction in green waste, the Officer explained that this type of waste collection was influenced by factors beyond our control e.g. climatic conditions affecting the growing season.

The Vice-Chairman congratulated the joint partnership on its achievements so far, co-operation levels had been excellent and it was hoped that further improvements would be undertaken to achieve greater unity. The Chairman echoed this sentiment and Officers agreed that a positive working relationship existed between the Officers of both authorities and work would continue to achieve a combined service for the benefit of the public.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That:

1. The progress made to date against the projects identified in the Joint Service Plan 2010/11, be noted.
2. The current performance in relation to the national performance indicators, be noted.

**890. CLEANSING REVIEW (REPORT NO JWC10/029)**

The Head of Waste and Street Scene Services of St Edmundsbury Borough Council presented this report which sought Member approval for the Waste and Street Scene Services Partnership to undertake a comprehensive strategic and operational review of cleansing. The review would aim to make the service higher performing, more consistent and more cost effective. It also sought to increase joint working and collaboration on cleansing strategy and operations across the two Councils.

Officers had met on 22 September 2010 to scope the project and it had been identified that some of the issues faced, in terms of street cleansing, were common to both Councils. Further details were given on the ten major common issues identified which included the frequency of cleansing, consistency in service levels and the responsiveness of unplanned incident cleansing. The four major work streams of the review were identified as being, street cleansing, channel sweeping, dog and litter bins and strategy and policy and attached at Appendix A to Report No JWC10/029 were the work streams, shown in more detail.

Officers responded to Members' questions regarding channel sweeping and charges made for incident cleansing. It was acknowledged that the problems were also common across the County and not just in West Suffolk and it was suggested that a benchmarking exercise using data from other authorities be undertaken within the cleansing review. It was estimated that the proposed cleansing review would be completed by April 2011 and the HR Partner would be fully engaged to ensure any disparity issues would be dealt with in the correct manner.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That:

1. A project to undertake a comprehensive review of the cleansing services, be approved.
2. A detailed project update be submitted to the next meeting of the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee and decisions on any options be brought forward which could have implications in terms of an impact to residents, businesses or partner organisations.

**891. HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL (REPORT NO JWC10/030)**

The Head of Environmental Services of Forest Heath District Council presented this report which sought Member approval for St Edmundsbury to use the Suffolk County Council contractor to collect, on request, hazardous waste from residential properties and recharge the cost of £32 to the applicant.

Discussion took place around informing residents about the issue of paint disposal, the potential contamination of water quality and of unwanted paint being offered to charities. The Service Manager, Environment and Waste of Forest Heath District Council reported that education on this matter was ongoing and suggested that websites such as Freecycle could be used to reuse potential waste. A Member suggested that Anglian Water be approached to help raise awareness of this issue through leaflets being included with bills to households.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the collection of hazardous waste from residents in St Edmundsbury (where the waste collected cannot be recycled safely) be undertaken by the Suffolk County Council contractor and the £32 cost of collection being recharged to applicants, be approved.

892. **DEFRA REVIEW OF WASTE POLICY – JOINT RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION (REPORT NO JWC10/031)**

The Head of Waste and Street Scene Services of St Edmundsbury Borough Council presented this report which informed Members that Defra were undertaking a review of waste policy and delivery in England. The review would look at all aspects of waste with the aim of taking the right steps towards a 'zero waste economy'. Consultation had closed on 7 October 2010 and early results would be made available by Defra in the spring of 2011. A copy of the joint response to the consultation submitted on behalf of Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council was attached at Appendix A to Report No JWC10/031.

The document had been reviewed by Councillor Tony Simmons (Member Champion for Street Scene, Waste and Environment, FHDC) and Councillor Peter Stevens (Portfolio Holder for Environment, Waste and Street Scene, STEDSBC) prior to being sent to Defra by the 7 October 2010 deadline.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Officers for their excellent work on the detailed evidence submitted in the joint response to Defra's review of waste policy and hoped that further work would continue in light of the evidence established.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That following review by the Member Champion and Portfolio Holder for FHDC and STEDSBC respectively, the joint response made to Defra for the consultation on the Review of Waste Policy, be noted, prior to it having been sent to Defra by the 7 October 2010 deadline.

**893. FLEET MANAGED TYRE CONTRACT (REPORT NO JWC10/032)**

The Fleet and Technical Manager of St Edmundsbury Borough Council presented this report which sought Member approval for St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council (acting as members of the Partnering Arrangement for the provision of Waste and Street Scene Services), to each extend their current Managed Tyre Contract, for their heavy vehicle commercial fleets, for a further 24 months as allowed for in their Contracts.

A Member asked how the contract worked in practice and the Officer explained how the service provider would contact a local sub contractor to attend onsite to replace worn or damaged tyres and ensure all vehicles were legally compliant.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That Officers negotiate a 24 month extension to the existing Managed Tyre Contracts, be approved.

**894. 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.

**895. UPDATE ON THE JOINT WASTE COLLECTION ROUND REORGANISATION (REPORT NO JWC10/033X) (PARA 1)**

The Operations Manager of St Edmundsbury Borough Council presented this report which was an update to Report No JWC10/027X which had been considered by Members of the West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee on 11 June 2010. A comprehensive design of the domestic waste collection rounds across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury had now been completed following Suffolk County Council's award of a new contract for the transfer and disposal of residual (black bin) waste in West Suffolk. The progress on the project as well as the outline of future activities and timescales was detailed.

The new waste collection rounds had commenced on 28 June 2010 when the collections as per the new maps and route sheets had been implemented. All residents had received letters advising them prior to the change and a breakdown of the facts and figures relating to the calls received by the dedicated telephone hotline were discussed. A close out report was attached at Appendix B to Report JWC10/033X which detailed the savings in respect of wages and fuel made by the

reorganisation of the waste collection rounds and clear actions resulting from the project.

Discussion took place about the savings which had been made and the promotion of the Partnership and it was suggested that a press release be put out detailing the efficiency of the operation, the savings in the projected costs and the budgetary organisation which had resulted from the joint waste round reorganisation.

Members thanked Officers for their hard work in making the reorganisation of the waste collection rounds such a success and it was agreed that a letter would be sent from the Members of the Joint Committee to all the waste and street scene staff thanking them for their work in support of this project.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That:

1. The project to redesign the waste collection rounds, had been delivered on time, with little disruption and within the budget, be noted.
2. The update on the progress of the Cleansing Review, as detailed in Paragraph 19 to Report No JWC10/033X, be noted.

Councillor T Simmons left the meeting at 11.15am during the discussion and voting of this item.

The meeting closed at 11.32pm.