

MINUTES of the **WEST SUFFOLK WASTE AND STREET SCENE SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE** held at the District Offices, College Heath Road, Mildenhall on Friday, 22 March 2013 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Forest Heath District Council

N A Roman (Chairman)

S J Edwards

Also in attendance:

St Edmundsbury Borough Council

P A Stevens (Vice Chairman)

R D Everitt

N Baragry, Waste Operative

M Christie, Business Manager (Waste)

P Clifford, Fleet and Technical Manager

D Lingard, Operations Manager

C Silverwood, Operations Manager

P Weller, Legal Executive

M Walsh, Head of Waste Management and Property Services

S Dwan, Committee Administrator (Temporary)

Mr A Selby, (Team Leader, Operational Services, West Lindsay District Council) was also present to observe the meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs S J Mildmay-White.

SUBSTITUTES

Councillor R D Everitt attended the meeting as substitute for Councillor Mrs S J Mildmay-White.

506. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

507. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2012 were unanimously accepted by the Committee as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

508. **PROGRESS ON DELIVERING THE 2012/2013 JOINT WASTE SERVICE PLAN AND REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE (REPORT NO JWC13/050)**

The Business Manager (Waste) presented this report and updated the Joint Committee on progress which had been made against the key tasks set out in the 2012/2013 Joint Service Plan for West Suffolk as at Table 1, highlighting the following areas:

(a) Complete Transformation to a Single Joint Waste Partnership

Work was underway in respect of reviewing back office and operational processes. These would be re-engineered to build a single seamless service for waste and grounds maintenance which was fit for purpose. Vehicle branding had also progressed, with further details to be presented under the following Report No JWC13/052.

(b) Infrastructure Project

The Head of Waste Management and Property Services informed the meeting that work on this County wide project had been continuing. Following the decision by Suffolk County Council to create an 'energy from waste' facility at Ipswich, the decision had also been taken to change the commercial procurement process for provision of Transfer Stations in Suffolk. Suffolk County Council are now procuring the design and build of these facilities which will remain in public ownership in perpetuity.

West Suffolk are in discussions with the County Council regarding the number and location of transfer stations in the west of the county as this may impact significantly on waste collection operations and costs. Discussions with Suffolk County Council were on-going and further reports would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Key areas of progress against projects were also noted:

(c) Plastics Recycling Project

A leaflet would be delivered to all homes in Suffolk advertising a promotional video which was available on 'YouTube'. The aim of the campaign was to reduce the current level of plastic in black bins. To-date there had been 10,000 hits recorded on the 'YouTube' site.

(d) Spring Clean 2013

It was noted that the Spring Clean campaign, which encouraged people to participate in improving their local environment, had generated a significant amount of interest.

The Business Manager (Waste) updated the Joint Committee on performance against agreed Key Performance Indicators as detailed in Table 2 for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 December 2012, Members noted that Quarter four statistics were estimated due to reporting timelines:

(e) Performance against Key Performance Indicators and Targets 1 April 2012 to 21 December 2012

The key trend in terms of municipal waste management for the period April – December 2012/2013 had been an increase of 292 tonnes of residual household waste collected by Forest Heath District Council, partially offset by a reduction of 109 tonnes at St Edmundsbury Borough Council. There had also been an overall increase for the joint authorities of 1,582 tonnes collected from the brown and blue recycling bins, recycling sites, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), white metals and composted street sweepings.

The key trend in street scene had been that fly tipping incidents had continued to reduce, following targeted enforcement and a number of successful prosecutions.

Street cleansing had shown some performance failures early in the year due to uncontrollable factors including prolonged periods of severe weather conditions which hampered access and increased levels of sickness. However, the last two quarters had shown a marked improvement in performance following management intervention.

The Business Manager (Waste) updated the Joint Committee on performance against other English Waste Collection Authorities (WCA's) detailed at Appendix 1. Members noted the key points:

(f) Overview of Performance for Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury District Council for 2011-2012 against national performance

(i) Percentage of household waste recycled and composted

Forest Heath was ranked 69 against all 229, and was ranked 7 against 15 of its nearest neighbours.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council was ranked 33 against all 229, and was ranked 4 against 15 of its nearest neighbours.

(ii) Cost of Waste collection

Forest Heath District Council 2011/2012 = £16.22 per household
St Edmundsbury Borough Council 2011/2012 = £16.39 per household.

It was noted that comparison of costs with other Waste Collection Authorities was difficult due to the variation in operational methods adopted to deliver the service and accounting methods.

(iii) Kg residual household waste sent to landfill

Forest Heath District Council – ranked 83 against all 229 and was ranked 5 out of its nearest neighbours.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council – ranked 90 against all 229 and was ranked 10 out of its 15 nearest neighbours.

Members requested that information relating to performance be distributed to a wider audience of Members, promoting the achievements of the in-house team.

Members also extended their thanks to all of the Refuse Crews for the efforts they had made to minimise disruption to the refuse collection service despite the severe weather conditions experienced during January 2013.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. Progress made against the projects identified in the Joint Service Plan 2012/2013, be noted.
2. Waste management performance in relation to other Councils, be noted
3. The performance in relation to the Service Performance Indicators be noted.

509. **PROPOSED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND TARGETS FOR WASTE AND STREET SCENE 2013/2014 (REPORT NO JWC13/051)**

The Business Manager (Waste) presented this report which outlined the proposed performance indicators and targets for the Waste and Street Scene Service for 2013-2014, set out at Table 1.

Members noted the following changes that were proposed to the KPIs:

- (a) Cleansing indicators for litter, detritus and graffiti had been renamed and would in future measure satisfactory performance, instead of service failure e.g. 10% failure rate would now be reported as 90% satisfaction rate.
- (b) The titles of KPIs across both Council's had been aligned to prevent any misunderstanding and codes would be changed accordingly.
- (c) Fly Tipping would now be measured by two separate indicators which would make it easier to assess performance. The first indicator would be the number of incidents and the second would be the number of interventions taken, which would be reported locally. The national flytipping database 'Flycapture' would continue to be used to report performance statistics to DEFRA.

Members noted that these high level targets had been limited to a smaller set, but were supported by other Key Performance Indicators.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RECOMMENDED:

That: -

1. The Performance Indicators and targets proposed be noted.
2. Respective Cabinets for Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) and St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) approve the indicators as part of the wider review of performance indicators for 2013-2014.

510. **VEHICLE PROCUREMENT (REPORT NO JWC13/052)**

The Fleet and Technical Manager presented this report which updated the Joint Committee on progress made with the combined Refuse and Cleansing fleet replacement programme for 2013-2014.

Modernisation of the fleet was essential to ensure efficient service delivery and minimisation of environmental impacts through modern engine technology. It was noted that of a total fleet of 132 vehicles, 39 vehicles had been purchased to-date under the replacement programme.

Table 1 provided a summary of vehicles purchased. The Fleet and Technical Manager gave a breakdown on the type and function of the vehicles listed. Slides were shown of domestic and commercial vehicles and the artwork that had been applied.

In response to queries from Members, it was confirmed that all of the heavier vehicles in the fleet were speed limited, on a tracking system and that most were also carrying cameras. This was to improve customer services and health and safety.

The Fleet and Technical Manager explained that heavier vehicles had to meet the requirements of Euro 5 emission standards, the emphasis of which was currently on cleaner air rather than fuel efficiency. Each type of vehicle was modelled over a five year period to ensure value for money.

Savings of between 15–20% on fuel costs were anticipated by the introduction of the Ashwood Electric Hybrid drive system on four tipper vehicles used for cleansing operations. These had been grant funded under the Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Programme (LCVPP).

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That: -

1. Progress made on the replacement programme, as reported in Paper C28 (17 June 2011), be noted.

2. Additional purchase of vehicles all in accordance with replacement schedules, be noted.

511. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That the dates for future meetings be noted as:

Friday 14 June 2013
Friday 18 October 2013
Friday 17 January 2013
Friday 21 March 2014

All starting at 10.00 am
Venue: St Edmundsbury Borough Council

The meeting closed at 11.05 am.