



EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

a

Waste and Recycling Working Party

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 21 April 2009 at 9.30am, in CHG2, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

Present:

Councillors:

David Bateman
Roger Glithero JP
Glenn Harwood MBE (**Chairman**)

Richard Lewis
Duncan Reid

Officers:

Mike Deacon (MD) – Head of Environmental Services
Beth Gordon (BG) – Waste Manager
Rachel Reeds (RR) – Democratic Services (Minutes)

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Councillors Richard Lewis, Marian Hollomon, Steven North and Anna Sauntson sent apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 Councillors Roger Glithero, Glenn Harwood and Duncan Reid, and the Waste Manager, Beth Gordon, declared non-prejudicial personal interests because they were members of the Green Waste Club.

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2009 were received and approved. It was noted that the Policy and Resources Committee had amended recommendation 6.6 to read:

That the Working Party act as the Project Board for all the required processes relating to the renewal of the Waste Management Contract and that the Terms of Reference of the Working Party be reconsidered at the June 2009 meeting of the Committee

MD/RR

- 3.2 Minute 8 – MD reported that he had sent a letter to the Green Waste Club contractor highlighting the issues raised by members of the public and would be meeting the area manager and contract manager next week to discuss the matter.
- 3.3 Members expressed concern that alternative collection days over the Easter bank holidays had not been advertised in the Nene Valley News. It was noted that the information had been included in the Council Tax leaflet and posted on the website. The information would be advertised in the Nene Valley News in

the future.

5. WASTE CONTRACT SPECIFICATION

5.1 MD explained that the brief for the current waste contract, due to end in August 2011, had been prescriptive and output-based. The brief for the new contract was to be outcome-based and put the onus on the industry to produce an attractive contract. MD asked Members to consider the key criteria for the contract that should be included in the OJEU notice. He directed Members' attention to the aims relating to waste management that were included in the Council's Corporate Plan.

5.2 After discussion, it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the OJEU notice be framed around the following principles:

- Increasing recycling in line with or above the targets set out in the Northamptonshire Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (NJMWS);
- A weekly collection of kitchen waste either separately or with residual waste;
- Reduction of waste taken to landfill in line or below the NJMWS targets;
- Clean streets in line with targets set against the National Indicator 195.

5.3 The possibility of including a request for efficiency savings/support for the growth agenda was also considered. MD agreed to consult with Welland Procurement Unit officers as to whether this should be included in the supporting information.

MD

6. HOME COMPOSTING

6.1 Members' views were canvassed on the continuation of the home composting scheme after the government funding ended. Members felt it was a very beneficial scheme and contributed to waste minimisation. It was noted that local businesses could be approached with a view to developing a local arrangement that would minimise cost to the Council.



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Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 9 June 2009 at 9.30am, in the Council Chamber, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

Present:

Councillors:

David Bateman	Richard Lewis
Roger Glithero JP	Duncan Reid
Glenn Harwood MBE (Chairman)	Anna Sauntson
Marian Hollomon	

Officers:

Beth Gordon (BG) – Waste Manager
Rachel Reeds (RR) – Democratic Services (Minutes)

Also in attendance for items 1 - 9: Jane Perrin (Northamptonshire Waste Partnership)

ACTION

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

1.1 It was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Glenn Harwood be appointed Chairman of the Waste and Recycling Working Party.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Councillors Peter MacGovern and Steven North sent apologies.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Councillors Roger Glithero, Glenn Harwood, Duncan Reid and Anna Sauntson, and the Waste Manager, Beth Gordon, declared non-prejudicial personal interests because they were members of the Green Waste Club.

4. MINUTES

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2009 were received and approved.

5. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

5.1 It was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Steven North be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Waste

and Recycling Working Party.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 6.1 Members considered the draft Terms of Reference for the Waste and Recycling Working Party. After discussion, it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

That the draft Terms of Reference for the Waste and Recycling Working Party be approved, subject to the replacement of the phrase "Northamptonshire County Council" with "Northamptonshire Waste Partnership" in the last sentence of section 4.0.

7. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP (NWP) UPDATE

- 7.1 The Chairman introduced Jane Perrin of the NWP. She updated Members on progress with Project Reduce, a £138 million Private Finance Initiative between Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and Milton Keynes Council for a residual waste treatment facility. She explained that bidders had until 26 May to respond to the OJEU notice and 12 Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs) had been received to date. It was reported that work with internal and external stakeholders and on transport modelling was ongoing. Members noted that a public awareness campaign about the project was planned for the summer. It was also noted that NCC and Milton Keynes Council had gone out to tender for a waste composition analysis to look at residual waste streams (one analysis would be carried out in the Autumn and one in the Spring).
- 7.2 It was also reported that the procurement process for the Household Waste Recycling Centres was ongoing.
- 7.3 The Working Party discussed government proposals to enforce recycling and kitchen waste collection across all Councils. Members also questioned Ms Perrin on lobbying the packaging industry regarding the use of recyclable materials.

8. ENCOURAGING RECYCLING

- 8.1 The Waste Manager presented the results of two focus groups on incentives and enforcement of recycling that were held on 10 March 2009 with a total of 25 residents recruited from the Council's residents' panel. It was noted that incentives and enforcement were not favoured by residents who would prefer a simpler system and more education.
- 8.2 Members discussed the merits and disadvantages of mixed recycling bins, as well as the reasons behind the current use of three different coloured boxes for recycling materials. It was noted that many people found the schedules complicated. Members were reminded that the current system need not continue and that the onus was on bidders for the future waste contract to suggest alternative methods of collecting the recycle. The Working Party also noted that fines would be levied by the EU and the national government should the county exceed its allowance for landfill and the cost was likely to have to be recovered by NCC through Council Tax.

9. GREEN WASTE CLUB UPDATE AND SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

- 9.1 The Waste Manager reported that, following concerns raised by Members regarding the Green Waste Club and the renewal process, a meeting had been held with Verdant's management to discuss the Council's concerns. It was noted that Verdant would be putting in place alternative arrangements for renewals in 2010 and that it had been agreed that all publicity and renewal material would be checked by the Council prior to distribution to residents. Verdant had issued a press release in the Nene Valley News and the Evening Telegraph apologising to customers for the problems experienced.
- 9.2 Members also noted the results of the satisfaction survey that had been undertaken in January 2009 prior to the problems experienced with renewals and the increase in subscription charges. It was noted that satisfaction levels were high and that, despite the subsequent problems, membership numbers had increased.

10. WASTE CONTRACT PROCUREMENT UPDATE

- 10.1 Members had been provided with a timeline illustrating the stages of the procurement process, and the criteria that the Project Team had agreed would be used to short-list bidders at the PQQ and contract award stages of the process. It was reported that 22 PQQs had been requested and all would be opened after the closing date of 19 June. At their next meeting the project Team would discuss the evaluation of the PQQs and the competitive dialogue process.
- 10.2 The Chairman suggested that up to 5 Members of the Working Party sit on the Project Board and Members noted that the first meeting of the Board would be on 8 July.
- 10.3 Members discussed the importance of keeping all Members informed about the development of the waste contract. It was suggested that Members be briefed on a regular basis in order to keep them updated and to allow for any possible contentious issues to be highlighted.
- 10.4 Members raised some specific concerns of members of the public regarding the quality of bin bags and damaged recycling boxes. The Waste Manager explained that checks were carried out but if members of the public would report their concerns to the Waste management Team then their problems could be addressed and monitoring could be more focussed. It was recognised that there was a general need to communicate with and educate the public on waste and recycling issues.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 11.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Waste and Recycling Working Party would be held on 10 July 2009.