



EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Waste and Recycling Working Party

Minutes of a meeting held on Friday 10 July 2009 at 9.30am, in CHG2, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

Present:

Councillors:

Roger Glithero JP
Glenn Harwood MBE (**Chairman**)
Richard Lewis
Peter MacGovern

Steven North
Duncan Reid
Anna Sauntson

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 No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 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.

3. MINUTES

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2009 were received and approved.

4. WASTE CONTRACT PROCUREMENT UPDATE

4.1 The Working Party noted that the Project Board had evaluated the written submissions that seven of the eight shortlisted companies had submitted. These covered the types of main service that would be provided and how. The Board had agreed that all seven should progress to the competitive dialogue stage as there were a number of issues to resolve regarding method, cost etc. This process would begin on 20 October for a period of three weeks. The Board would report back to the Working Party in December.

4.2 MD explained to Members the different types of food waste bins available and the issues of education and communication with regard to the collection of food waste were considered.

5.0 GREEN WASTE CLUB UPDATE

- 5.1 BG reported that the Green Waste Club had been promoted in the Nene Valley News with Verdant offering a reduced price for new members for the last six months of the year. It was noted that there would be no price increase next year and the Council would continue to subsidise membership.
- 5.2 Members noted that 800 tons of green waste had been recycled in the first six months of the financial year and Verdant had nearly reached its target of membership of 10% of households in the district. The working party discussed advertising for the Green Waste Club and the limited success of past leaflet campaigns.
- 5.3 It was noted that many representations had been made to the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership (NWP) asking for assurance that the Northampton Road site would be able to absorb the increase in deposits when the Newton Road site closes in 2010. It was **agreed** that this issue would be raised with Councillor Heather Smith, the Northamptonshire County Council Cabinet Member responsible for waste, as she was also a representative of the East Northamptonshire district and that she would be invited to a meeting with the Lead Member for Environmental Services.

GH/MD

6.0 RESIDENTS PANEL RESULTS – JUNE 2009

- 6.1 Members considered the latest Residents Panel Survey results. They raised a number of concerns about whether the panel was truly representative of the population of East Northamptonshire. The working party was reassured that the panel was statistically representative but that it was difficult to ensure a high return rate from some groups. Members were concerned that consultation on the waste contract would be carried out with the panel but noted that consultation would also be carried out with focus groups.

7.0 RECYCLING LEAFLET CONSULTATION

- 7.1 BG shared with the working party the results of the consultation on new designs of recycling leaflet. Mixed messages were received from the public. It was clear the original leaflet was not liked, but there was disagreement on a better alternative. It was clear that the preference was for the information to be contained in one leaflet and for there not to be a separate page detailing blue box collection. Designs 1 and 2 were preferred by the public therefore it was suggested that one of these be introduced and feedback gathered through the NVN and website.
- 7.2 Members noted that the contrast between the red and green colours needed to be sharper to aid those who were colour blind and that a note on the Green Waste Club should be included.
- 7.3 The cost implications of various designs and delivery were considered. It was **agreed** that any comments that could be taken on board and any changes that could be incorporated into the existing leaflet should be, but that a major change to the design of the leaflet should be left until the start of the new contract.

BG

8.0 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - WASTE MANAGEMENT

8.1 The working party discussed the existing local performance indicators for waste management and considered which, if any, should be part of the contract. Members noted that certain areas would be monitored as part of the contract that did not appear as local indicators e.g. number of complaints received. It was also noted that the Council would need to be careful if it accepted a reduced contract as this would be likely to affect performance and realistic targets would need to be set.

9.0 MEMBER TRAINING

9.1 It was reported that the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership (NWP) was looking to run more training on the waste agenda for non-NWP Members and the dates would be brought to Members when they became available. Other suggestions made by Members included a visit to an anaerobic digestion plant and training on recycling processes.

9.2 It was affirmed that working party Members needed a good understanding of the issues surrounding the waste agenda in order to support their work on the waste contract and working party in general.