

**WASTE STRATEGY PROJECT TEAM held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 9.30 am on 30 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Present: - Councillor S Barker (Chairman).
Councillors C Cant, J Cheetham, C Down, C Dean.

Officers in attendance: - D Johnson (Street Services Supervisor), D Burridge (Director of Operations), R Clark (Waste and Recycling Officer), C Demmer (Departmental Co-ordinator - Operations), R Pridham (Head of Street Services), R Procter (Democratic Services Officer)

WS1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor E Godwin.

WS2 CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

The Project Team considered a draft notice on arrangements for collection of waste and recycling during Christmas and New Year. It was noted that the collections would be brought forward, and that this fact needed to be well publicised. Members asked Officers to ensure the notice was consistent with an earlier leaflet distributed across the district, and a small amendment to the heading was suggested.

ACTION: the draft leaflet on arrangements for collection of waste and recycling at Christmas be finalised and circulated to local press and town and parish councils.

WS3 ESSEX WASTE STRATEGY

The Project Team discussed the implications of endorsing the Waste Strategy. The Head of Street Services stressed that endorsement of the Strategy would not commit the Council to deliver specified amounts of waste but would signify agreement to the principle of collectively with other authorities achieving 60% recycling by 2020 by means of certain preferred waste disposal methods. The Strategy did not therefore represent an agreement to use particular services.

Councillor Cheetham expressed concern about traffic implications arising from interim waste collection arrangements in the ward of Takeley and the Canfields, about which she had received many communications in her capacity as Member for that ward.

(Councillor Cant joined the meeting.)

The Head of Street Services provided a detailed verbal update on the Waste Strategy and Inter Authority Agreement. He intended to submit a report on the Essex Waste Strategy to the Environment Committee in November, and

invited the Project Team to send him any questions relating to the application as soon as possible.

The Head of Street Services went on to explain that Officers were assessing options on facilities and funding under the proposed Local Authorities Agreement. Service plans would need to be prepared to show how each authority planned to meet the required recycling level of 60% by 2020.

Detailed discussion then followed on anticipated costs under various options. Many issues were raised, the Head of Street Services confirmed that there would be no obligation for this Council to use any particular facility, and it was open to the Council to decide to use MRF, MBT and AD sites in the most cost effective way. Officers were working to refine costs projections, but at this stage such figures could only be indicative.

The Head of Street Services said that specialist legal advice would be necessary, which would be provided by the County Council to all authorities preparing to enter the agreement.

It was noted that Officers would prepare a draft report on the Essex Waste Strategy and proposed service level plan for the next meeting.

WS4

20 LITRE WASTE CONTAINERS

The Chairman asked the Project Team to consider the logistics of a 20 litre caddie system as an alternative to the current 140 litre wheelie bin. Differing views were expressed as to how the public would perceive such an initiative. There were issues to be considered such as risk assessment for loaders, and whether the lifting mechanism on the lorries could be altered to incorporate slave bins. Officers would look in to this with the manufacturer.

The prospect of conducting a pilot scheme was then discussed, as there was County Council funding of £20k already set aside for this purpose. Following further discussion, it was concluded that an effective pilot scheme should include both rural and urban areas, and that half a round would provide a useful 'control' group. Possible areas for pilot schemes would be Woodlands Park and Hatfield Broad Oak.

ACTION: Officers to provide a report to the next meeting on the feasibility of conducting a pilot scheme for 20 litre waste containers.

WS5

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor Down said she had received a number of complaints from owners of flats in Orchard Close, Thaxted, who were still on the black bag system. They wished to complain about a number of properties that had chosen to have wheeled bins. The Waste and Recycling officer said he would visit the

area to gain an understanding of the issue and see if there was a solution that would suit all residents.

ACTION: Officers to carry out a site visit.

The meeting ended at 11.15 am.