

**WASTE STRATEGY PROJECT TEAM held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 3pm on 2 SEPTEMBER
2010**

Present: Councillor S Barker – Chairman.
Councillors C Cant, J Cheetham, C Down and E Godwin.

Officers: C Auckland (Waste and Recycling Officer), D Burrige
(Director of Operations), R Pridham (Head of Street
Services) and R Procter (Democratic Services Officer).

WS1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Dean.

WS2 MINUTES

The following corrections to the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2010 were made.

Minute WS43(ii), regarding matters arising, was amended as follows:
'Although a meeting was to be arranged for the Uttlesford and Braintree District Councillors ~~to discuss the Essex view of the TOMRA conditions,~~ the Chairman was concerned to ensure adequate communication with members of the Braintree District Council . . .etc'

Minute WS43(iii), regarding matters arising, was amended as follows:
'The Head of Street Services informed the meeting that working with Braintree the Council would be paying £9 a tonne ~~to the Materials Recovery Facility for sorting of dry recyclables. A satisfactory agreement with the re-processors had been reached as a result of working in partnership with Braintree District Council~~ as a fully inclusive fee (bulking, transport and gate fee) for the processing of dry recyclables.'

Minute WS45 was amended to correct a typographical error.

Minute WS47, regarding the consultant's value for money report, was amended to delete text to leave the following sentence: 'They discussed at length the pros and cons of various ways of replacing the existing refuse/recycling vehicles when that should become necessary.'

Subject to the above amendments, the Minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

WS3 **MATTERS ARISING**

(i) Minute WS45 – Compost giveaways

The Waste and Recycling Officer reported the recent compost 'giveaways' had been very successful as all compost had been taken.

WS4 **ESSEX AUTHORITIES RECYCLING PERFORMANCE FIGURES**

Members discussed recycling and composting performance figures for Essex authorities for the period April 2009 to March 2010. Whilst Uttlesford's performance was still significantly above most other Essex authorities, and retained the top spot on dry recycling, it was now in second place, the top position being held by Rochford District Council who were collecting green waste. Whilst Uttlesford's residual household waste per household was 409kg, Rochford's was 335kg.

Members discussed how this result might have been achieved, and noted the absence from the table of information on costs. This information would be interesting in relation to how Rochford had reduced its residual tonnage. The Chairman said she was aware of difficulties in providing costs figures for the performance table, and this was due to the complexity of establishing the corporate cost element attributable to recycling for each authority.

Members discussed options for improving Uttlesford's performance figures, in particular on diverting glass from non-recyclable waste. The possibility of kerbside glass collection was considered. Officers explained the implications for additional costs for glass collection. The Director of Operations said Uttlesford's figures for glass recycling (just over 7%) were consistent with the household waste composition quoted by WRAP.

The Head of Street Services reported on the figure for the recycling cost per property for 2009–2010. The cost was £44.65 (unaudited), which was at same level it had been immediately prior to the introduction of the three bin system in 2005. Following introduction of the scheme, cost per property had increased to £72.22, but had now been reduced back to the original level. Members were very pleased with this result, and thanked officers for their extensive efforts, particularly in negotiations over gate fees.

Members also discussed collection of garden waste, as there was a public perception that this service was feasible since some other authorities provided it. The Head of Street Services referred to forthcoming budget cuts from central government, which would make provision of non-statutory collections less affordable. However, officers had undertaken some benchmarking work into the potential costs of collecting garden waste, for example, Harlow charged £75 p.a for a fortnightly collection of a 240 litre garden waste bin. Costs would need

to take into account gate fees, the number of households signing up for the service, and the additional vehicles required. Members thanked officers for the information provided and noted in conclusion that existing provision of green skips in villages was a popular service.

Action: a press release to be issued to publicise the launch of the new recycling leaflet, emphasising the need to divert glass from dry recycling and seeking suggestions for additional bottle bank locations. A further action point was agreed that officers would write to all public houses in the district to invite them to provide sites for bottle banks.

WS5 **RECYCLING LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION**

Members thanked Officers for preparing the new recycling leaflet which would be distributed in September. Several questions were asked about what could be recycled, and about excessive packaging of products. Councillor Cheetham said packaging was a national issue which the Government were attempting to address.

WS6 **BRAINTREE PARTNERSHIP**

The Director of Operations updated Members. She said recruitment of a project manager had been unsuccessful, and officers were now approaching consultants in order to obtain estimates for preparing a business case. A meeting was to take place with Braintree's Director next week.

WS7 **TEXTILE COLLECTION REQUEST FROM ESSEX TEXTILES**

The Chairman invited Members' views on a proposal by Essex Textiles to provide doorstep textiles collection. Members expressed concern that there might be an impact on charities, which from time to time also carried out this type of collection. However, it was felt people were still likely to take better quality clothing to charity shops. Furthermore, officers reported there were instances of false registration numbers being given on the collection bags left by some organisations claiming to be charities.

Officers explained the terms of the proposal. The service would operate on a district-wide basis; it would be a fortnightly collection; and would take place on the same day as dry recyclables were collected. The Council would receive recycling credits and would be paid (the amount was not yet agreed). In order to reassure residents of the legitimacy of the service, partnership badging would be used. It should be noted that Rochford and Castlepoint were already working with this company and Braintree were also in discussions with the company at present.

Members were in favour of agreeing to a trial, as the service would provide an income as well as recycling credits, and might prevent rogue traders operating in the area. However, Members felt it was important the agreement should enable earlier termination if the Council found the trial was having a significantly adverse impact on the amount of clothing donated to charity.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1 the Council enter into a trial of kerbside textile collection to be provided by Essex Textiles for a period of one year, subject to clarification of terms of recycling credits and payment to the Council of a fee, and inclusion of a termination clause.
- 2 Officers undertake a study of other local authorities already working with Essex Textiles.

WS8

ECC ALLOCATION OF FUTURE DISPOSAL SITES

The Head of Street Services gave an update of anticipated alternative disposal sites yet to be advised to the Council following determination of Essex County Council's framework agreements. A percentage of Uttlesford's dry recyclables and residual waste would need to be taken to Haverhill and Roxwell respectively. The remaining issue was where Uttlesford's kitchen waste would be likely to go. If Haverhill, there would be a need to put on a shuttle vehicle, in which case officers would approach ECC for funding to meet this additional cost. It was likely that Haverhill would be the preferred option.

The site at Crumps Farm had now obtained full consent for an MBT plant, although this was subject to many conditions. Currently Uttlesford's non recyclables were to go to Basildon, but Uttlesford would be directed by ECC as to whether any of the district's non-recyclables would go to Crumps Farm, once that facility was built. It was therefore necessary to discuss costings of food waste disposal at Haverhill, which would have the consequence of reducing some of the efficiency of the proposed Braintree Partnership.

The Chairman asked officers about the possibility of changing the rounds. The Head of Street Services said the rounds would need to be re-routed.

WS9

ZERO WASTE MODELLING

Officers gave a summary of a proposal to undertake a study into what was currently an aspiration, achieving zero waste. In order to commence this work, approval was sought for an area of the district to be monitored for 6 weeks in order to identify what was being thrown away. Options for what could be done to move towards zero waste could then be examined. Officers had identified a suitable site within the Dunmow area.

Members agreed such a study should be undertaken. Officers advised the trial would not involve opening black bags, as the study would require only monitoring of tonnage.

It was agreed that the study area should not be made public, to ensure representative results, as otherwise the households in the study area might change their usual patterns of waste disposal. The Chairman asked that the relevant ward members be notified out of courtesy.

RECOMMENDED that officers monitor household waste within a site in the Dunmow area of the district for 6 weeks in order to identify further waste reduction possibilities.

WS10

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Cheetham asked whether many complaints had been received regarding food waste bins affected by maggots during hot weather, and referred to the Secretary of State's intention that weekly waste collections were to return. Uttlesford was already managing this situation well, as food waste was collected on a weekly basis. She suggested during the next spell of hot weather a press release could be issued regarding wrapping food waste to prevent this problem.

The Waste and Recycling Officer replied there had been no formal complaints, but only a couple of queries regarding missed collections.

The Chairman asked officers to write to the Dunmow branch of Tesco to request increasing their stock of food waste bags, as they were often sold out.

The meeting ended at 4.20pm.