

**WASTE STRATEGY PROJECT TEAM held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 11.30 am on 8 APRIL 2010**

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

Officers: C Auckland (Waste and Recycling Officer), R Pridham (Head of Street Services) and C Roberts (Democratic Services Officer).

WS41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor E Godwin.

WS42 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2010 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

WS43 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute WS36 – TOMRA

Members had asked for an update and the Waste and Recycling Officer circulated the latest figures.

It was noted that, generally, there had been a dip in the amounts of glass recycled. Some Members thought this could be attributed to the difficulties of using the new site, but it was recognised that much lower figures for dry recycling were normal in recessions. The resulting percentages to landfill would appear worse than before so such measurements should be made only in tonnages to landfill.

(ii) Minute WS37 – Braintree And Uttlesford Shared Facilities Project

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 and therefore suggested the production of a handout summarising the latest developments for distribution to the Members of both councils.

It was noted that the reference to Rochford in paragraph 5 should read “Kent”. There had been no further progress with the proposals for a shared collection service.

(iii) Minute WS39 – Disposal of dry recyclables

The Head of Street Services informed the meeting that 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.

WS44 CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

The arrangements for Christmas/New Year Waste and Recycling Collections for 2010/11 had been circulated with the agenda. It was noted that the new collection day “Thursday 20th Dec 2010” should read “Thursday 30th Dec 2010”.

Members thought the wide publicity that was given, in the previous year, to these arrangements was most useful, and they expressed approval for the suggested arrangements.

WS45 COMPOST GIVEAWAYS

The Waste and Recycling Officer informed the meeting that four container loads of compost were available for organised Giveaways.

Members agreed that these should take place in mid-May in Great Dunmow, Taakeley, Thaxted, Stansted and Saffron Walden following advance publicity to all parish councils and a press release.

RECOMMENDED that the Head of Community Engagement be requested to provide publicity for the Giveaways.

WS46 CESSATION OF THE WEST AREA GROUP

The Task Group was informed of the impending demise of the West Area Group which would be replaced by an officer working group and a cross-county member group with no decision making authority..

RECOMMENDED that the Council agrees to the new arrangements. *(A report will follow to Council.)*

WS47

WHITE YOUNG GREEN CONSULTANTS: VALUE FOR MONEY REPORT

The Task Group considered the report provided by White Young Green Consultants on their value for money assessment of the Council's refuse and recycling services, including benchmarking against other authorities' figures.

Members were pleased to note the satisfactory recycling results.

They discussed at length the pros and cons of various ways of replacing the existing refuse/recycling vehicles when that should become necessary, and the possibilities that before then (i) rounds would have to be revised, and (ii) other money saving technological development might emerge to alleviate costs. In the light of these matters the Group felt that replacement of four rather than twelve vehicles might be more appropriate as a trial.

The Head of Street Services indicated that before the vehicles were due for replacement all options in vehicle technology could be considered. One suggested type of vehicle was a vehicle with a side-loading "pod" for kitchen waste and a standard collection body at the rear of the vehicle for recyclables/residual waste. If this option proved to be viable, this would require a revision of current collection rounds.

The Head of Street Services explained the Council's position regarding provision of a transfer station for kitchen waste during the year 2010/11 dealing with the costs and logistical factors which could arise from various possible courses of action.

Members also discussed likely future developments in commercial waste collection and disposal. Again decisions had to depend upon the allocation of sites by Essex County Council

The Head of Street Services suggested that the Braintree District Council be informed that Uttlesford would like to share a depot and possibly a fully integrated service with Braintree. He felt that issues such as sites and security of tenure could be discussed at a meeting with Braintree and Uttlesford members and officers.

Members agreed that the White Young Green Value for Money report was for information only and need not go to the Environment Committee.

The Chairman reiterated the importance of expressing monthly recycling and waste disposal figures in tonnages rather than percentages and wished that any problems with internal audit and weighing of lorries be dealt with in advance.

The meeting ended at 1.10 pm