

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the East Devon Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board, held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 24 May 2012

Present:

Councillors:

Iain Chubb – Portfolio Holder, Environment
David Cox – Portfolio Holder, Finance
Steve Gazzard
Geoff Pook
Phil Twiss

Also present:

Councillor:

Roger Giles – Recycling Member Champion

SITA:

Rick Aldridge – Senior Contract Manager
Steve Bell – Deputy Regional Manager
Peta Johnson - SITA Development Team

Officers

Simon Davey – Head of Finance
Paul Deakin – Waste and Recycling Manager
Naomi Firth – Waste Management Officer
Nick Stephen – Communications Officer
Alethea Thompson – Democratic Service Officer
Mark Williams – Chief Executive

Apologies:

Andrew Hancock - StreetsScene Manager
Denise Lyon – Deputy Chief Executive

The meeting started 10.00 am and finished at 12.15 pm.

***1 Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder – Environment, Councillor Iain Chubb be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

***2 Appointment of Vice Chairman**

RESOLVED that the Deputy Portfolio Holder – Environment, Councillor Phil Twiss be appointed as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

***3 Welcome and introductions**

Following the election and appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Chairman invited all those present to introduce themselves. He welcomed Councillors Steve Gazzard and Phil Twiss to the meeting. It was noted that Honorary Alderman Ron Mudge had retired from the Partnership Board and the Chairman commented on the excellent job that Ron Mudge had done. He had attended all the meetings, given good input and would be missed.

***4 Minutes**

The minutes of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board meeting held on 28 March 2012 were agreed and signed as a true record, subject to the finishing time of the meeting being amended to read 11.45 am.

The Waste and Recycling Manager reported that the bank system for small electrical waste items (small WEEE) would be rolled out Devon wide, with five or six banks being provided across East Devon (minute 64 refers).

***5 Side waste update**

Members considered the report of the Waste and Recycling Manager concerning the process of contacting households who put out side waste or were not using EDDC branded containers. This process commenced on 6 February 2012 and had been running for just over four months, resulting in a marked improvement. The process was continuing to run and all areas would have had eight collections since the campaign began.

The Waste and Recycling Manager circulated figures showing the number of first, second, third and fourth side waste letters that had been sent out to households over the period since 6 February. In addition to this a considerable number of non EDDC containers had been identified and these figures were noted. It was agreed that the side waste campaign had been successful in tackling the issue of side waste. The cost of the exercise was noted. Members agreed that the campaign had been time consuming, but very effective. The Board acknowledged the considerable amount of effort and involvement of the Waste Management Officers, the Customer Services Team and SITA operatives.

The Waste and Recycling Manager suggested that in future the first letter no longer be issued, but that a sticker with amended wording be used. It was hoped that the change would reduce the administrative burden on the Waste Management Officers. The Board debated this proposal but felt that letter one should continue to be used for a further three months.

The Waste and Recycling Manager reported that he had received a letter from Lord Taylor of Holbeach concerning interim changes to local authority enforcement powers regarding household waste collection and the reduction in fixed penalty fines, with an option for a reduced cost for early payment.

RESOLVED that letter 1 continue to be issued to households putting out side waste or using a non-EDDC branded container, with the process being reviewed by the Board in three months.

***6 Statistical information**

The Board considered a report presented by the Waste and Recycling Manager, setting out statistical and operational data on missed collections, finance and National and SITA key performance indicators.

Members noted the amount of household waste being collected had reduced by 8.8% from the previous year. There had also been a dramatic reduction in the cost of refuse and in the number of calls received by the Customer Service Centre. The Board agreed that this was all excellent news.

The Waste and Recycling Manager gave a brief overview of the Otter Rotters garden waste collection service, how this had impacted on the statistical information for 2010/11 and why the figures did not show an increase in the figures for 2011/12.

***7 Devon wide waste analysis**

The Board noted the results of a Devon wide analysis of residual waste carried out in March 2012. This analysis was carried out to establish what materials were still in the bin after recycling had taken place. Waste was collected and analysed from 40 properties per day, with 200 properties being collected from in the chosen areas.

The result showed that East Devon had made a good impact on recycling in the area, and also showed the Council the way forward. 15% of kitchen waste was still being placed in the bins, but this figure was good compared with other authorities. The amount of paper, cardboard and plastics was still relatively high. The analysis demonstrated the need for more education to be done on the type of materials that the Council already recycled.

***8 Joint waste project board for Devon**

The Waste and Recycling Manager reported that at a recent meeting of Devon Authorities Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee (DAWRRC), which had representatives of all the Councils in Devon, a proposal was put forward and agreed to consider moving forward to options for closer integrated work in waste management across Devon. The proposition from DAWRRC had been further discussed at a meeting of the Devon Local Government Steering Group (DLGSG) in April who had approved the recommendation for the establishment of a Waste Integrated Service Project Board, to be tasked with considering options for closer integrated working across waste management in Devon.

The purpose of a Waste Integrated Service Project Board was noted. It was envisaged that the Board would have a member (with responsibility for waste) representation from all the Devon authorities and would be serviced by an officer Project Executive which would have representation from all authorities at a senior waste officer level. The first Board meeting would be held on 28 June 2012 and the first Project Executive meeting would be held on 30 May 2012.

RESOLVED that the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board fully supports the process to consider working towards a Waste Project Board for Devon.

***9 Review of the Devon Waste Strategy**

The revised Devon Waste Strategy was out for consultation and had been included in the agenda papers. There was also a summary and questionnaire document. DCC would be running a road show in East Devon and had asked the Council to help with this.

RESOLVED that the Waste and Recycling Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman draw up a draft response to the strategy, to be circulated to Board members for consideration, before submitting the response to Devon County Council.

10 Recycling Champions meeting

Members considered the notes of the Recycling Champions meeting held on 18 April 2012. It was suggested that Ward Members ask their parishes to nominate a recycling champion in each parish and engage the town and parish councils in recycling. It was felt that the Council offices should lead by example in recycling and sustainability and members were invited to the SITA offices to see the types of things that they did.

RECOMMENDED that Ward Members ask their parish and town councils to be involved in recycling and to nominate a recycling champion.

***11 Update from SITA**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) had visited SITA and East Devon in February 2012 as part of an intervention project and subsequently carried out a site visit in May to see operational practices. The HSE report was still awaited but the inspector had indicated that he was very impressed with the processes in place. Two small issues had been raised which SITA would address and overcome.

The Contracts Manager highlighted some of the benefits of the HWRC contract that SITA had with DCC in that the depot was being used by the HWRC operation and charged which helped cover the operational costs of the depot.

***12 Communications update and call details**

This item had already been covered earlier in the meeting.

***13 Any other business**

Exmouth Colony collections

It was noted that there was a problem with one property regarding side waste, but that generally collections were no longer an issue in the area.

RSM Tenon

The Waste and Recycling Manager reported that he had received a draft Forensic Accounting report from RSM Tenon. The Board agreed that it would be useful for the auditor to attend the next Board meeting to discuss the report and felt that a presentation would help resolve some of the issues that had been raised.

***13 Any other business (cont'd)**

Plant and Waste Recycling Show

The Waste and Recycling Manager reported that the Council had been shortlisted for a food waste award at the Plant and Waste Recycling Show (PAWRS) to be held in Torquay in June. He had received two free tickets to a black tie gala dinner and presentation on 13 June 2012.

RESOLVED

- 1 that a representative from RSM Tenon be invited to attend the next meeting of the Partnership Board to present the draft report.
- 2 that the Board Chairman and Waste and Recycling Manager attend the Plant and Waste Recycling Show gala dinner and presentation on 13 June 2012.

***14 Next meeting**

RESOLVED

that the next meeting of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board be held on 27 June 2012, at 9.00am, in the Committee Room.

***15 Options for cardboard and mixed plastics collections**

The Board received a report from the SITA development team on the options for the collection of an extended range of materials and noted the options that had been considered. SITA's proposal included the collection of both cardboard and mixed plastics and was designed to maximise the cost effectiveness of services through the re-direction of existing assets. Containerisation had been considered to ensure that the services were clear to residents, and would provide them with sufficient storage for their materials over the collection period. The proposal was for the collection of cardboard and mixed plastics to be provided on alternating weeks (this would mean that plastic bottles would no longer be collected weekly). Four additional vehicles would be required for this service. The additional revenue and the cost of the service (both ongoing and the set up costs) were noted. The cost of containers had not been included in any pricing within the report.

Members discussed a number of issues relating to the proposal including;

- the growing number of people wanting to recycle cardboard,
- the need to educate residents with a new service,
- the reduction in side waste,
- the storage issue for residents caused by using additional recycling containers,
- the need to increase council tax in order to provide an enhanced recycling service and the possibility of a referendum.

It was noted that the current contract with SITA expired on 31 March 2016, and the re-tendering process would need to start at least 18 months prior to this. From spring 2014 all East Devon waste would go into a waste to energy plant and not to landfill.

***15 Options for cardboard and mixed plastics collections (cont'd)**

Members felt that they needed to discuss the proposal internally, without SITA present. All SITA representatives left the meeting at 11.50am and the meeting continued.

Those now present agreed that due to other financial pressures that the Council would face in the following financial year, and the current uncertainty regarding future office relocation and the rate settlement from Central Government, that the current proposal for recycling an enhanced range of materials should be considered during the Council's full budget discussions for 2013/14, by Cabinet in the autumn. Members were concerned about introducing substantial changes to the budget midterm, but felt that the proposal should be looked at positively, with a view to implementation in April 2013.

RESOLVED that the proposal for an enhanced recycling contract be considered during the Council's full budget discussions for the 2013/14 financial year.

Chairman

Date