

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the East Devon Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board, held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 25 April 2013

Present: Councillors:
Ian Chubb – Portfolio Holder, Environment (Chairman)
Phil Twiss – Deputy Portfolio Holder, Environment (Vice Chairman)
David Cox – Portfolio Holder, Finance
Councillor Steve Gazzard
Councillor Geoff Pook

SITA: Rick Aldridge – Senior Contract Manager
Darren Lockett – Regional Manager

Officers Louise Bennett – Waste Management Officer
Paul Deakin – Waste and Recycling Manager
Andrew Hancock - StreetScene Manager
Alethea Thompson – Democratic Service Officer

Also present Councillor Douglas Hull

Mandy Jennings – Otter Rotters

Apologies: Councillor Roger Giles – Recycling Member Champion

The meeting started 10.00 am and finished at 12.05 pm.

The Waste and Recycling Manager introduced Darren Lockett, SITA Regional Manager to the Partnership Board. Darren explained the SITA restructure.

***53 Minutes**

The minutes of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board meeting held on 24 January 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record.

In response to a question about WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) banks the Waste and Recycling Manager reported that the Council was currently in negotiations with Recolight regarding a Service Level Agreement. As soon as the bulb boxes were available they would be distributed across the district. (Minute 41 24.01.13 refers).

***54 Otter Rotters**

Mandy Jennings of Otter Rotters was welcomed to the meeting. She had attended to outline changes in the organisation and plans for the expansion of the garden waste collection service. The following issues were discussed:

- Reduced capacity at the Fenny Bridges site.
- The traditional rounds were going well and although the new ones were increasing slowly, they were also going well.
- The new teams worked well. They were a mixture of people with learning disabilities and job centre work experience people.
- Otter Rotters had two, well maintained vehicles.
- May was the beginning of the peak season.
- Exmouth was being developed in phases.
- The forward plan was for small satellite sites for composting new green waste.
- With regard to using the old Household Waste Recycling Centre at Woods Farm no objections had been received from the Donkey Sanctuary regarding the covenant and composting at the site. Negotiations were continuing with Devon County Council (DCC).
- Otter Rotters were disappointed with the lack of large scale composting as there was local demand for composted green waste.
- Income stream was low and the advertising budget was limited. Leaflet drops were carried out where possible. Otter Rotters had their own website. They were also advertised on the EDDC website and included in the Council Tax booklet which had been sent to every household in East Devon.

Mandy Jennings was thanked for attending the meeting and answering the Board's questions.

***55 Statistical information**

The Waste and Recycling Manager introduced Louise Bennett, newly appointed Waste Management Officer to the Board.

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

Low figures were being maintained in relation to the number of missed refuse and recycling collections. There had also been a continued reduction in the amount of calls received by the Customer Service Centre. This indicated that the recycling and refuse service was continuing in the right direction.

The Board noted the 45-46% rate expected for recycling in 2012/13. There had been a dip in the January waste collection figures, mainly due to the Christmas collections (side waste collection had been allowed for the first collection after Christmas only).

***55 Statistical information (cont'd)**

Members discussed action taken against households with unauthorised/additional bins. The Waste Management Officer explained the application process for a larger/additional bin and the collection of the original bin. Waste reviews were undertaken on an individual basis. The Board also discussed the issue of raised bin lids. SITA's Contract Manager outlined SITA's role in helping to deal with problems such as side waste and raised lids and emphasised the need to keep campaigning and advertising to householders the positive aspects of the service.

It was noted that the In-cab reporting system was due to start in June 2013. This would enable improved reporting. SITA crews currently reported issues on a log and could identify areas with good return rates and those without. It was suggested that householders that weren't recycling could be targeted and that more positive publicity was needed in general. Members then discussed ideas for increased publicity and educational campaigns, such as school visits and adding SITA trucks as collection floats to the winter carnival circuit.

***56 Integrated Devon wide waste service**

The Waste and Recycling Manager gave the Board an update on the proposals to consider an integrated Devon wide waste service. There were two groups; a Member group and an officer group.

An outline business case had been drawn up for closer integrated working across waste management in Devon. The details of this were included in the Waste and Recycling Manager's report to the Board, which enabled it to see how the project was progressing.

The net actual spend across the partners for the 2011/12 financial year was noted. The total spend was £91m. The outline business case showed reasonable future savings of 5-10% across Devon, although these may not be achieved for some time, especially as some of the waste contracts did not end until 2018.

It was noted that the real value of partnership working, in cash terms, was difficult to project with accuracy even when the dimensions and the intentions of the partnership were clear. There was also the risk that the time, effort and expense taken to produce a detailed business case could become obsolete.

The Waste and Recycling Manager reported that at the member meeting in January 2013 it was felt that there was an opportunity to make significant savings but these could not be clearly identified until such time as all the true costs were taken into consideration. It was agreed at that meeting that work on the detailed business case should be progressed. More information, along with recommendations on the scenarios that should be modelled would be taken to the next member meeting on 7 May 2013. It was likely that two types of scenarios would be considered:

- A fully Integrated Devon – in two parts with the services retained as they were at present or a unified service throughout the county.
- A clustering arrangement (based on disposal points) where adjacent Councils amalgamated their service either with an existing service or a unified one.

On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked the Waste and Recycling Manager for his report.

***57 Joint contract for the sale of newspapers and magazines, textiles and glass cullet, and the associated transport**

The Waste and Recycling Manager gave the Board an update in respect of the joint contract for the sale of newspapers, magazines, textiles and glass cullet, and the associated transport.

A joint contract for the sale of newspapers and magazines and glass cullet was being re-tendered across Devon and was due to be advertised in mid May 2013. It would be beneficial as it would provide guaranteed tonnage. Discussions were underway with the re-processors on whether the contractors should undertake the haulage or not.

The textile contract was due to expire in December 2013 and would be tendered within the same time scale as newspapers, magazines and glass cullet, but the new textile contract would not start until January 2014.

***58 Dissemination of Christmas collection information**

At the previous meeting the Board had discussed the high cost of sending information to all households about the day changes to collections over the Christmas and New Year period. The cost in 2012 was approximately 29p per property.

The Waste and Recycling Manager suggested that A5 'hangers' be produced to go on bin handles. These would be placed there by SITA operatives on the last residual waste collection weeks in November. An example of a 'hanger' was provided in the agenda papers. It would contain the same information as given in the past. The estimated cost of producing and distributing the hangers was approximately 10p per property.

The new Citizen smart phone app would assist in providing customers with collection information. Customers could even opt out of receiving paper reminders and receive these electronically instead.

RESOLVED that the final design and cost of the Christmas hangers be considered by the Board at a future meeting.

59 Update from SITA

SITA's Contract Manager suggested that a representative from the new SITA plastics recycling plant in Avonmouth be invited to a future Board meeting to fully explain the materials that would be processed at the plant and how it would operate.

The Contract Manager explained that he had been in discussion with a few companies regarding the provision of WEEE banks and that he would bring more information to a future Board meeting.

The Contract Manager outlined wage claim negotiations with Unite over a wage increase for SITA operatives. He asked the Board to consider an acceptable figure. It was noted that the suggested figure had been included in the budget. The Contract Manager also outlined other work incentives offered by SITA. It was noted that wage increases for SITA employees was an area of contention for Street Scene staff, whose pay had been frozen.

59 Update from SITA (cont'd)

The Board discussed kerbside collections of mixed plastics and cardboard. The Finance Portfolio Holder advised there would be detailed consideration of the budget over the next two years. It was agreed that kerbside cardboard and mixed plastics collection should be included in the new refuse and recycling contract (2016), but that large costs should not be incurred towards the end of the existing contract.

- RECOMMENDED**
- 1 that the SITA Contract Manager invite a representative from the Avonmouth plant to a future Board meeting.
 - 2 that the SITA Contract Manager bring further information on the provision of WEEE banks to a future Board meeting.
 - 3 that the wage increase for SITA employees, as included in the budget, be agreed.

***60 Communications update and call details**

This item had already been covered earlier in the meeting. The Waste and Recycling Manager reported that the service had received coverage in the press and the Communications Team had a list of positive publicity campaigns. The 'Real Nappy Campaign' had been very successful with a targeted audience. Work would be continued with this, although not on the same scale.

61 Any other business

Recycling with Street Scene

The Street Scene Manager reported that he was working on bringing a trial forward for adding recycling bins to Sidmouth seafront. Sidmouth had been chosen as its seafront bins were most in need of replacement. Waste Management Officers had been sorting and weighing the waste from the bins to identify how much could be recycled. Solar 'Big Belly' compactor bins were being considered as they could take seven times more litter. The replacement of all bins along the district's beaches was due for completion by the end of 2014 in the Street Scene service plan.

Fly tipping

Concern was expressed that since DCC had begun charging for the disposal of hard waste at its recycling centres, there had been a 30% increase in the amount of builders' waste being fly tipped. This had an associated cost for EDDC and it was requested that this be considered by Devon Authorities Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee (DAWRRC). The Waste and Recycling Manager agreed to ensure this was on the DAWRRC agenda.

Exmouth Tidy Group

It was reported that the Exmouth Tidy Group had recently carried out a litter pick around Valley Parks and had collected 13 bags of rubbish in two and a half hours.

61 Any other business (cont'd)

Citizen App

The Street Scene Manager explained that the Citizen app provided information updates and general Council communications, and also allowed residents to report faults. It would include refuse and recycling collection dates and reminders. It would fully integrate with the Council's existing systems and form part of the In-Cab system. It was bespoke and it was possible for members to decide what areas of the service should be reported on. The Citizen app would be launched first, and then In-Cab. The Street Scene Manager would provide a demonstration of the In-Cab system at the next Board meeting.

Waste Contract Manager

The Street Scene Manager informed the Board that a Waste Contract Manager would be appointed and be in post in the early autumn 2013.

RECOMMENDED

- 1 that the Waste and Recycling Manager include the cost of fly tipping to EDDC on the next Devon Authorities Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee agenda.
- 2 that the Street Scene Manager give a demonstration of the In-Cab IT system at the next meeting of the Partnership Board.

***62 Next meeting**

RESOLVED

that the next meeting of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board be held on Thursday 18 July 2013, at 10am in the Committee Room.

Chairman

Date