

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 20 January 2010

Present:

Councillor H Smith (Chair)

Councillors	P Reisdorf	M Redfern
	S Taylor	S Williams
	B Kenny	W Duffey (In place of T Anderson)
	KJ Williams	I Lewis (In place of J Hale)
	D Mitchell	

32 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Councillor J Williams declared a personal interest in respect of minute 37 (Review of Shop Display and Advertisement Board Licences) by virtue of his involvement in a ward issue relating to this matter.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement. No such declarations were made.

33 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November, 2009

Resolved –

(1) That the minutes be received.

(2) That the Director of Technical Services be requested to present a further report on the revenue implications referred to in paragraph 5.1 of the report on the Highway and Engineering Services Contract (minute 26 refers) to the March meeting of this Committee.

34 RECYCLING OF WASTE MINIMISATION DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE

The Director of Technical Services presented a report updating Members on the current position of the Recycling and Waste Minimisation Delivery Plan for 2009/10, prepared by Technical Services in partnership with Biffa Waste Services, Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) and other members of the Living and Working Environment Partnership achieve the recycling objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan and Wirral Local Area Agreement. The report also included Technical Services' response to the Kitchen Waste Collection Trial Scheme Notice of Motion under the section headed Future Considerations.

He appended the latest version of the Waste and Recycling LAA Delivery Plan (Appendix 1) to achieve the Corporate Objective "to create a clean, pleasant, safe and sustainable environment". Increasing levels of recycling was a priority for improvement for the Council, and he commented that continuous improvements since 2005/06 had resulted in Wirral being the second most improved local authority for National Indicator 192 (Household Waste Recycled and Composted) in England in 2007/08 and the most improved Metropolitan Council. This was attributed to a combination of increased recycling, reductions in waste growth, and a greater awareness with regards to waste prevention amongst the public.

Projects detailed in the Recycling and Waste Minimisation LAA Delivery Plan were grouped around four main themes, aimed at increasing levels of recycling and decreasing the amount of waste being sent to landfill:

- Expanding the coverage of the kerbside co-mingled recycling scheme to include all remaining households.
- Improving the quality of recyclates delivered to the MRF.
- Delivering Initiatives through partnership working aimed at educating and empowering residents and businesses to minimise waste and maximise recycling.
- Increasing diversion of street cleansing waste streams from landfill.

The Director set out the current position in respect the above.

In response to the Notice of Motion, a Senior Officers Working Group (SOWG), representing all senior waste managers from all Merseyside authorities, would help each authority produce a business case for food waste treatment in the long term. It was recommended that Members await the outcome of this project, supported by the Waste Resource Action Programme, before any decisions to embark on kitchen waste trials are made. The report would be completed prior to the need for districts to respond to the MWDA on future kitchen waste requirements.

The Director reported that significant service improvements have been made resulting in waste streams being recycled that were previously land filled. The Council had moved higher in the national league tables currently above the national average for all waste indicators. In line with current Government thinking that prevention was the most efficient way to manage waste (in both cost and environmental terms), Technical Services would explore waste prevention opportunities in a more detailed manner and report their findings to a future Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny meeting. This Council, along with the Merseyside Waste Partnership would have to make a number of key decisions in 2010/11 regarding future treatment options for food waste and the residual waste streams. In the next 12-18 months, Wirral would review its waste strategies in line

with the National Waste Strategy and associated Waste Framework Directive, the Regional Waste Strategy, and the Merseyside Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy as well as taking full account of the implications of the Climate Change agenda and targets.

Resolved – That the Committee:

(1) Note the progress made in the Recycling and Waste Minimisation Delivery Plan for 2009/10;

(2) Note the key dates regarding future waste management treatment options detailed in section 5.2.1;

(3) Request officers report back to Committee on the findings of the Merseyside Waste Partnership Options report on Food Waste Collections in time for the Council to make an informed decision on the future management of this element of Wirral's household waste stream.

35 **THIRD ANNUAL REVIEW STREETSCENE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACT**

The Director of Technical Services reported upon the current position with the Environmental Streetscene Services Contract and the development of the service.

Since the contract was awarded to Biffa in June 2006, a close working partnership with the company had transformed Environmental Streetscene Services in Wirral and had resulted in a continuous improvement of service quality which was recognised and acknowledged in the most recent Comprehensive Performance Assessment. He set out the contract management framework and reported upon progress in relation to the following key work streams that had been agreed in January 2009 by the Waste Partnership Board, for implementation in 2009/10:-

- Garden Waste: Procurement of Treatment Facilities
- Street Cleansing and Enforcement: Improving Environmental Quality with particular focus on litter and detritus
- ERIC Service and Fly Tipping Removal
- CRM Springboard Project
- Compaction and Contamination

Other key achievements included the development of a litterbins database to provide a more strategic approach to litterbin provision and web access to Street Cleansing schedules.

He provided a detailed performance summary in relation to key performance indicators, together with an Analysis of Benefits Realisation and commented that the following work streams had been agreed by the Partnership Board to be the focus of improvement/progress in 2010/11 –

- Street Cleansing (including fly tipping)
- Springboard integration

- Compaction and contamination risk reduction (amended from 2008)
- Review of Bad weather Contingency Plan
- Biffa's Environmental Policy

Members were invited to put forward suggestions for additional work streams in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the contract.

The Director introduced Gary Bowles and Mark Hodgkinson from Biffa's management team who gave a presentation on progress and key achievements. The presentation provided an overview of the company and its organisational structure, and indicated that Wirral was the company's largest municipal contract. The focus for 2010 was to build on successes achieved in the first three years and to secure further improvements in relation to quality and service performance. Information was provided to demonstrate the benefits to the Partnership of continual improvement and particular emphasis was placed on improvements in relation to missed bin collections, the reduction of side waste, improved customer care and safety performance. A summary of the response to snow disruption covering the periods 23/24 December and 5/15 January was also provided.

Mr Bowles responded to questions from Members concerning the issues raised in his presentation.

The Director responded to questions from Members concerning:

- improvements to the recycling service. Members were interested to know whether other waste streams would be targeted for recycling in the future, that could be added to the existing grey bin scheme. The Director responded by stating that the MWDA were responsible for treatment solutions for waste, and that Wirral officers have expressed to the MWDA the need for continuous improvement of MRF facilities to enable more waste streams to be collected co-mingled. This would, however be dependant on future technology .
- use of CCTV to cover fly tipping hotspots
- the need for further analysis of the fly tipping figures
- specific problems relating to street cleansing, leaf fall removal, the ERIC service, provision of litter bins and missed bin collections, in Members' wards
- outputs and targets relating to key performance indicators detailed in Appendix 1 to the report
- the need to review the calculation of the Levy to reflect Wirral's improved performance in recycling and uphold the polluter pay's principle.

Resolved – That the Committee note the progress of the contract during the past year outlined in the report.

36 **MONITORING REPORT - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10**

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management, submitted an Updated Monitoring Report on the Committee's Work Programme.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**(a) Review of Existing Policy - Shop Display and Advertisement Board Licences.**

The Chair referred to his research into this matter and on site surveys regarding problems associated with traders encroaching on pavements and causing an obstruction. There was a general discussion during which members identified particular problems within their respective wards.

Resolved – That the Director of Technical Services be requested to review the existing policy and report back to the March meeting of this Committee.

(b) Review of Winter Maintenance Arrangements

The Committee received a referral from Cabinet (minute 250 – 14/1/2010) (Extreme Winter Weather) to undertake a formal review of winter maintenance arrangements across the Council

Resolved – That the review of winter maintenance arrangements be added to the Committee's work programme.

(c) Trading Standards Update Report

Councillor Reisdorf asked for a report on the work of the Trading Standards Division and related legislation.

Resolved – That the Director of Regeneration be requested to prepare an update report for the March meeting of this Committee.

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