

# EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Executive Board held at Knowle, Sidmouth on Wednesday, 13 February 2008

**Present:** Councillors:  
Miss S M Randall Johnson (Chairman)  
R G Franklin (Vice Chairman)  
  
D J Cox  
T A Cope  
Miss J M Elson  
M J L Green  
S Hughes  
G K Liverton  
A T Moulding

**Also Present:** Councillors:  
G P Chamberlain  
P A Diviani  
Mrs C E Drew  
C F A Gibbings  
A R Giles  
J A Knight  
Mrs S C J Jones  
Mrs A E Liverton  
Mrs H E Parr

**Also present** Hon Alderman Ron Mudge

Officers:  
Karime Hassan, Corporate Director  
Denise Lyon, Deputy Chief Executive  
Diccon Pearse, Corporate Director  
Mark Reilly, Head of Street Scene Services  
Derek Smith, Legal Executive  
Diana Vernon, Democratic Services Manager

**Apology** Councillor A T Moulding

**Apologies from non-Executive Board Members** Councillors  
Miss V Ash  
Mrs M A Rogers  
P J Skinner

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.00 pm.

\*156 **Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** that the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Board be confirmed, and that the reports relating to exempt information be dealt with under Part B of the agenda.

\*157 **Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, of the description set out on the agenda is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing the items in private session (Part B).

158 **Recycling and Refuse Contract – cost and revenue projections for the roll-out of service changes**

Members considered the report of the Head of Streetscene Services together with the confidential notes of a meeting of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board held on 5 February 2008 which had met to discuss the current position of the contract negotiations with SITA.

Councillor Cox, Portfolio Holder – Streetscene gave a resumé of discussions and negotiations with SITA and the problems faced by the Council over the last few months which had resulted in delays in commencing the contract. Copies of the revised projections from SITA were circulated at the meeting. The various options open to the Council were outlined together with the pros and cons of each. Members were asked to note the recommendations of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board, namely to extend the contract for three years and accept the principle of paying SITA's costs plus 10% margin, subject to conditions.

The Leader thanked Councillor Cox for the very comprehensive explanation of the current situation. She thanked the Partnership Board and the Officers involved in the negotiations. The item would be referred with recommendations to the meeting of the Council on 20 February but the Leader saw this Special meeting of the Executive Board as an opportunity for Members to ask any questions and raise any concerns.

The consensus of the Executive Board was that the Partnership Board and supporting Officers had done an extremely good job in addressing complex contractual issues. All recognized the importance of close scrutiny of the contract and the need for regular monitoring data and feedback from the contractor which would be supplemented with detailed and up-to-date feedback from the Council's Customer Service Centre. The Executive Board recognized that the key issue was to provide the public with a well managed and efficient service. There was general disappointment that the proposed amendment to the contract would mean that cardboard was not collected for recycling at this stage although could be included later. Members would prefer collection of cardboard to be retained in the waste stream if Devon County Council was able to provide the incineration facility. The importance of good communications was recognized as this would ensure that the public was fully informed and knew how and what to recycle.

Due to the delay in starting the contract, there was no time to run a pilot scheme. There would now be a continuous staged roll out across the district. The Partnership Board would continue to meet quarterly, or more often as required during the first stages of the roll out, to monitor performance and question any slippage in the roll-out programme or performance. Proactive and timely action would help prevent problems developing. The Partnership Board would also continue to investigate how to progress food waste recycling and possible steps to reduce transport costs.

**RECOMMENDED**

1. that the Council, under the terms of the partnership arrangement with SITA, extend the contract for three years, until 31 March 2016, as provided for in the original tender documents and accept the principle of paying SITA's costs plus an agreed margin, subject to;
  - (a) specialist external auditors being appointed to verify any cost and revenue accounts submitted by SITA annually,
  - (b) the partnership agreement allowing for transparency in accounting between SITA and EDDC and that SITA provide detailed breakdowns on a monthly basis, to include financial, contract management performance and resource information,

**Recycling and Refuse Contract – cost and revenue projections for the roll-out of service changes (cont)..**

- (c) that upon agreement of a start date, the whole District be included in the roll out of the refuse and recycling contract over the given time frame, with the initial proposed phasing and trial periods abandoned due to delays incurred so far. This recommendation supersedes the previously agreed phasing proposal to Executive Board 4 July 2007 (minute 46 referred),
- (d) for the avoidance of doubt, confirmation be received that the financial arrangements included in the recommendation do not operate retrospectively in relation to the cost of the service prior to the rollout of the new service.

Chairman ..... Date.....