

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of a meeting of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 13 November 2007

Present:

Councillors:

David Cox – Portfolio Holder, Street Scene Services (Chairman)
M J L Green

Karime Hassan – Corporate Director, Environment
Diccon Pearse – Corporate Director, Economy
Mark Reilly – Head of Street Scene Services

Apologies:

Councillors

A Moulding
B Nicholson

Mike Baker – Principal Engineer

A further meeting to up-date Honorary Alderman R Mudge on the existing situation would be arranged with Councillor D Cox and the Head of Streetscene Services

The meeting started at 2.30 pm and finished at 4.20 pm

1. Minutes from last

The minutes of the last meeting of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board held on 7 August 2007 were noted.

2. Performance reports

The Head of Streetscene Services advised that SITA's performance in respect on missed bins/boxes was improving with less recorded complaints. Details of the October performance would be forwarded to Members of the Board.

3. Contract issues:

a) Assisted collections

Members noted the proposed system for assisted collections. There was a need to establish a relevant database to contain costs of this additional service without disadvantaging members of the public who relied on this assistance. A set of criteria was proposed for assisted collections with a requirement for people to submit a request form. A letter would be sent to anyone on the assisted collections' register annually to ensure that the database was correctly maintained. It was understood that the introduction of wheeled bins would increase the number of requested for assisted collections.

RECOMMENDED

that a letter with request form be sent to everyone on the existing assisted collections' register and to those requesting assistance to enable a relevant database to be established based on the proposed criteria for providing assistance, with the information being checked at least annually.

b) Purchase of bins, etc

Funding was available from Devon County Council for capital expenditure on bins. Suppliers had agreed to store items ordered but it was felt more appropriate to defer ordering whilst negotiations were underway. It was suggested that deferring this decision to January/February would not delay the pilot and funding could still be secured within the current financial year.

RECOMMENDED that the purchase of wheeled bins and other containers be deferred until January/February.

c) Introduction of wheeled bins in Exmouth

The Colonies area of Exmouth had been used to pilot the use of wheeled bins and this had been successful in addressing the seagulls problem. However, the success in that area had meant that the gulls were now causing problems in the neighbouring streets which had not been included in the wheeled bin pilot. It was suggested that wheeled bins could be rolled out in neighbouring areas linked with street cleaning initiatives.

RECOMMENDED that the provision of wheeled bins in Exmouth be extended to neighbouring streets as part of the street cleaning initiatives.

d) Planning policy for provision of bin stores, etc

The Head of Streetscene Services was working with the Planning Policy Team to develop a policy for adequate bin storage provision in new developments. In addition the policy would help address the need for space within kitchens for kitchen waste recycling bins.

RECOMMENDED that the preparation of a planning policy to ensure adequate provision of bin storage in new developments be noted.

e) Wrap application for compost bins

The application had now been submitted to Wrap for compost bins to progress the district's compost bin scheme. The Council hoped to secure funding from Wrap for the promotion and advertising of a pilot scheme. The rates letter issued in March would include details of the scheme together with Easter and Bank Holiday collections.

RECOMMENDED that the application to Wrap for funding towards the promotion and advertising of the pilot compost bins' scheme be noted.

f) Christmas collections

Consideration was given to the draft leaflet for Christmas collections. This would go out with a Christmas message, thanking the public for their commitment to recycling. The message was to create less waste and to recycle more. It was suggested that using recycling statistics could be misleading and that the Council should investigate the volume of rubbish sent to landfill. If this target was comparatively low nationally, the Council could push Central Government to change its emphasis from volume of recycling to volume of waste sent to landfill. These details should be included on the Christmas greetings message.

RECOMMENDED (1) that the draft leaflet for Christmas collections be issued with a Christmas message thanking the public for their commitment to recycling,

(2) that Streetscene investigate the volume of rubbish sent to landfill and compare this with the figure nationally, with Central Government being urged to change its emphasis from increases in recycling volume to decrease in waste to landfill.

g) Service Standards

This document set standards for the delivery of the recycling and refuse service and would be advertised on the Council's web site when the document had been up-dated. Up-dates would include ironing out timing inconsistencies of when bins were to be put out for collection and rewording bullet point eight to read 'we will provide assisted collections to households if necessary following certification of an application'.

RECOMMENDED that the proposed Service Standards, with amendments, be approved and advertised on the Council's web site.

3. Contract and Partnership arrangements

Discussion on the contract and partnership arrangements is being taken as a separate item on the Executive Board agenda of 28 November 2007.

4. Timetable

Members noted the work being carried out behind the scenes with Streetscene staff in respect of the implementation of the contract.

5. Communications

Members of the Executive Board would be given an up-date of the present situation in respect of the contract. There would be not press statement at the present time but Members were aware that local councils and the public were pressing for information.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Members would be advised of the date of the next meeting.