

Executive Cabinet Committee - Waste Recycling Arrangements

Wednesday, 15 March 2006

Present: Councillor J Wilson (Chair), Councillors K Ball, T Brown and L Lennox

05.DC.01 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Resolved – That Councillor J Wilson be appointed the Chair of this Special Executive Committee

05.DC.02 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report on the membership and proposed terms of reference for the Special Executive Committee which were as follows:

- (i) To review the current waste recycling arrangements and to identify and approve short term measures to reduce littering and restore and improve customer satisfaction to acceptable levels;
- (ii) To consider the medium and longer term arrangements for waste recycling in the context of the renewal of the waste collection contract in 2009 and to provide member oversight of the associated preparations and procurement arrangements.

The Special Executive Committee had been established by the Executive Leader under Article 7.06 (2) (iii) of the Council's Constitution following public concern regarding the level of littering associated with recycling collections in some parts of the Borough.

Resolved – That the membership and terms of reference for the Special Executive Cabinet be approved.

05.DC.03 REFUSE COLLECTION RECYCLING SERVICE - OPTIONS AND ISSUES

The Head of Environmental Services submitted a report which set out options for improving the container provision for recycling materials under the refuse collection and recycling service and the measures currently being undertaken to address operational performance issues with the contractor, Cleanaway.

The report indicated that the current contract with Cleanaway expires on 31 March 2009 and that an alternate weekly collection service is provided to 43,000 households within the Borough with a residual waste collection (green bin) one week and a recycling collection (brown bin, green box, woven sack and paper bag) the following week. As a consequence of this, the Council's recycling rate had increased from 4% in 2001/02 to over 40% in the current year.

During the consideration of the report, the Special Executive Committee accepted that the two main areas of concerns under the existing contract were:

- the open and lightweight construction of the sacks results in an increase of wind blown litter from its contents prior to collection; and

- the collection crews have encountered problems in emptying sacks at a rate necessary to complete collection rounds without causing littering problems with the sack contents.

It was also accepted that the use of modified weighted sacks would provide the volume necessary to allow householders to manage an alternate weekly residual collection and provide a collection method which ensures collection rounds are completed in a timely manner.

The report also set out the contract procurement issues for maximising competition and efficiency when the current contract expires in 2009.

Resolved – (1) That following the successful trial use of 1,000 weighted sacks in areas of the Borough, the Executive Cabinet be recommended to implement Option 2 in the report as now amended, which provides for the use of weighted sacks by all 43,000 households within the Borough with the choice of two coloured coded 55L container boxes as an alternative to an estimated 2,000 households;

(2) That prior to the next meeting of this Special Executive Committee, the Capital Programme Board be requested to reassess the capital programme to enable the financing of the proposals in (1) above and the provision of an additional stock of recycling container boxes.

05.DC.04 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved – That the next meeting of the Special Executive Committee be held on 30 March 2006 at 3.30pm.

Chair