

Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Customer Services and Service Delivery held on 14 March 2017 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:29 p.m.

Present: Anne Boutrup (Chairman)*
Margaret Belsey (Vice Chairman)*

Liz Bennett*
Pete Bradbury
Cherry Catharine
Sandy Ellis

Colin Holden
Anne Jones MBE
Anthea Lea
Peter Martin*

Howard Muddin
Kirsty Page
Dick Sweatman*
Peter Reed

* Absent

Also Present: Councillors Gary Marsh and Mandy Thomas-Atkin.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING

Councillor Bradbury proposed Councillor Reed be elected Chairman of the Committee for the duration of the meeting, this was seconded by Councillor Wyan and agreed unanimously by Members.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING

Councillor Bradbury proposed Councillor Muddin be appointed Vice-Chairman Chairman of the Committee for the duration of the meeting, this was seconded by Councillor Ellis and agreed.

3. SUBSTITUTES AT MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE – COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 4

The Committee noted that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Councillor Philip Coote had replaced Councillor Margaret Belsey and Councillor Peter Wyan had replaced Councillor Anne Boutrup for the duration of the meeting.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bennett, Belsey, Boutrup, Martin and Sweatman.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bradbury and Jones both declared a personal interest in the item Waste Management Strategy – Update Report as West Sussex County Councillors.

6. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 February 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

8. WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – UPDATE REPORT

David Harper, Business Unit Leader for Waste and Outdoor Services introduced the report.

He informed Members that KPIs have been include in this report as Members requested at the previous meeting.

The report outlines a high level review of the Waste Management Strategy and the requirements for new freighters to replace the current ageing fleet. The current fleet is at the end of its useful life and Serco has advised the Council that there is a high risk of breakdown if the fleet life is extended further.

He advised Members that Appendix 2 outlines the series of procurement options available to Members, including the cost, collection frequency and effect on the total recycling rate. Options available to Members include the introduction of food waste collections either as a separate service or combined with the current comingled collection.

The Business Unit Leader reported to Members that the target of 50% dry recycling by 2020 will remain even after the UK withdraws from the EU as it is enshrined in UK law. He explained to Members that the recycling rate has dropped in recent years as manufacturers reduce their packaging and use more lightweight material. He informed Members that the waste industry is lobbying central government for recycling rates to be measured in volume not weight.

A Member asked the amount Serco is spending on communications and whether it is in line with the Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) recommendation of £1.10 – 1.50 per household. The Business Unit Leader replied that currently Serco spends approximately £1.20 – 1.30 per household on information and marketing.

In response to a Member question regarding the life of the freighters, Judy Holmes, the Assistant Chief Executive clarified that the current freighters need to be replaced as they are at the end of their working life and at increased risk of breakdowns. She explained that Serco will be paying for the new freighters as part of the contract.

A Member stated that he found the report confusing, and requested more financial information to be included and for a business case to be proposed for each option.

The Assistant Chief Executive advised Members that the intention of this report is to provide Members information regarding freight procurement. Further information and business cases will be put forward to this Committee as the contract evolves, such as with the possible introduction of food waste collections.

The Business Unit Leader for Waste and Outdoor Services stated that the costs of running each option against the existing costs are outlined Table 3, and that the current contract costs £2.41 million per annum.

A Member asked whether home composting is included in the recycling figures and whether Brexit will affect the current 50% dry recycling target.

The Business Unit Leader for Waste and Outdoor Services replied that home composting is not included in the recycling figures, but West Sussex County Council has promoted home composting schemes in the past. Furthermore, the 50% dry

recycling rate is enshrined in UK law and will remain so.

The Cabinet Member for Service Delivery informed Members that bigger recycling bins are available to those who request them, and asked whether the size of the landfill bin could be reduced over time to encourage more recycling.

The Assistant Chief Executive informed the Committee that the larger recycling bins allay concerns regarding health and safety of Serco employees as they are safer to handle, and if the Council were to offer a mix and match collection service this will come back to the Committee.

A Member enquired whether two spare vehicles is enough for the new fleet, to which the Business Unit Leader for Waste for Outdoor Services advised that the vehicles in the current fleet which are in the best condition will be held back as replacements.

A Member asked whether it is possible to pay for garden waste bins on a monthly basis- as this may be easier for residents. The Member also asked whether there is anything local residents can do to increase recycling rates in the district.

The Business Unit leader informed Members that the Waste partnership spends approximately £50,000 per annum on communications to residents such as via leaflets and that currently most residents pay for garden waste via direct debit. He stated he will look into offering payments on a monthly basis.

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services informed Members that the Council's quarterly publication Mid Sussex Matters always includes recycling information.

The Cabinet Member for Service Delivery informed the Committee that the Council loses approximately £670,000 in funding when it does not recycle enough.

As there were no further questions, the Chairman took Members to the recommendations in the report which were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Committee agree to recommend to Cabinet that the following options are progressed:-

- a) Retain the existing comingled dry recycling service and frequency of collection;
- b) Instruct Serco to reproduce the fleet on the basis of current service provision;
- c) Develop the business case for other work strings that can enhance recycling and composting collections and waste reduction initiatives.

9. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10 DUE NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

Chairman.