

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the East Devon Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board, held at Greendale Business Park - SITA site on 6 February 2015

Present

Councillors:

Ian Chubb – Portfolio Holder, Environment (Chairman)
David Cox - Portfolio Holder, Finance
Cllr Steve Gazzard

Apologies:

Cllr Geoff Pook

SITA:

Andy Williams – Senior Contract Manager
Sarah Ottaway – National Municipal Recycling Manager

Officers:

John Golding – Strategic Lead, Housing, Health and Environment
Andrew Hancock – Service Lead, StreetScene
Simon Davey – Strategic Lead, Finance
Mark Williams – Chief Executive
Richenda Oldham – Communications Officer
Paul McHenry – Recycling and Waste Contract Manager
Cherise Foster – Customer Services Manager
Steve Joyce – Waste Management Officer
Steve Maclure – Waste Management Officer
Amanda Coombes – Democratic Services Officer

Falkirk Council:

Cllr Dr Craig R Martin
Carl Bullough
Robin Baird

The meeting started at 9.30am and ended at 12.40pm

***60 Minutes**

The minutes of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board meeting held on 15 January 2015 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

***61 Declarations of interest**

None

***62 Matters arising**

None

***63 Presentation by Falkirk Council**

The Board was given a presentation by Falkirk Council on their sustainable waste collection service. This was based on the findings of their work on kerbside recycling and waste collection. Their work had focussed on making waste collection sustainable into the future; driving down waste to landfill, making recycling the primary collection, reducing the costs so

money can be spent on other Council services, increasing the recycling rate so that both environmentally and economically rubbish isn't just landfilled and reducing residual waste collection frequencies.

This led to the following discussions:

- How changes to the kerbside service were received initially by residents – there were not many complaints.
- How the Media was used to deliver the message – they were involved right from the start of the process so understood the Council's aims and key messages to residents.
- Falkirk Council informed residents of the exact savings that could be made from the new service – allowing for money saved to be spent elsewhere; such as schools and leisure facilities. This was referred to as 'consequence of choice'.
- For households that did not have room for more recyclable containers increased recycling collections were made e.g. high rise flats.
- No one size fits all – be flexible.
- Four weekly non-recycle collections could be phased in as a result of Falkirk Council's success. The size of the non recycle bin was key to that success – they used 240L bins (EDDC used 180L).
- Waste analysis was crucial to understanding and underpinning behaviour to drive change.

The officers and member from Falkirk Council thanked the Board for inviting them to visit.

RESOLVED: that the presentation from Falkirk Council be noted.

***64 Statistical information**

Not discussed – to be heard at the next meeting of the Board.

***65 SITA performance improvement report & Cloud 9 update**

Not discussed – to be heard at the next meeting of the Board.

***66 Any other business**

None

***67 Exclusion of contractual partners due to the nature of the items which will include business plans and future contract arrangements**

The Council's contractual partners were asked to leave the meeting at this point as the Board wanted to discuss various commercially sensitive issues including business plans and future contract arrangements.

68 Update on Integrated Devon Business Case - decision on future involvement

John Golding, Strategic Lead, Housing, Health and Environment informed the Board of the outcome of the latest meeting with Eunomia; the specialist consultants analysing shared working arrangements in waste management. A risk analysis was presented showing the key risks and opportunities of an Integrated Devon Waste partnership. It was suggested EDDC continued to follow the new contract procurement process due to the risks and uncertainties of proceeding with ID at this time. Eunomia had not included all costs and no consideration had been given to 3 - 4 weekly residual waste collections. It was highlighted

that EDDC had one of the lowest residual waste rates nationally. The best service for the people of East Devon was paramount in this decision making. Discussion took place around the value of undertaking a waste analysis for projecting and benchmarking to help with the procurement decision was debated.

RECOMMENDATION: that Cabinet approve the decision;

1. Not to pursue the Integrated Devon Waste option at this point (see John Golding's risk analysis report) but continue to work with partners to investigate avoided disposal savings and sharing.
2. To continue with the Council's own contract procurement process.
3. To undertake an independent waste analysis in the Spring to underpin decisions on service provision for the new contract. Cabinet to support this essential data gathering and allocates funds of £25k (amount tbc).

***69 Three/Four weekly refuse collections - potential for trial in 2015**

Paul McHenry, Recycling and Waste Contract Manager updated the Board and reiterated again that SITA were keen to be part of the trial as it was uncommon so the possible benefits were unknown. He suggested the improved sustainable collection scheme with improved recycling collections and 3 - 4 weekly residual collections be piloted to ensure we had the data on its feasibility and acceptance by residents. The Council needed to gain valuable evidence before they can make an informed decision for the future of the collection service.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted

***70 Progression of collection contract procurement**

The Service Lead, StreetScene and the Recycling and Waste Contract Manager updated the Board that the Bidders Open day had been cancelled as the Contract Notice had not yet been sent out. The Pre Qualification Questionnaire and Bidders Information documents were being reviewed by the Legal team and the Procurement Project team prior to publication.

RESOLVED: that the Procurement timetable be noted.

***71 Any other business**

None

***72 Date of next meeting**

RESOLVED: that a meeting of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board be held on 5 March 2015 at 9.30am in the Committee Room at Knowle.

Chairman Date.....