

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
ON TUESDAY, 4 DECEMBER AT
6.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor W Quince (Chairman).
Councillors W Ashley, D Clark, A D Dodd,
M P A McMullen, D A A Peek, N C Poulton,
G D Scrivener (substitute for Councillor
G McAndrew), M Wood (substitute for Councillor
Mrs M H Goldspink).

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors M R Alexander, D Andrews,
R H Beeching, S A Bull, R N Copping, R Gilbert,
A M Graham, P Grethe, D M Hone, J K Mayes,
T Milner, S Rutland-Barsby, M J Tindale,
J P Warren.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Freimanis	- Chief Executive
Linda Bevan	- Committee Secretary
Cliff Cardoza	- Head of Environmental Services
Lorna Georgiou	- Performance and Improvement Co- ordiantor
Philip Hamberger	- Director of Internal Services
Lorraine Kirk	- Senior Communications Officer
Lois Prior	- Head of Strategic Direction (Communications and Performance) (Shared)
Joy Stevenson	- Scrutiny Officer

- George A Robertson - Director of Customer and Community Services
- Trevor Watkins - Waste Services Manager

391 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs M H Goldspink, G McAndrew and P A Ruffles and A Warman. It was noted that G D Scrivener and M Wood were substituting for Councillors G McAndrew and Mrs M H Goldspink respectively.

RESOLVED ITEMS

ACTION

392 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor N C Poulton and seconded by Councillor M P A McMullen that Councillor D A A Peek be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED - that Councillor D A A Peek be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

393 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In response to a question from a Member an assurance was given that no party whip was in force with regards to the item under discussion at the meeting.

394 REPORT BY REFUSE AND RECYCLING TASK AND FINISH GROUP

A report was submitted on the recommendations of the Refuse and Recycling task and finish group.

The group had been set up to consider the range of options available to the Council for the expansion of recycling

services. It had reported earlier to Policy Development Scrutiny Committee and Executive on whether the Council should expand multi-material and Green Waste collections. The Executive had asked for a further report to Policy Development Scrutiny Committee on how to further improve the benefits and efficiency of waste and recycling services, including options to expand the Green Waste Service, schemes and recycling enforcement measures and whether the Council should extend or retender its Waste and Recycling Contract from August 2009.

During the work of the group, consideration had also been given to how the Council might further improve the performance and efficiency of recycling services from 2007/08 and beyond.

The group had felt it was necessary to put in place kerbside recycling schemes and encourage residents to use them with publicity and advice, before considering the introduction of any further measures such as threats or fines.

Recycling rates had increased and the garden waste collection was due to be extended. However, the Council's recycling performance needed to increase because of higher national and local targets, rising costs of landfill and disposal fees, growing public expectations and an increase in the range of materials collected.

The group had considered a number of options including 'do nothing', education and compulsory recycling enforcement and smaller bins and these were outlined in the report now submitted.

The group had recommended an Alternate Weekly Collection Waste and Recycling Scheme subject to certain conditions and that the Refuse and Recycling Contract be extended to May 2011 with a single contract for refuse, recycling and street cleansing from that date.

ACTION

In response to questions from Members it was explained that under the option recommended food waste could be placed in the waste and composting bins so this would still be collected every week. They noted that this would stop problems with smells and pests. A new composting plant being developed by the County Council would deal with a mixture of food, garden waste and cardboard.

The Committee decided to recommend that the Executive should be informed that the recommendations of the task and finish group should be endorsed.

RESOLVED - that the Executive be informed that the Environment Scrutiny Committee considers that the recommendations of the task and finish group should be endorsed as follows:

(A) an Alternate Weekly Collection Waste and Recycling scheme be introduced, subject to (B) and (C) below;

(B) kerbside collection of plastic bottles be introduced on a Districtwide basis;

(C) an appropriate disposal system, to be in place to permit the roll out of kerbside collection of kitchen waste and card on a Districtwide basis, combined with garden waste collections, through provision of a suitable composting plant by Hertfordshire County Council;

(D) the scheme be implemented in the winter months; and

(E) the Committee endorse the proposal to extend the Refuse and Recycling Contract until May 2011 and that a single contract be let for Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing from that date.

ACTION

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

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