

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a joint meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 10 December 2015

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 8.05pm.

***15 Election of Chairman**

Councillor Peter Bowden was elected Chairman of the joint meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Councillors to the joint meeting and reminded the Overview and the Scrutiny Committee Members that voting on any proposed recommendations would be conducted separately for each committee.

***16 Appointment of Vice Chairman**

Councillor Roger Giles was appointed Vice Chairman of the joint Committee.

***17 Public speaking**

There were no public speakers.

***18 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were given.

***19 Exclusion of the public**

RESOLVED:

that the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Cabinet be confirmed; there were no items which officers recommended should be dealt with in Part B.

20 Improved recycling trial in The Colony Exmouth and new Feniton

The Chairman welcomed officers both from the Streetscene and Communications services to the meeting to present to the committee the results of the recent trial.

An improved recycling service has been trialed, and continues to run, in the areas of The Colony in Exmouth, and in part of Feniton. The recycling kerbside service in those areas expands the current recycling materials to include:

- household plastic bottles
- mixed plastic containers
- clean and dry cardboard

The areas have also been provided with an additional recycling sack, and the collection of waste from the grey bins has been changed to every three weeks.

The existing SITA collection contract for collection of the District's waste ends on 31 March 2016, and a number of reports on the new contract have been before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. The new contact will now commence from June 2016. The report before the committees outlined the resident desire for inclusion of cardboard and missed plastics, and the need to increase the recycling rate by 2020 to 50%. Good practice from other authorities had been taken into account before the revised service concept for the trial was produced.

Undertaking a trial gave the service valuable feedback and helped to predict a level of waste and recycling if adopted across the district. It also helped to tease out issues that could be dealt with before a full scale roll out.

The committees were updated on the results of the feedback from residents, which concluded on 30 November. The feedback overall showed a very successful trial and identified small areas for review, such as the type of recycling bag to be used. The committee were shown the BBC report interviewing residents who took part in the trial, showing the change from scepticism amongst some, to positive embracing of the service.

Many members, including the Ward Member for Feniton, Councillor Susie Bond; and Cllr Bill Nash, Ward member for Exmouth Town, commended the work of officers in their preparations and implementation of the trial, including the communications. There was real value in the work of officers meeting face to face with users of the service to help them fully take part in the trial.

The committees discussed elements of the service, including:

- How staffing resource would be managed in rolling out a new service across the district: budget covers a one-off cost for additional staff resource in the form of 10 waste management officers, two additional staff in the Customer Service Centre (CSC) and additional support in communications for a six month period, to cover the lead into and early implementation of a new service;
- Increasing the type of materials permitted in recycle bins but leaving a two-weekly waste collection service in place would mean an increase in cost overall for the service; moving to a three-week waste collection would lead to a cost saving and provide an incentive for improved recycling and awareness of how waste is treated overall;
- Cannot confirm at this stage if new service will be phased roll out or single date roll out, as differing options had been provided by bidders;
- Estimated costs had included on-costs for staffing and other issues;
- Many changes to operational systems were in place because of the work of the trial, but there was still some work to undertake before a full roll out; however huge value from the trial in understanding the type of enquiries likely and what information the public would need before a new service is implemented;
- In-cab service was a separate cost to the new service as that had been undertaken previously to tackle missed collections as effectively as possible;
- Options for recycling receptacles, with professional advice of existing contractor being that the additional sack was the better option for practicable use, but further work recognised in providing a sack that perhaps also had a rain flap and was slightly larger than the one utilised in the trial;
- Use local parish and town members to help educate people on what could be recycled and how important it was to have it clean and dry;
- Work had already been carried out and would continue to promote the options available to young families on using real nappies as opposed to disposable nappies;
- Roadshows for the trial had worked well and these would be used for the new service roll out;
- “Romaquip” vehicles were tested during the trial and would result in less loose recycling material to potentially get blown off the vehicle than present vehicles used in the existing service. Some separation of recycling by the householder is likely to be necessary for the new service;
- Polystyrene was not economically viable to recycle;

- Recycling credit arrangement with the County Council was under negotiation and the service was looking for a fair share of the expected savings from that arrangement when the new service was in place

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees voted separately on recommendations.

The Overview Committee:

RECOMMENDED

- 1. To note and welcome the positive trial results in the areas of The Colony, Exmouth and New Feniton;**
- 2. That the officers and communities involved be congratulated on the success of the trial;**
- 3. That the anticipated reduction in waste going for disposal be welcomed;**
- 4. That the anticipated increase in recycling be welcomed;**
- 5. That Cabinet considers the trial service method when evaluating the final bids for the new waste and recycling contract;**
- 6. That the assistance of town and parish councils is sought both in early involvement prior to implementation of a new contract, and during implementation of a new contract to help educate and inform their communities of the new service adopted;**
- 7. That the successful project planning and communications effort be noted and the approach replicated for any further rollout of the service change;**
- 8. That the trials continue and the monitoring and evaluation process is maintained.**

The Scrutiny Committee:

RECOMMENDED

- 1. To note and welcome the positive trial results in the areas of The Colony, Exmouth and New Feniton;**
- 2. That the officers and communities involved be congratulated on the success of the trial;**
- 3. That the anticipated reduction in waste going for disposal be welcomed;**
- 4. That the anticipated increase in recycling be welcomed;**
- 5. That Cabinet considers the trial service method when evaluating the final bids for the new waste and recycling contract;**
- 6. That the assistance of town and parish councils is sought both in early involvement prior to implementation of a new contract, and during implementation of a new contract to help educate and inform their communities of the new service adopted;**
- 7. That the successful project planning and communications effort be noted and the approach replicated for any further rollout of the service change;**
- 8. That the trials continue and the monitoring and evaluation process is maintained;**
- 9. That Cabinet seek detailed cost implications of any proposed change in service including the impact on the recycling credit income to the Council**

Attendance list

Overview Committee members present:

Peter Bowden
Graham Godbeer
Peter Faithfull
Maria Hale
Ian Hall
Rob Longhurst

Scrutiny Committee members present:

Roger Giles
Alan Dent
Dean Barrow
Cathy Gardner
Simon Grundy
Bill Nash
Cherry Nicholas
Val Ranger
Marianne Rixson
Brenda Taylor

Other Members present:

Jill Elson
John Dyson
Susie Bond
Megan Armstrong
Phil Twiss
David Barratt

Officers present:

Andrew Hancock, Service lead Streetscene
David Feltham, Senior Waste Management Officer
Steve Joyce, Waste Management Officer
Steve Maclure, Waste Management Officer
Alison Stoneham, Communications and Public Affairs Manager
John Golding, Strategic Lead Housing and Environment
Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Simon Davey, Strategic Lead Finance
Karen Jenkins, Strategic Lead Organisational Development and Transformation
Debbie Meakin, Democratic Services Officer

Committee Members apologies:

Overview

Pat Graham
Matt Booth

Scrutiny

David Chapman
Maddy Chapman
Marcus Hartnell

Alison Greenhalgh

Other Member apologies:

Iain Chubb
Geoff Jung
Paul Diviani
Geoff Pook

Chairman Date.....