

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

21st August 2003

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Southerd (Chair), Councillors Isham, Jones, Pabla (substitute for Councillor Taylor) Shepherd, Stone, Whyman, M.B.E., and Wilkins (substitute for Councillor Carroll).

Conservative Group

Councillors Atkin, Bladen, Ford, Martin and Mrs. Wheeler (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Hall).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Taylor (Vice-Chair), Councillor Carroll (Labour Group) and Councillor Mrs. Hall (Conservative Group).

EDS/19. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th July 2003 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

EDS/20. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Southerd and Wilkins declared prejudicial interests in respect of item 9 – Select Committee Inquiry into Regeneration of Coalfield Communities.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/21. **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND REPORTS**

(a) Senior Waste Development Officer

The Chair introduced Ruth Parsons who had recently been appointed as the Council's Senior Waste Development Officer.

(b) Refuse Collection Arrangements

The Chair referred to the discussion at the last Council Meeting about problems with the fortnightly collection of refuse from properties on the Composting Scheme. The issue had been raised at a number of recent Area Meetings and he suggested the formation of a Task and Finish Working Group to look in depth at service delivery issues and then provide a report on options for service improvement.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That a Task and Finish Working Group be formed to consider in detail current refuse collection service delivery issues and to investigate options to address them.***
- (2) That the Working Group comprises the following five Members:-
Labour Group - Councillors Carroll, Shepherd and Southerd.
Conservative Group - Councillors Bladen and Martin.***

EDS/22. IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTI-MATERIAL RECYCLING KERBSIDE COLLECTION SCHEME – PILOT SCHEME FOR 12,000 HOUSEHOLDS

The Committee considered a proposal to introduce a multi-material recycling kerbside collection scheme. Participating households would be provided with a 55 litre box, in which to place paper, cans, glass and textiles. The boxes would be emptied on a nominated day each fortnight. It was anticipated that approximately 1,300 tonnes of material would be recycled each year via the new scheme, contributing around an extra 3% towards the Council's recycling rate. From the experience of other authorities, it was felt that the amount of material collected from recycling centres would only diminish marginally as a result of the kerbside collection scheme.

Funding had been sought from the Government for a pilot scheme and was now available. It must be spent in the current financial year. In terms of procurement, it was proposed to negotiate with the Cheshire Recycling Group, which currently undertook the kerbside collection of paper. This company had adapted its scheme successfully for a number of other Councils in the Country to the type proposed for the pilot project. Early indications from Cheshire were that it needed to review its prices provided in June of last year. It was anticipated that the scheme could start in December and was proposed to adapt the current paper collections to multi-material collections for 12,000 households.

Consideration was given to the households to be included in the scheme. Reference was made to those properties already on the composting scheme and properties in the north-east of the District, which had been earmarked for the Brightstar Project. Participation in the scheme was likely to be greater in households that were already separating their waste for recycling. The additional service might help to relieve pressure caused in some instances by the fortnightly refuse collection.

The financial implications were reported and the total scheme costs were in the sum of £101,769. Of this, £80,000 would be required in the first year to provide the boxes and meet marketing costs, with the balance being incurred each year. The Council would retain the income from the sale of materials, other than the paper. The Government funding would meet the costs of providing the boxes, marketing and the running costs until March 2004. Future estimated costs at £40,000 per annum would need to be met by the Council and funding had been approved by the Finance and Management Committee.

A sample box was displayed. In response to Members' questions, it was confirmed that additional boxes could be provided if required and that special arrangements could be made for those unable to carry the collection

box to the kerbside. One practical suggestion was the need to rinse out drinks cans and these could be crushed also. Members discussed the proposed locations for the pilot scheme and felt that those properties already on the composting scheme should be used. A Findern Ward Member asked whether that Village could be included within the scheme and was advised that it was hoped to include Findern in the Brightstar project, if it came fruition. Subject to further Government or other funding becoming available, it was hoped to expand the kerbside collection scheme throughout the District.

Members discussed the collection timetable and it was likely that the kerbside boxes would be collected on the same basis as that used for the kerbside paper collection scheme. The provision of lids for the kerbside boxes was also requested. There was a discussion on the merits of providing lids and the different types of boxes available. Consultation would be undertaken with parish councils and through area meetings to gather the community's feedback on the type of box to be introduced. Members also revisited the earlier discussion about the weekly collection of refuse from properties on the composting scheme.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That a pilot scheme be implemented for a fortnightly kerbside collection of paper, cans, glass and textiles for 12,000 households in South Derbyshire.***
- (2) That Financial Procedure Rules (Contract Rules) be suspended to allow Officers to negotiate with the Cheshire Recycling Group for the procurement of this service.***
- (3) That the scheme be implemented for the 12,000 households in the following areas:-***

Etwall, Egginton, Hatton, Willington, Twyford, Hilton, Repton, Milton, Hilton Village, Melbourne, Kings Newton, Boundary, Bretby, Calke, Smisby, Ticknall and Midway.

EDS/23. **FUTURE COMPOST OUTLETS**

Members were reminded of the background to the Compost Scheme. To date, it had been implemented in 11,300 households in the District and the proposed expansion plans were reported. The waste was taken to sites at Etwall and Lount where it was processed into compost, using an 'open windrow' system.

Following the Foot and Mouth outbreak in 2001, a European Regulation had been developed to minimise the risk of the spread of the disease from composting processes. It appeared likely that in future, composting waste which included catering waste, would have to be carried out in a covered or closed container system. Furthermore, operators would be subject to a rigorous licensing and inspection regime. The Council's composting scheme encouraged householders to include some catering waste, but not meat, fish or cooked waste. Both composting outlets had honoured the existing arrangements with the Council to process waste which included catering waste. Sita had indicated that there was insufficient space at its Lount site

to implement a covered or closed container system. Once the Regulation became effective, the site would not be able to accept catering waste. Biffa had indicated that it would develop suitable facilities at its Etwall site and both operators expected an increase in processing costs in the region of £10 per tonne.

The Regulation became effective on 1st July 2003, but it was unclear what this meant for the Council's Composting Scheme. There appeared to be a transitional period of 18 months, to allow operators to meet the new requirements.

Discussions had been taking place with neighbouring refuse collection authorities and the County Council. Consideration had been given to a partnership arrangement to secure appropriate and cost effective composting facilities in the future. It was planned to seek tenders in the Autumn and to commence a new scheme in February 2005. A draft agreement was being produced as a commitment from each authority to enter into a partnership arrangement and secure the contract. The agreement would be similar to that proposed for the Brightstar project, to work within contract requirements and supply guaranteed tonnages of material. It was anticipated that the successful tenderer would provide at least two composting facilities, supported by waste transfer stations, to minimise the travelling costs of collection authorities. The Committee was asked to approve the Council's participation in the partnership to ensure the successful future of the compost scheme, once the new Regulation was effective.

RESOLVED:-

That approval be given in principle to enter into partnership arrangements with neighbouring councils to secure future composting outlets.

EDS/24. **SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO REGENERATION OF COALFIELD COMMUNITIES**

Note: At 6.40 p.m., Councillors Southerd and Wilkins left the Meeting; Councillor Whyman chaired this item.

It was reported that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Select Committee had announced its intention to carry out an Inquiry into Government policies to regenerate coalfield communities. An outline was given of the Inquiry's brief. The Coalfields Communities Campaign (CCC) would submit written evidence and might be invited to appear in front of the Committee. It had suggested that the Council might wish to submit evidence to provide a local perspective. However, the CCC felt that to achieve greater impact, it and its members should highlight broadly the same issues.

To date, the CCC had not prepared a response. It was suggested that Members consider and comment on a number of issues identified within the report, that were of relevance to the District. These comments could then be incorporated into a response, once the comments of the CCC had been received. A Member commented on long term health issues for former miners, the possibility of securing funding to address these health issues and to strengthen the planned LIFT project.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council welcomes the Inquiry and responds to the Select Committee on the basis of issues raised within the report, together with the comments made by Members and the Coalfield Communities Campaign.

Note: At 6.45 p.m. Councillors Southerd and Wilkins rejoined the Meeting and Councillor Southerd assumed the Chair.

EDS/25. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

RENEWAL OF STRAY DOGS KENNELING CONTRACT (Paragraph 8)

The Committee accepted a tender for the provision of the Dog Kennelling service.

REFUSE COLLECTION – CLOSURE OF BRETBY LANDFILL (Paragraph 9)

The Committee was informed of the closure of the Bretby Landfill in Newhall and approved in principle revised collection arrangements.

T. SOUTHERD

CHAIR