

**HEALTH PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE****21 January 2004****Attendance:**

## Councillors:

Hutton (Chairman) (P)

Carter (P)  
Hammerton  
Love (P)  
Mitchell (P)  
Nunn (P)Pearce (P)  
Quar  
Rees (P)  
Stallard (P)  
Watts**Others in attendance:**Councillor Wagner (Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing)  
Councillors Bailey, Davies, Lipscomb and Pearson

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**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Hammerton, Quar and Watts.

**2. MINUTES**

## RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 2 December 2003 be approved and adopted.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

With the permission of the Chairman, Councillor Love (as a school governor) spoke on behalf of the Principal of the Westgate School, Winchester.

Councillor Love reported that the Principal had expressed concern at the publication of figures illustrating the number of exclusions from schools as presented in report HE20 on the agenda of the meeting of the Health Performance Improvement Committee on 2 December 2003.

In reply, the Director of Health and Housing stated that the figures were presented as part of the report that set out how a joint approach to tackling issues related to drugs and alcohol misuse should be established. . They were not intended highlight any specific school or college as having a problem but more to give an overview of the overall position across a large range of issues.

**4. COMMERCIAL TEAM INSPECTIONS INFORMAL GROUP – UPDATE  
(Oral Report)**

The Director of Health and Housing reported that the next meeting of the Group in February would consider a breakdown of the section's budget and investigate additional preventative work to supplement the section's existing core activities.

The Chairman stated that any consideration of potential reallocation of resources across the team would not be appropriate pending completion of the in-depth study.

5. **REPORT OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW INFORMAL GROUP**  
(Report HE21 refers)

The Director of Health and Housing informed Members that, at paragraph 5.1 of the report, the reference to Appendix 7 of CAB755 should be amended to read Appendix 8 of CAB755.

The Director of Health and Housing reminded Members that any change in policy to promote waste reduction and recycling would need public acceptance, appropriate infrastructure and availability of resources.

Further to discussion, the Chairman stated that the Informal Group had resolved that to “do nothing” was not an option, as this would ultimately result in more cost to the public.

In answer to a question, the Director of Health and Housing stated that it was unclear as to what intervention may occur should the Council not meet the 36% target for recycling. However, as the Council had largely achieved previous re-cycling targets, the government had subsequently set higher targets. Therefore, it was considered that those continuing low performing local authorities would more likely receive direct intervention. Members noted that an introduction of a trial for alternate weekly collection of refuse and recyclables would still not lead to the achievement of the 36% target. Rather, the trial would provide Government with evidence of intention for further improvements.

With the permission of the Chairman, Councillor Lipscomb addressed the Committee. Councillor Lipscomb also spoke as Ward Member for Wonston and Micheldever which is one of the preferred areas for the pilot of the alternate weekly collection. Councillor Lipscomb stated that he was disappointed to learn that Parish Councils and Ward Members had not been consulted throughout the stages of the drafting of the proposals and had only become aware of the recommendations of the Informal Group via a press release. He was also concerned that the favoured areas for trial had been put forward by officers rather than from debate by the Informal Group. He considered that the areas of trial did not represent the social economic representation of the district. The Director of Health and Housing explained the reasons why the trial area had been suggested and this had been agreed by the Informal Group. Councillor Lipscomb also requested that more thought be given to retention of weekly residual waste collection, if at all possible.

A Member also considered that the Performance Improvement Committee should have been given the opportunity to give their own feedback on the reports prior to their publication.

With the permission of the Chairman, Councillor Wagner (as Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing) explained that there were a number of extraneous factors that meant that an early press release was necessary.

Further to discussion, a number of Members echoed Councillor Wagner's disappointment of the response that some of the Press had taken following the press release.

In answer to questions, the Director of Health and Housing confirmed that the department would continue to work with individuals (notably the elderly and infirm) regarding their waste management. It was also explained that Ward and Parish Councillors would be fully briefed and engaged once the trial areas had been finally agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

That the findings of the Group and their conclusions detailed in Section 6 of the report be noted.

6. **MEETING STATUTORY RECYCLING TARGETS – A WAY FORWARD**  
(Report CAB755 refers)

The Director of Health and Housing reported that the costs as set out in Appendix 8 of the report should not be considered as indicative representations and should be seen as estimates. Further to a question, it was explained that the trial length would need to be at least one year.

The majority of Members agreed that alternate weekly collections would be the most successful change of policy to facilitate the achievement of recycling targets and to help modify attitudes to generate less waste overall.

Further to questions and requests to relate to experiences of neighbouring local authorities that utilise alternate weekly collections, the Director advised that there was no evidence of any increase in fly tipping or home incineration of waste. It was reported that these Councils experienced approximately 50 rejected loads per week due to contamination from general waste. Regarding development of necessary procedures regarding load rejection, Members were advised that these would be developed following thorough investigation of those of other Local Authorities.

With the permission of the Chairman, Councillor Bailey spoke as a Ward Member for Otterbourne that included one of the preferred areas for the pilot of the alternate weekly collection. She stated that she welcomed alternate weekly collections and was keen for Parish Councils to be engaged in the promotion and publicity of the change in policy. She advised that residents should not experience any increase in lorry journeys to Otterbourne waste transfer site and to those elsewhere in the district as a result of the trials.

Further to debate, Members noted that retention of a weekly residual waste collection (in addition to alternate weekly collection for recyclable waste) was not financially plausible. However, the majority of Members agreed that it should be recommended to Cabinet that the inclusion of a fortnightly kerbside collection of glass in addition to the alternate weekly collection be the preferred option (as set out as option 13 of Appendix 8 of the report). Members agreed that fortnightly kerbside collection of glass would be popular with residents and would assist in the acceptance of the changes in policy overall.

The Director of Health and Housing drew to the attention of the Committee the associated waste management policies that had been considered by the Informal Group aimed at promoting the twin aims of waste reduction and recycling. In particular it was stressed that the proposal to charge householders within the pilot area for larger recycling bins could be detrimental to achieving these objectives. Having considered this matter Members supported the policies and were of the view that householders within the pilot area should be able to exchange their smaller recycling bin for a larger recycling bin free of charge.

The Director of Health and Housing reminded Members that fortnightly kerbside collection of glass would involve a relatively large revenue outlay in comparison to low amount of glass recyclables in the general waste stream. Members were also reminded of the potential issues of noise and vandalism.

NB. Following the meeting an error in Appendix 8 was noted. Option 13 should read 'As option 12 + plus fortnightly kerbside collection of glass'.

RESOLVED:

1. That following consideration of the options for improving re-cycling/composting performance aimed at the Council achieving its 2005/06 statutory target, it be recommended to Cabinet that the preferred option for a pilot scheme to be supported by an educational and promotional programme be option 13 (as set out in Appendix 8 of the report and amended above) namely alternate weekly collection, plus free fortnightly garden waste collection service, plus fortnightly kerbside collection of glass.

2. That the Council's current waste collection policies, including those concerning the provision and emptying of refuse and recycling containers and the consideration of by the Waste Management Policy Review Informal Group be supported by the Committee to support the twin aims of waste reduction and increased recycling/composting. For this purpose, it be recommended to Cabinet that householders within the pilot areas be permitted to exchange 140 litre bins for 240 litre bins free of charge.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL INTER-AUTHORITY AUDIT SUMMARY**

(Report HE23 refers)

The Director of Health and Housing advised that an appropriate policy for 'noise service requests' would be compiled in response to the audit.

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the report be noted.

2. That the Committee congratulate the Director of Health and Housing and the Officers on the achievement of the highest overall matrix scores in comparison to other local authorities in Hampshire.

8. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING APRIL TO DECEMBER 2003**

(Report HE22 refers)

The Director of Health and Housing advised that an addendum to Appendix 1 of Report HE22 had been circulated to Members of the Committee as it had been noted that the column referring to the 2003/04 Working Budget for the Department had included incorrect figures.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

9. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman stated that consideration would be given for further in-depth study on Road Noise Issues and Dug Awareness and Associated Issues following the completion of the work of the Informal Group on Waste Management.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.50pm.

Chairman

