

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL/EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
(WCC/EHDC) ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**9 February 2015**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Chairman: Thompson – Winchester City Council (P)

Winchester City Council

McLean (P)

Pines (P)

East Hampshire District Council

Onslow (P)

Vacancy

Deputy Members:

Councillor Denston (standing deputy for East Hampshire District Council vacancy)

Officers in Attendance:

Mr S Tilbury – Corporate Director, WCC

Mr R Heathcock – Joint EHDC/WCC Client Team Manager

1. **MINUTES**

In response to questions, Mr Heathcock confirmed that the possibility of introducing a small number of recycled glass collection facilities at sheltered housing accommodation would be investigated on a trial basis.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 3 November 2014, less exempt minute, be agreed as a correct record.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

3. **2013/14 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACTS ANNUAL REPORTS**  
(Report ES006 refers)

In response to questions, Mr Heathcock advised that the Council hoped to recoup all the additional costs incurred as a result of having to re-let the public conveniences contract. The Committee noted that the new temporary contractors were performing well, with existing employees transferred over under the temporary contract under TUPE rules.

Mr Heathcock stated that a Report would be submitted to the Joint Environmental Services Committee (JESC) in March 2015 for a decision on the future letting of the public conveniences contract. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the JESC be requested to consider altering the model by which the contract was let to place greater emphasis on quality. In addition, it should recognise the importance of any contractor's reporting systems under the contract. Members also emphasised the importance of ensuring public conveniences were deep cleaned regularly.

In response to questions, Mr Heathcock advised that it was not appropriate for either Council to instruct contractors on the detailed management of their staff. However, regular liaison meetings did take place where suggestions were sometimes made. In relation to the Biffa contract, he confirmed that the proposed refuse collection round re-scheduling was in part to future proof against an increase in property numbers due to new housing developments etc.

The Committee noted that recycling rates were dropping across the County for a variety of reasons. The Waste Minimisation Plan would seek to reduce the contamination of recyclable waste and Mr Heathcock agreed to recirculate this Plan to all Committee Members for information. Members requested that their concerns about the fall in recycling rates and increase in contamination of waste be highlighted to the JESC.

In response to questions, Mr Heathcock advised that dog waste could now be collected with litter and disposed of, so there was no requirement for separate dog waste bins. The Councils were working with Parish Councils to consider whether current bin arrangements could be altered accordingly.

There was some discussion about leaf clearance and Mr Heathcock emphasised that specific examples of any contract failures were required. In addition, flexibility under the contract was essential to respond to differing situations year or year.

RESOLVED:

That the performance during the 2013/14 contract be noted and the JESC be requested to have regard to the specific areas of concern highlighted above.

4. **JESC BUDGET GROWTH BIDS 2015/16**  
(Report ES007 refers)

RESOLVED:

That the JESC budget growth bids be noted.

5. **JOINT CLIENT TEAM REVIEW**

(Report ES008 refers)

RESOLVED:

That the conclusions of the Joint Client Team Review be noted.

6. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Mr Heathcock requested items for discussion at future meetings of the Committee. In response, the following subjects were suggested:

- Report back on recent work of Project Integra;
- Recycling rates (including contamination);
- Income from textile recycling;
- Consideration of contract performance in key areas (e.g. grass cutting)
- Examination of differences in two Councils contracts (e.g. glass collection)

It was suggested that future meetings be arranged for June/July 2015; September/October 2015 and January/February 2016.

7. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
##	Exempt minute	) Information relating to the ) financial or business affairs ) of any particular person ) (including the authority ) holding that information). ) (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers)

8. **EXEMPT MINUTE**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minute of the previous meeting held 3 November 2014 be agreed as a correct record.

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm and concluded at 3.25pm

Chairman