

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL/EAST HANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL
JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

4 March 2014

Attendance:

Councillors:

Chairman: Clear – Winchester City Council (P)

Winchester City Council

Pines (P)

McLean (P)

East Hampshire District Council

Branch (P)

Denston (P)

Onslow (P)

Officers in Attendance:

Mr R Heathcock – Assistant Director (High Quality Environment), Winchester City Council

Mrs J Batchelor – Executive Head of Environment & Neighbourhood Quality, East Hants District Council

Mr B Turner – Joint EHDC/WCC Environmental Services Client Team Manager, East Hants District Council

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held 18 November 2013, be agreed as a correct record.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

3. **PROJECT INTEGRA**

(Oral Report)

The Committee received a presentation from Mr C Noble (Head of Project Integra, Hampshire County Council) and Councillor Lesley Keeble (Chairman of the Project Integra Board) on the Project Integra Action Plan 2014 - 2017. The following points were raised during the presentation:

- Education officers had been employed to work with small groups in schools who help spread the message and examine what schools recycled. Five schools were currently booked onto the Spring term.

- Contamination rates were still high with people trying to recycle items that could not be recycled. There was a limited budget for bin stickers/hangers through Recycle for Hampshire.
- Recycle for Hampshire recently appeared on radio and TV in a campaign that would have cost £135,000 but was free of charge and targeted the whole of Hampshire.
- East Hants District Council (EHDC) and Winchester City Council (WCC) had rolled out a number of textile banks at the end of February 2014.
- Councillors discussed the problem of communication with residents informing them what could and could not be recycled. It was agreed that pictures worked best but there was a logistical problem with getting 100,000 stickers on bins.
- Operatives were not currently encouraged to check recycle bins before they were emptied. Previously EHDC would not have emptied contaminated bins but the new contract allowed for customers to remove contamination for Biffa to collect at a later date.
- Mr Noble confirmed that a focus for 2014/15 would be the reduction of contamination by educating residents on the 'whys' of what can not be recycled and increase residents understanding of what happens to materials.
- Project Integra invested £75,000 in Recycling Officers which increased recycling rates by 0.75%.
- 1% of contamination cost £40,000 to process.
- New model of Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) was able to process seven types of plastic but only three types could be processed in the UK and France.

4. **THE HAMPSHIRE WASTE & RECYCLING CENTRE (HWRC) SERVICE PROVISION**
(Oral Report)

Mr S Horne (Development Management, Waste and Resource Management (HWRC), Hampshire County Council) gave a presentation on the Hampshire Waste & Recycling Centre service provision. The following points were raised during the presentation:

- Sites have a legitimate market for buyers who want to buy items they were able to reuse;
- Sites have an agreement for a 50:50 ratio on income share;
- HWRC would be seeking to secure a new 15 year contract to start in October 2014 but would require flexibility to be built in;
- There would be a full public consultation for 12 weeks starting in June 2014 for District Councillors, parish councils and partners; Councillors asked if it would be possible to organise a Member briefing to aid understanding of the Strategy. It was agreed that the Committee would examine the strategy paper and then report back to the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee/ Environment Panel, which could be part of the 12 week consultation that would require a formal response.
- Any proposals to close sites would be included in the consultation.

5. **TOPICS FOR SCRUTINY BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2014/15 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

Following discussion, the following topics were agreed for scrutiny:

- Joint EHDC/WCC Waste Resources Action Plan;
- Landscape Group performance;
- Communications of aims and objectives to the general public on new housing developments.

Officers explained that Recycle for Hampshire had recently lost the support of four local authorities and they had been challenged to give evidence about what they were doing with funds in the next 12 months. Each authority was required to contribute £8,000 to Recycle for Hampshire and officers were evaluating what they do locally in comparison with the work being done by Recycle for Hampshire. Officers were in the process of pulling together evidence on whether local authorities were better placed to communicate with residents locally than Recycle for Hampshire. Officers would be considering whether the authorities' local message was stronger than the County message.

Officers confirmed that there would be a report on the discussions and negotiations with the Landscape Group at the next meeting. As of 1 April 2014, officers were hoping to be able to move forward with a new agreement which may require the date of the Joint Management Meeting to be brought forward from the 26 May.

Mr Turner confirmed that the Public Convenience Contractor had been written to with a three month improvement plan imposed. The plan was very detailed and specified all their work. The Contractor was required to respond to the letter and officers would be monitoring their work closely. A variety of evidence was needed in order to be able to terminate the contract. A report and update on the situation would be brought to the next meeting.

6. **DATE AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates for future meetings were agreed as follows:

7 April 2014 – 2.00pm

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 3.40pm

Chairman