

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

**3 November 2014**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Chairman: Thompson – Winchester City Council (P)

Winchester City Council

Pines (P)

McLean (P)

East Hampshire District Council

Denston (P)

Onslow (P)

Officers in Attendance:

Mr S Tilbury – Corporate Director, WCC

Mr R Heathcock – Joint EHDC/WCC Client Team Manager

Mrs J Batchelor – Executive Head of Environment & Neighbourhood Quality, EHDC

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1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed that the chairmanship continue to be alternated between Winchester City Council (WCC) and East Hampshire District Council (EHDC), similar to the arrangements for the Joint Environmental Services Committee. However, it was noted that the Chairmanship of the Joint Environmental Services Committee had remained with EHDC for the current municipal year and consequentially, the Scrutiny Committee should be chaired by WCC.

It was agreed that the practice of having the Chairman and Vice-Chairman from different Councils be continued.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Thompson be elected Chairman and Councillor Onslow be appointed Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

2. **MINUTES**

In response to questions, Mr Heathcock advised that it had not been possible for the Member Briefing on the Environmental Service Contract for Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing scheduled for 9 July 2014 to take place. The Chairman requested that the possibility of organising an alternative date be investigated.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 7 April 2014 be agreed as a correct record.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

4. **DRAFT WASTE MINIMISATION PLAN**

(Report ES003 refers)

In response to questions, Mr Heathcock outlined the background to the possible withdrawal from Project Integra because of concerns about whether it still represented value for money.

The Committee discussed the potential for kerbside glass collection to be introduced in the Winchester District, as currently already took place in the East Hampshire District. There were differing opinions expressed as to whether this would be worthwhile in terms of increasing the amount of recycled glass already collected. However, some Members noted that, for example, the elderly and people without cars might find it difficult to access the glass recycling bring sites. Following further discussion, the Committee suggested that the possibility be investigated of providing glass recycling banks at a small number of the Council's sheltered housing accommodation.

The Committee also noted that people might potentially be deterred from recycling because of the belief that they had to thoroughly wash items before recycling. It was suggested that a request for people to "rinse" items prior to putting in the recycling bin might be better.

With regard to educating new residents, one Councillor explained that Bishops Waltham Parish Council produced an information pack which was distributed via estate agents. It was also suggested that information could be distributed with new Council Tax demands. Mr Heathcock confirmed that different options would be investigated.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Joint Waste Minimisation Plan (JWMP) be noted and the comments set out above be forwarded to the JESC for consideration.

2. That the possibility of introducing a small number of recycled glass collection facilities at Winchester City Council's sheltered housing accommodation be investigated.

5. **DRAFT PERFORMANCE DASHBOARDS**

(Report ES2 refers)

Mr Heathcock advised that since the dashboards had been prepared, it had been suggested that an annual summary of CO2 emissions be included, in addition to some other presentation changes to improve ease of understanding. This would be taken on board for the next Report. He confirmed that the information had been shared with the TACT scrutiny group.

One Member requested that information be included on the percentage of contaminated waste and this was agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the dashboards be welcomed and the JESC be requested to consider the inclusion of the following in future Performance Dashboards:

- Percentage of contaminated waste.

6. **CONTRACT PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

(Report ES4 refers)

In discussion of the performance of The Landscape Group (TLG), Mr Heathcock reported that it was generally improving. The Committee discussed the difficulties presented in terms of planning grass cutting in terms of the unpredictability of the weather and changing seasons. Mr Heathcock advised that the current contract stipulated nine cuts per year, but there were some discussions as to whether this was adequate and whether one additional cut should be included.

Mr Tilbury explained that it would be a matter for Members to decide whether increasing the number of cuts to 10 per year offered benefits over and above the extra cost.

The Committee queried whether the resources available for contract monitoring were adequate. One Member also requested that all staff employed under the contract be paid the living wage as a minimum and contractors be encouraged to offer apprenticeships.

In response to other comments made, Mr Tilbury advised that as part of the dealing with new planning applications, Officers gave careful consideration to the future maintenance requirements of soft landscaping, such as shrubs and borders.

One Member congratulated Biffa operatives for the timely and efficient delivery of the new collection calendars.

RESOLVED:

That the current position on contract performance be noted.

7. **REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Mrs Batchelor explained that this item had been submitted to the Committee as a result of a recent Internal Audit recommendation. She drew Members' attention to 1c) of the current terms of reference which stated that "an annual report will be produced by the ESJSC and reported to the parent scrutiny committees of each Council."

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that this point be reworded to stipulate that an annual report be considered, but this not necessarily be prepared by the Committee itself. Mr Heathcock advised that the JESC would consider an annual report later in November and this could be reported to the ESJSC at its next meeting in February. The ESJSC could then forward its comments on the annual report to the parent scrutiny committees of each Council. This approach was agreed.

One Member requested that the annual report included information on the textile recycling contract and this was agreed.

RESOLVED:

That 1c) of the terms of reference of the ESJSC be amended with wording to be agreed with the Chairman

8. **DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 9 February 2015 at 2.00pm.

9. **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>
##	Public Conveniences Cleaning Contract	) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers)

10. **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES CLEANING CONTRACT**

(Report ES5 refers)

The Committee discussed the above Report which provided an update on the Public Conveniences Cleaning Contract (detail in exempt minute).

The meeting commenced at 3.00pm and concluded at 4.55pm.