

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee: Waste Management Contract **Date:** Monday, 27 March 2006
Cabinet Committee

Place: Civic Offices, High Street, Epping **Time:** 3.30 - 5.45 pm

Members Present: D Jacobs (Chairman), S Barnes, R Glozier and Mrs C Pond

Other Councillors: Mrs A Grigg

Apologies: Councillor J Knapman

Officers Present: J Bell (Senior Accountant), J Gilbert (Head of Environmental Services), G Lunnun (Democratic Services Manager), P Maddock (Assistant Head of Finance) and Ms A Mitchell (Assistant Head of Legal, Administration and Estates (Legal)) D Marsh (Principal Team Leader (Waste))

12. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 28 February and 13 March 2006 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that there was no urgent items of business for consideration at the meeting.

15. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the item of business set out below on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Paragraph Number
6	Waste Management Contract	3 and 4

16. WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

P Thornton and K Lee representing South Herts Waste Management (SHWM) attended the meeting.

Members and the representatives of SHWM discussed the current level of service and the number of complaints still being made by residents over the telephone regarding waste management issues including missed collections.

The attention of SHWM representatives was drawn to the expiry of the £300,000 performance bond required under the contract. P Thornton accepted that the bond had expired and had not been renewed. He advised that SHWM would not be renewing the bond but that the company proposing to acquire the waste management assets of SHWM would do so once the Council had agreed to the assignment of the contract to that company. Members questioned P Thornton on this approach and pointed out that no decision had yet been taken by the Council to assign the contract. Members also pointed out that the lack of a bond represented a breach of contract and the SHWM representatives agreed that was correct.

Members pointed out that this Committee was not a decision making body and that the proposal of SHWM would be reported to the Cabinet for a decision.

The SHWM representatives were invited to address the Committee in relation to the financial issues which they had raised with the Joint Chief Executive (Community Services).

P Thornton advised about resources put into the contract. He offered to provide the company's accounts for scrutiny including the accounts for 2004/05. Members advised that the Cabinet would consider these matters. The SHWM representatives left the meeting.

The Committee discussed all the issues, drew up a list of options available and the financial consequences and agreed on the option to be recommended to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the officers, especially D Marsh, Principal Team Leader (Waste), be thanked for their work in providing information to this Committee; and
- (2) That the Chairman of this Committee submit a report to the Cabinet on 12 April 2006 summarising the issues considered by this Committee, providing a list of options now available to the Council and recommending the option favoured by the Committee.

CHAIRMAN