

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING SERVICES STANDING
SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23 APRIL 2008
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.00 - 9.25 PM**

Members Present:	Mrs P Smith (Chairman), , R Bassett, R Frankel, G Pritchard and Ms J Hedges
Other members present:	Mrs M Sartin
Apologies for Absence:	Mrs A Cooper, Mrs P Richardson, H Ulkun, Mrs L Wagland and M Woollard
Officers Present	J Gilbert (Director of Environment and Street Scene), K Durrani (Assistant Director Environmental Services), J Preston (Director of Planning and Economic Development) and A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer)

56. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

It was noted that Councillor Mrs J Hedges was substituting for Councillor Mrs L Wagland.

57. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None were reported.

58. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes from the last meeting, held on 28 February 2008, were agreed.

59. THE FUTURE OF WASTE IN ESSEX

The Director of Environment and Street Scene gave a presentation on the Future of Waste in Essex (attached). This was the second waste strategy consultation exercise; in 2002 there was the "War on Waste". Also in 2002 the County Council, District and Borough Councils, with Southend-on-Sea, established the Waste Management Advisory Board (WMAB) to examine the many aspects of waste management in the County. The WMAB has always seen public and stakeholder involvement as key in developing a strategy.

This proposed strategy is crucial to the future management of waste within the County. It will determine the way forward in terms of procuring the infrastructure for waste collection and disposal for the next 25 years as well as meeting the statutory requirement for the County, Districts & Boroughs to adopt an agreed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) to take forward the management of all the component elements of the waste stream.

To put the draft strategy into some context, so the scale of the problem to be managed is understood, the following key statistics were given to the Panel:

- in 2006/07 around 740,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste was produced in

Essex;

- on average each Essex resident produces around half a tonne of waste per annum (500 kilos);
- in 2006/07 36% of this waste was recycled (via collection and/or at the Recycling Centres for Household Waste);
- around 68% of all waste produced is biodegradable i.e. can break down to produce greenhouse gases and leachate;
- the EU landfill directive requires significant reductions in biodegradable waste going to landfill with a penalty (at present) of £150 per tonne where allowances are exceeded;
- if the allowances for 2009/10 are exceeded Essex taxpayers could face a penalty of £9 million and if no change was to be made this would reach £24 million per annum by 2013;
- each tonne of waste going to landfill currently costs £24 in landfill tax, increasing by £8 per tonne per annum. This could result in a total tax bill of £22 million by 2010/11 on top of the EU penalties;
- the Waste Strategy for England 2007 has set challenging targets for the diversion of waste from landfill with new national targets for recycling and composting of 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020;
- the Waste Strategy for England has also set challenging targets for residual waste per person (i.e. that not reused, recycled or composted) of 225kg by 2020 this being a reduction of 50% from 2000 levels;
- the County Council's waste disposal costs have increased from £36 per tonne in 2001/02 to £61 per tonne in 2006/07, reflecting the increased costs of landfill. The districts' and boroughs' costs range from £35 to £78 per household per annum depending upon performance and other local issues (2006/07 data).

The Panel noted that about two-thirds of landfill waste is biodegradable organic matter and that the decomposition of biodegradable materials within landfill sites results in the production and limited escape of methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas. Also, leachate is formed and needs to be managed to protect water courses. EU directives require that by 2010 25% of biodegradable municipal waste be diverted from landfill, going up to 65% by 2020.

Overall, Essex is aiming to exceed the levels of recycling and composting of household waste as set out in Waste Strategy for England 2007 by having a stated ambition of a 60% recycling target by 2020. They will also focus on waste prevention and reduction.

The Essex Waste Partnership favour composting technologies such as an anaerobic digestion (AD). AD is a form of biotreatment and produces a gas which can be used to generate 100% renewable electricity.

Although reducing and recycling the amount of waste produced, there will always be some waste that still needs to be disposed of. For this they propose to introduce new treatment plants using Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT). MBT facilities separate 'black bag' waste by mechanical processes so that further materials can be separated for recycling or to make soil improvers. Some MBT facilities separate and manufacture some of the waste into a solid recovered fuel (SRF) which could be used to generate electricity in an energy plant (energy from waste). Essex is prepared to consider the use of this type of MBT facility. A strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been undertaken to test this draft strategy. An Environmental Report has been produced which is also subject to this consultation process. This report assesses the environmental impact of implementing the key targets and actions of the strategy. Also, the involvement of the community is of paramount

importance to the development of the strategy and to this end about 25 road shows have been undertaken throughout Essex, along with questionnaires available on line.

The Panel debated the pros and cons of collecting trade waste but found it to be uneconomical. They also discussed the collection of recycled waste from blocks of flats in the District. A solution was being devised but it may be that a unique solution may have to be devised for each block of flats as they all have their unique problems.

RESOLVED:

That the Panel agreed:

- (1) with the basic underpinning policy of reuse, recycling and composting;
- (2) that 60% is a realistic ambition for recycling by 2020 but that it should not be as yet a target;
- (3) that Anaerobic Digestion and Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) are appropriate technologies for the handling of Essex waste; and
- (4) that the strategy should include the potential use of the outputs from the MBT to produce a fuel for renewable energy (Solid Recovered Fuel) rather than being sent for landfill.
- (5) that a corporate response will be made based on the above.

60. WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel went through the work programme as set out in the agenda. In keeping with the imminent split of the Panel in the new year into a Planning Services Standing Panel and a Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Panel, the work programme was split into its Environmental side and its Planning side.

Work Programme:

Item 1: Essex County Joint Waste Procurement Process – to go to the new Safer, Cleaner Greener Standing Panel.

Item 2: New Local Development Scheme and East of England Plan – EFDC Response to Final Version – to go to the new Planning Services Standing Panel.

Item 3: Re use of buildings in the Green Belt/Traffic Issues in the Roydon and Nazeing Areas - to go to the new Planning Services Standing Panel.

Item 4: Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 – Implementation of provisions - to go to the new Safer, Cleaner Greener Standing Panel.

Item 5: Anti Social Behaviour in Car Parks - to go to the new Safer, Cleaner Greener Standing Panel.

Item 6: Parking on Grass Verges/ Parking in Residential Area – to go to the Housing Standing Panel.

Item 7: Nottingham Declaration - to go to the new Safer, Cleaner Greener Standing Panel.

Item 8: ECC Speed Management Plan – *to go to the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee directly – any local issues to come out of this to come back to the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Panel.*

Item 9: Essex Freight Strategy - *to go to the new Planning Services Standing Panel.*

Item 10: Local Better Regulation Office – Draft Strategy 2008 – 2011 – *noted that this item was now completed.*

61. FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chairman marked this as the last meeting of this Panel before it was split up into a Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Panel and a Planning Services Standing Panel. She thanked all the officers involved in the Panel over the years for their help and advice as well as the numerous outside speakers who came to speak to the Panel. She also thanked all the members that had served on the Panel over the years of its existence.

The Chairman, in turn, was thanked for her fair and firm chairmanship of the Panel over the past few years.

The draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex



Overview

- What is the waste strategy?
- Why do we need a waste strategy?
- Pressures on landfill – financial
 - environmental
 - legislative
- What does the waste strategy say?
- Waste reduction initiatives – home composting, real nappies, junk mail
- Waste treatment plants
- What is Mechanical Biological Treatment?
- What is solid recovered fuel?
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Community involvement
- Consultation

The Waste Strategy

What is the waste strategy?

- The draft waste strategy sets out key objectives & targets for the management of municipal waste in Essex (*municipal waste is household waste & any other waste that is collected for treatment & disposal by a local authority*).
- From previous consultations on the waste strategy Essex authorities have received a strong message from householders & communities that we should be changing the way we manage waste – a drive towards waste reduction, high recycling & composting.
- Legal requirement – Waste & Emissions Trading Act 2003

Why do we need a waste strategy?

- In 2006/07 Essex produced over 700,000 tonnes of household waste.
- 36% of this was recycled
- Over 440,000 tonnes of household waste was landfilled

Relying on landfill sites to hide the problem of rubbish is simply not a sustainable way to carry on.

There are a number of different pressures effecting the use of landfill sites to dispose of our rubbish.

Pressures on landfill (financial)

Landfill Tax

- WDAs are taxed on the amount of waste they send to landfill.
- 2007/08 Landfill Tax is £24/tonne for active waste & £2/tonne for inactive waste.
- The standard rate of Landfill Tax for 2007/08 has been increased by £3 per tonne on the previous year's levels.
- April '08 standard rate of Landfill Tax will escalate by £8 per tonne per annum until reaching £48 per tonne in 2010/11.

Pressures on landfill (environmental)

- About two-thirds of landfilled waste is biodegradable organic matter.
- The decomposition of biodegradable materials within landfill sites results in the production & limited escape of methane.
- Methane is a potent greenhouse gas – emissions have to be reduced.
- Leachate is formed & needs to be managed to protect water courses



- Paper & card – 25%
- Metal – 4%
- Plastic – 11%
- Glass – 6%
- Food & Garden waste – 30%
- Textiles – 3%
- Other – 21%

Pressures on landfill (legislative)

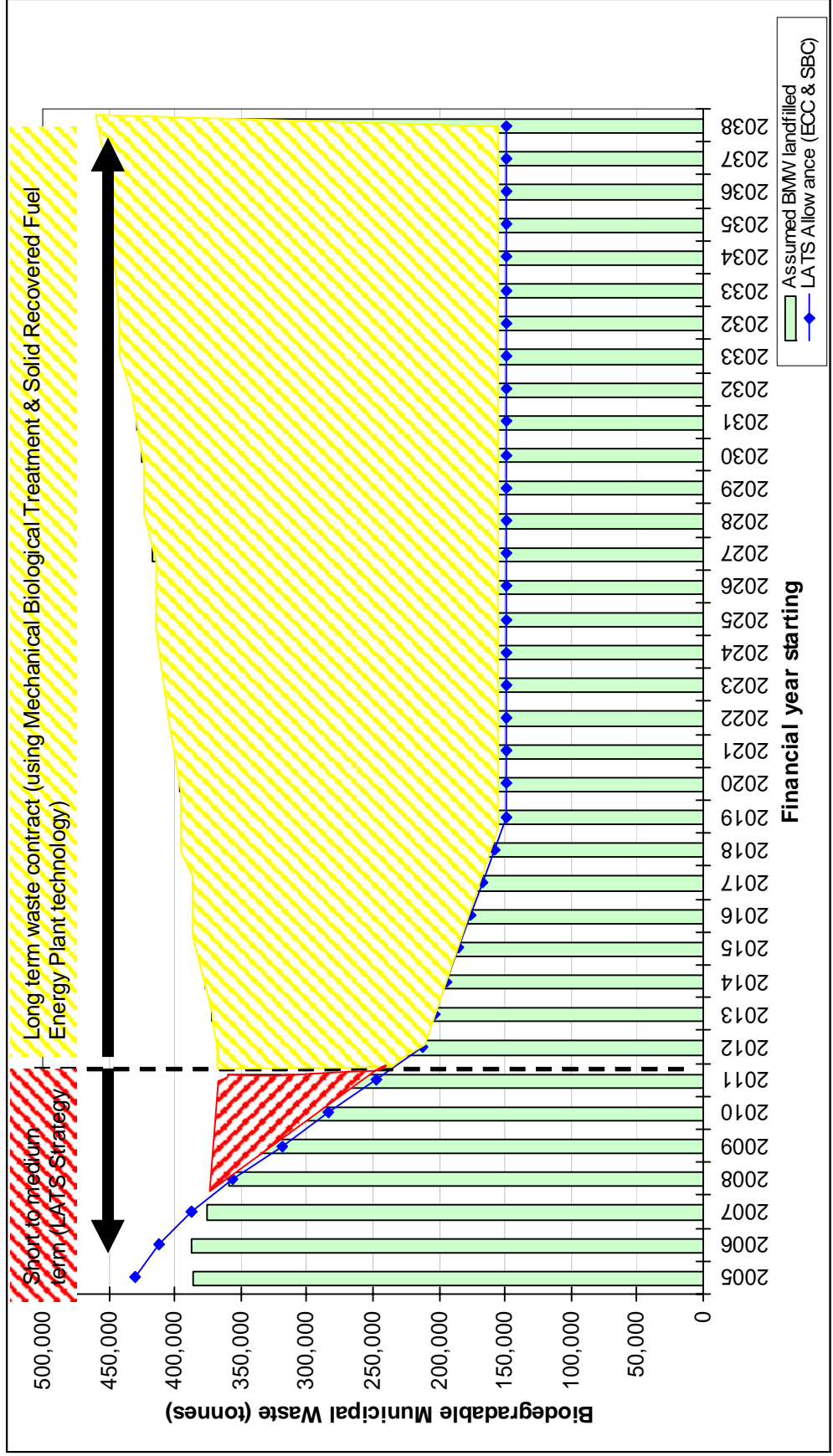
Landfill Directive

- The EU Landfill Directive requires these proportions of biodegradable municipal waste to be diverted from landfill, compared with 1995 quantities:



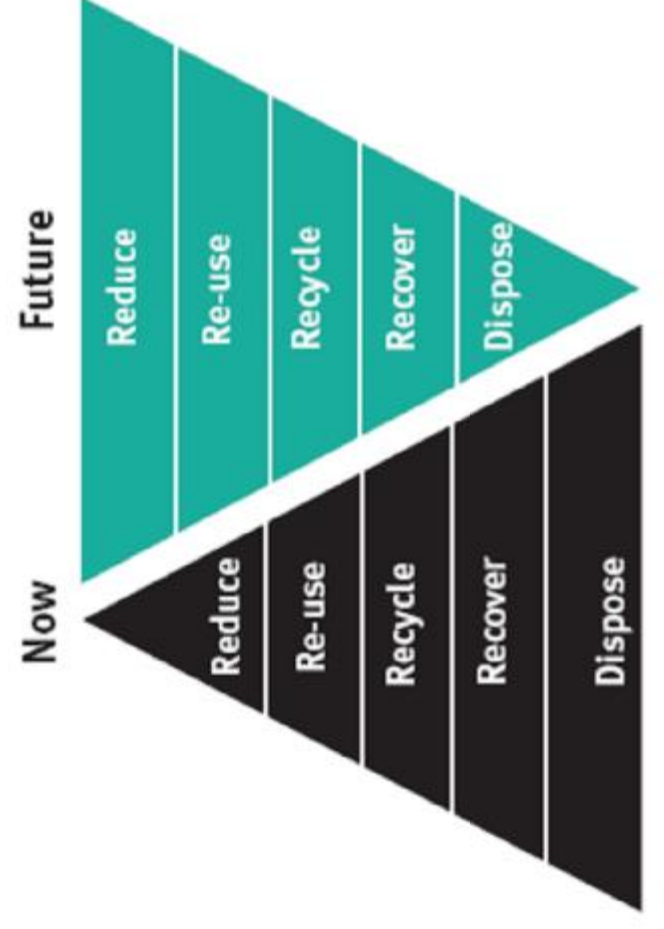
Target Year	Percentage diversion
2010	25%
2013	50%
2020	65%

Diversification from Landfill of Biodegradable Waste



What does the waste strategy say?

- We will work hard to **reduce** the amount of waste produced in the first place & **re-use** more of the waste that is produced.
- Ambition – **60% recycling of household waste by 2020** – from recycling & composting kerbside schemes, the Recycling Centres for Household Waste & recovery of recyclable materials through new treatment plants.



Recycling targets

- Essex will aim to exceed the levels of recycling and composting of household waste as set out in Waste Strategy for England 2007:
 - **40% by 2010**
 - **45% by 2015**
 - **50% by 2020**
 - **Ambition to hit 60% recycling by 2020**

Waste reduction targets

- As well as high recycling focus of the strategy is also **waste prevention & reduction**.
- Essex will seek to achieve the national targets (Waste Strategy for England 2007) for **household waste not re-used, recycled or composted**.
- The targets (kg/per head of the population of residual waste) are to not produce more than:
 - 310kg in 2010;
 - 270kg in 2015;
 - 225kg in 2020

Waste reduction initiatives

The Essex Home Composting Scheme

30% of your household waste could be composted at home.

- A partnership between ECC, all 12 WCAs plus Southend and Thurrock
- Commenced April 2005
- Over 40,000 compost bins sold
- Estimated average diversion by WRAP:
145kg/hh/yr = 5,694 tonnes/hh/yr for Essex



The Essex Cloth Nappy Campaign

Each baby on average has 5,000 nappy changes: that's a third of a million nappies each day just in Essex.

- A partnership between ECC, all 12 WCAs plus Southend and Thurrock
- Encourage parents / carers to try cloth nappies as an alternative to disposable nappies.
- The aim of the campaign is to decrease the amount of nappies in the waste stream.



Stamp Out Junk Mail

4% of household waste is made up of junk mail, that's the equivalent weight of 5,500 elephants in Essex each year.

- Launched March 2007
- To help householders control the amount of junk mail coming through their door
- The 'Stamp Out Junk Mail' pack - 3 simple steps to reduce junk mail
 - No junk mail letterbox sticker
 - Opt out postcard for unaddressed mail from the Royal Mail
 - Registration form to remove details from Direct Mailing databases



Waste Treatment Plants

- The Essex Waste Partnership favour **composting** technologies such as an **anaerobic digestion (AD)**, for source segregated organic wastes. AD is a form of biotreatment & produces a gas which can be used to generate 100% renewable electricity.
- Whilst we can work on reducing the amount of waste produced & recycling as much of it as possible, there will always be some waste that still needs to be disposed of. For this we propose to introduce new treatment plants using **Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)**.

What is MBT?

- MBT facilities separate the 'black bag' waste by mechanical processes – means further material can be separated for recycling &/or to make soil improvers.
- Some MBT facilities separate & manufacture some of the waste into a *solid recovered fuel* which could be used to generate electricity (& sometimes heat too) in an energy plant.

Madrid





Inside the Madrid facility





What is Solid Recovered Fuel?

- One output from a MBT process can be the production of a **solid recovered fuel (SRF)**.
- It is produced from the material that has not been recycled.
- The biomass component of SRF is typically in excess of 50% & could be a valuable source of renewable energy.
- Essex authorities will explore the option of producing a SRF from the MBT process & recovering energy from it. Markets for SRF are being explored with current energy users. Essex believes that using SRF in an energy plant has **climate change benefits** & could prove to be a more cost effective solution than sending it to landfill.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- SEA undertaken on the draft strategy.
- SEA process helps to ensure that draft waste is developed with a focus on sustainability & the environment.
- SEA process produces an **Environmental Report**. This assess the environmental impact of implementing the key targets & actions of the strategy.
- The Environmental Report must also be consulted on at the same time as the draft strategy.

Public & stakeholder consultation

Community involvement

- The successful delivery of the strategy rests on the willingness & desire of Essex authorities & householders to work together to take responsibility for their waste. Therefore, **the involvement of the community is of paramount importance to the development of the strategy.**

Consultation

- Running for 12 weeks from 18 February 2008.
- 25 roadshows throughout Essex.
- Questionnaire – also available to complete online
- Article & questionnaire included in the County Council magazine which is delivered to every household in the county.
- All Parish Councils written to.
- A list of 100 key stakeholders (including Environmental Groups, Residents Associations etc) written to.
- Website: www.essex.gov.uk/wasteconsultation



Consultation - continued

- Focus Groups – conducted by independent facilitators
- Information available in every library in Essex
- Posters promoting the consultation & questionnaires available in District & Borough Council buildings
- Display in County Hall, Chelmsford
- Essex Youth Assembly



