

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WEST ESSEX AREA WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD ON 26 OCTOBER 2005

Membership

- * Councillor Tony Sleep, Brentwood Borough Council (Chair)
- * Councillor Roger Walters, Essex County Council
- * Councillor Michael Gage, Braintree District Council
- * Councillor Derek Jacobs, Epping Forest District Council
- * Councillor Chris Millington, Harlow District Council
- * Councillor Alan Thawley, Uttlesford District Council

* present

35. Apologies for Absence and Notices of Substitution

There were no apologies for absence.

36. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Minute 31 (Procurement Options Appraisal): With reference to the proposed further officer discussions concerning details of collection services within the West Essex area, it was noted that a workshop had taken place on 18th October to which Members had been invited, at which the technical and financial consultants had explained in detail the workings and assumptions of the BPEO and financial models. It was noted that further modelling would be required on waste collection methods.

38. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

39. Procurement Approach

(a) Waste Strategy Project Procurement Approach

Introduction

Referring to paper WEWM/07/05, Alex Creecy, Technical Manager, Waste & Recycling, Essex County Council, gave a presentation on proposals concerning the waste strategy project procurement approach.

Members noted information provided on the background, recent modelling results (and interpretation of these), issues for consideration and the recommended way forward.

Discussion

It was stated that there were some, as yet, unresolved issues for both collection and disposal and that further analysis surrounding funding opportunities and integrating collection systems in particular, would be required. It was noted that some of the recycling parameters had altered slightly; however, the existing systems were sufficiently robust to take account of this.

It was confirmed that a process of migration from the current collection systems to new ones would be needed within any new integrated collection arrangements and the length of an integrated collection contract would need to take account of this.

It was noted that in-vessel composting would play a significant part in interim and future operations, helping to meet LATS targets, and would complement MBT/AD technology use and support high recycling.

Recommendation

On the recommendation of Councillor Gage, Braintree District Council, and seconded by Councillor Sleep, Brentwood Borough Council, it was unanimously:-

Resolved:

To support the recommendation that the existing Procurement Approach be amended to enable the contractual decoupling of the future collection and disposal arrangements whilst still retaining system integration opportunities. This can be achieved through:

- (i) Establishing a two-area disposal solution as a separate contract(s), consistent with supporting BPEO and financial modelling work.
- (ii) Pursuing the delivery of horizontally integrated WCA collection infrastructure by means of three separate area collection contracts, the procurement of which will continue to be managed by the three area Joint Committees as separate workstreams.

(b) Waste Strategy Project PFI Reference Case

Introduction

Referring to paper WEWM/08/05, Alex Creecy, Technical Manager, Waste & Recycling, Essex County Council, gave a presentation on the waste strategy project PFI reference case.

Various aspects of the reference case were discussed, including the derivation of the reference case, assumptions used to construct the reference case and recycling performance.

Discussion

Various technical points concerning logistical transport arrangements were discussed and the use of transfer stations.

With reference to recycling credits, there was some discussion regarding developments with DEFRA. It was noted that the Government had just released a consultation paper concerning proposals relating to the ability to negotiate local arrangements.

Members discussed the 'Memorandum of Understanding'. It was stated that there was no prescriptive approach for the format of these. It was confirmed that the Memorandum of Understanding is not a legally binding document but would need to be endorsed by the Joint Committees and signed by each of the Partner Authorities.

Recommendation

Members welcomed the paper and presentation and, on the recommendation of Councillor Jacobs, Epping Forest District Council, and seconded by Councillor Sleep, Brentwood Borough Council, it was unanimously:-

Resolved:

To adopt the proposed PFI Reference Case model as set out in paper WEWM/08/05.

It was noted that the business case would be brought back to the Committee for further consideration in due course.

(c) Verbal Report from the West Area Officers

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting when a report would be provided. For information, it was noted that a meeting had been held with waste collection officers a further one arranged.

(d) Scoping Opinion Request – Rivenhall Airfield

A summary of the report (WEWM/09/05) submitted by Gent Fairhead & Co Ltd to Essex County Council's Planning Department regarding the proposed development of the Rivenhall Airfield waste management facility was discussed.

The contents of the report were noted.

40. Project Progress Report

Introduction

Referring to paper WEWM/10/05, Peter Kelsbie, Project Coordinator, Essex County Council, provided an update on project progress.

Discussion

There was some discussion concerning procurement issues (currently flagged as high risk items) and the risk profile of the project, in particular relating to how bidders will respond to the tenders and it was noted that these, by their nature, were largely outside of the partnership's control.

The Committee noted the contents of the 'dashboard' style update report.

41. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the West Essex Waste Management Joint Committee would be held on Wednesday 30 November 2005, commencing at 2.30 pm in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford.

42. Urgent Business (Part I)

There being no urgent (Part I) business for discussion, the meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Chairman
30 November 2005