

IAA Member Working Group

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2012 AT 3:00 PM. BASILDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

*Present:

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| * | Basildon District Council | Councillor Malcolm Buckley |
| * | Braintree District Council | Councillor Wendy Schmitt |
| * | Braintree District Council | Councillor Robert Mitchell (sub.) |
| * | Brentwood Borough Council | Councillor Tony Sleep |
| * | Castle Point Borough Council | Councillor Ray Howard |
| | Chelmsford Borough Council | Councillor Janette Potter |
| | Colchester Borough Council | Councillor Ann Turrell |
| | Epping Forest District Council | Councillor John Knapman |
| * | Essex County Council | Councillor Kevin Bentley |
| * | Harlow District Council | Councillor Tony Hall |
| | Maldon District Council | Councillor Brenda Harker |
| * | Rochford District Council | Councillor Mike Steptoe |
| | Tendring District Council | Councillor Nick Turner |
| | Uttlesford District Council | Councillor Susan Barker |

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting once again held at Basildon Borough Council.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:
 Cllr Susan Barker, Uttlesford DC
 Cllr Brenda Harker, Maldon DC
 Cllr John Knapman, Epping Forest DC
 Cllr Janette Potter, Chelmsford BC
 Cllr Nick Turner, Tendring DC
 Cllr Ann Turrell, Colchester BC.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

5. Waste and Recycling Performance 2011/12

Members received an update from Jason Searles. A provisional outturn for the period April 2011 to March 2012 was tabled. Some estimates had been used, as not all figures had been received. Once these figures have been finalised the data will be circulated to the local press

Certain points were noted in relation to the provisional performance:

- Total waste reused, recycled or composted for the Essex Waste Partnership has gone up 2% in the last 12 months, taking it to 52%
- Although there is a significant disparity between the best performing WCA (67%) and worst (28%), this is directly related to the stage WCAs are at in rolling out their enhanced services
- Total waste to landfill (513 kgs per household) has reduced by 30 kgs and demonstrates the combined impact of enhanced recycling and composting services and waste minimisation activity.

In response to other points raised by Members it was confirmed that,

- Schools waste is classed as Household and is therefore included in the household waste tonnages/performance quoted
- Two County Council officers visit schools to educate on waste/recycling matters; some districts have officers fulfilling similar roles. There will be an Education Centre at Courtauld Road
- The non-household waste consists of
 - a. Commercial waste collected by some WCAs – this amounts to approximately 15,000 tonnes p.a., most of which goes to landfill.
 - b. Soil and hardcore waste, this amounts to approximately 19,000 tonnes and is collected at the RCHWs. Although this waste comes from households in Essex it is classified as construction and demolition waste and not household.

Following a discussion regarding the benefits of encouraging greater recycling of commercial waste It was AGREED that Officers should look into this specific issue and produce a paper for the Committee's consideration.

General

- The Partnership should be positive about the overall rate getting over 50%. Perhaps this fact should be publicised – although there is always a danger of engendering complacency in people.
- Essex made the top 10 in 2011 (Devon were top with an overall 55% rate)
- The Committee wish to know how these figures compare with other authorities. Officers will make suitable enquiries.

6. Waste Strategy Programme Update

Members received an update from Phil Butler.

PFI

- Both Essex County Council and Southend Council have approved this
- Now the contract documentation has to be finalised (a task involving some 300 documents)
- The Business Case has now been approved and signed off by the Minister
- The Funding Group (comprising one Japanese and 2 German banks) have approved the funding, and £180 million is now available to draw on
- The Joint working Agreement with Southend has also been finalised; and the Inter authority agreements 'Initial Reviews' are now almost all confirmed
- Financial close is likely within a fortnight.
- Urbaser Balfour Beatty has submitted a planning application and permit application
- The latest waste composition study will be received shortly; it will be circulated to the WCAs when it does
- Borrowing is in sterling, but this has to be converted into euros, to pay for the process equipment, which is all European.

Biowaste Project

- A complete review has now been carried out, serving as a supplement to the business case
- Extensive soft market information has also been received
- The intention now is to look into providing a less prescriptive, more service-based provision.

Transfer Stations

- Harlow/Epping – planning permission now obtained. About to establish a local liaison group and hoping to meet in early June
- Uttlesford – planning application submitted.
- Tendring/Colchester – no further progress to report
- Chelmsford/Maldon – Final negotiations underway with Winsford Way, Chelmsford
- Braintree – continuing efforts to progress this but nothing specific to report.

7. Brentwood

Councillor Sleep updated Members on the position at Brentwood:

- Compostable and kitchen waste are being treated separately, using a 7 litre capacity caddy for the kitchen waste, and 23 litre bin for the rest.

- Collection is weekly (this was noted as being a very high priority with residents)
- Residents were provided with a gratis roll of cornstarch sacks initially. Further sacks can be purchased and have been made widely available. Most people do use these.
- In the five months of the scheme, the monthly collection has ranged from 102 tonnes in December, up to 120 tonnes in April. Statistics for a full 12 month period will be necessary to get an overall picture of the scheme.
- Food waste has now reached 50% participation.

It was also noted that the extension of green waste collection had been very well received in both Braintree and Basildon districts.

8. Collaborative Working Updates

Members noted the outcome of the joint procurement work that Braintree, Colchester and Uttlesford Councils had recently completed:

- Sale of Recyclates

Braintree and Uttlesford had entered into new contracts with suppliers for the sale of recyclates for a 5 year period from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2017.

Braintree had appointed Viridor and Uttlesford with both suppliers having offered the best fixed price per tonne.

- Vehicle Procurement and Maintenance

All three Council's had participated in a competitive dialogue procurement process for the future supply and maintenance of their respective vehicles. Uttlesford withdrew from the process and decided to continue to supply and maintain in-house with both Braintree and Colchester awarding separate contracts to Riverside Truck Rental from the 1 April 2012 for a 7 year period with the option to extend for a further 7 years.

The joint procurement work had enabled costs to be shared along with, skills, knowledge and experience and was a good example of what can be achieved through collaborative working.

9. Membership of the Committee

Councillor Hall informed the meeting that he would no longer be attending these meetings, as he no longer holds the Cabinet Portfolio for Waste. He was pleased to point out that Harlow had moved from being the worst recycling council to being one of the best. He thanked his fellow group members for their encouragement and support.

10. Dates and locations for future meetings

The next meeting of the Group will take place on Tuesday 3 July 2012 at 2.00 pm at Braintree District Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.05pm