

## **EFDC GREEN CORPORATE WORKING PARTY MINUTES**

**DATE:** 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012  
**TIME:** 2.30pm  
**VENUE:** Committee Room 2, Civic Offices

Chair: John Preston (JP)

Minutes: Sarah Creitzman (SC)

Attending: Janet Twinn (JT), Gary Woodhall (GW), Paul Duguid (PD), Councillor Gary Waller (Cllr GW), Chris Overend (CO)

### **Apologies**

Brian Bassington (BB), Mike Warr (MW), Mike Tipping (MT)

### **Car Share Scheme Update**

**Action**

CO reported that:

A scheme was supposed to be ready for mid 2012, but for operational reasons, wasn't. MT overestimated the rate of staff turnover, which would have freed up spaces in the car park for use in the proposed scheme, but this freeing up of spaces never materialised because of a) inadequate turnover and b) new job adverts not following the new HR criteria for deserving a space in the car park (based on mileage).

CO was tasked with researching other councils' schemes and did not find any the same. Aside from confusion over who is eligible, there don't seem to be any problems with the terms and conditions of EFDC's particular scheme; it's just the operational side that will need to be reviewed. The pilot period for this never took place because of the operational problems.

JP asked why, after 3 years, no operational conclusion had been reached, particularly given the views expressed by staff in the summer?

CO was unable to give an answer without input from MT, but reiterated that the operational problems would be reviewed and that the decision will be made in 2013 about who is allowed into the scheme and who is not.

**MT/CO**

### **Council Waste Update**

IA reported that:

A year ago, a trial was run with SITA to look at the content of the Council's commercial waste and establish whether it was suitable for recycling. The waste was found to be too high in contaminants for it to be recycled. SITA advised separating office food waste from all other waste, so that the waste stream was 'cleaner' and suitable for recycling.

**MT/IA**

We are ready to go ahead with the food waste separation pilot scheme. Due to begin in the new year, this pilot will see 3-4 departments testing the bins, which will contain biodegradable waste only and will be collected separately by cleaning staff. SITA has given a price for carrying out this work - £140 for collection from the compactor; £40 per tonne to send any unrecoverable waste to landfill. This is cheaper than what the Council currently pays for its waste to be removed and it is

proposed that a 2 year contract is signed, because a new contract is due to go out to tender in November 2014.

SITA has requested that the uncontaminated recyclable material is collected in clear sacks. Biodegradable sacks will be used for the food waste bins.

JT asked what will happen to the food waste and how often will it be collected?

IA - Collections will be once per week and will go into a separate bin, situated down the side of the compactor. A 240L wheelie bin should be enough for weekly collections. SITA has quoted £9 per lift (emptying of the bin) for this portion of the waste collection.

The waste will eventually be used in a composting facility for soil improvers, probably going back into the ground in the farming industry.

JT - What's the point of the pilot? Does a guide need to be created?

A trial needs to take place to iron out any unforeseen problems before the scheme properly takes off. Staff will then be notified of the changes that are to take place.

SC to request an update on how the trial goes for the next meeting.  
**HECA Report Comments**

**SC**

LS gave a brief history of HECA:

HECA stands for Home Energy Conservation Act reporting. Originally the government required that we notify them annually about energy saving measures carried out in all the dwellings within our local authority area.

This type of reporting was replaced in 2008 by National Indicator NI187, which was supposed to reduce the burden on Councils and glean valuable information in the process. However, this scheme did not work out as planned and was subsequently scrapped in 2010.

In 2012, HECA reporting was reinstated as a mandatory obligation for local authorities. The Council doesn't currently have enough resources to carry out this work and has written a report to management board stating that this is the case. Management board then referred this to GCWP members for discussion.

JP added that HECA reporting is extremely complex. Management board recognised that in the past this reporting was done by 2 full time people. However, it may be difficult to obtain an affirmative answer to the resource issue given that there's a recruitment freeze.

Cllr GW - What do you judge will be necessary staffing to complete this task? This should be included in the 'options for action' within the Cabinet report.

JP – This will need to be based on previous experience of HECA to see what level of resource was needed. A report to Cabinet recommending increased resources will follow.

**JP/SC/LS**

SC to look over the previous Environmental Co-ordinator's HECA files to try to determine what will need to be collected/reported on.

**SC**

## **Green Champions Update**

**All**

SC - The sweet campaign proved very useful in highlighting technical issues with turning screens off. SC has worked with ICT to get this resolved, however, it is estimated that at least 65% of screens or terminals were left on, which was disappointing and definitely a worse result than last time.

SC to write a follow up article for the Christmas edition of District Lines with help from Val Gregory.

GW – Still working on encouraging Members to only print off the parts of agendas that are needed from the Committee Management System.

## **AOB**

JP – We should be re-writing the GCWP terms of reference in light of the new Climate Local Agreement, which replaces the Nottingham Declaration.

SC to work on this in time for next meeting

**SC**

### **Date of next meeting**

March 11<sup>th</sup> 2013, 14:30 Committee Room 2