

## IAA Member Working Group

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2012 AT 2:00 PM. COUNTY HALL

\*Present:

*	Basildon District Council	Councillor John Dornan
*	Braintree District Council	Councillor Robert Mitchell
	Brentwood Borough Council	Councillor Tony Sleep
*	Castle Point Borough Council	Councillor Ray Howard
	Chelmsford Borough Council	Councillor Janette Potter
*	Colchester Borough Council	Councillor Martin Hunt
	Epping Forest District Council	Councillor Gary Waller
*	Essex County Council	Councillor Kevin Bentley
*	Harlow District Council	Councillor Phil Waite
	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.

#### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brenda Harker and Tony Sleep.

#### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting/Matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4. Waste Strategy Programme Update

Members received an update from Phil Butler.

##### PFI Contract

- A plot adjacent to the site is being secured, to provide for temporary office space and car parking for contractors.
- The S106 Agreement has been agreed.
- The Planning Permit should be issued this week.
- Community Liaison Group – intention is to have this running by Christmas.

##### Transfer Stations

- Harlow – construction due to start in February 2013

- Uttlesford – awaiting decision from courts on whether the judicial review, which was lodged by the claimants on 16 October, should proceed
- Chelmsford – Planning application has been submitted; to be considered at the end of January 2013. There has been some local opposition from local residents.
- Braintree – Progress remains still slow with acquiring the site from the vendor. Design progressing
- Colchester/Tendring (A120 Truck Stop) – pre-consultation process with local council and residents now completed. There was no feedback from the Public Exhibitions. Planning permission being sought within next few days.

#### Bio-waste Stations

- The Member Project Board has given its approval to the revised procurement strategy and the formal OJEU notice can now be published.

#### Integrated Waste Handling Project

- The six short-listed bidders are engaging in the process with enthusiasm. The next phase is due to complete by mid-January, with the contract being awarded in March 2013.

The contract will be awarded for an 8-year period, with a possible further 7-year extension. In response to concerns, expressed by Councillors, that no formal risk assessment had been carried out, Mr Butler confirmed that risk assessment had formed an integral part of the rigorous review process.

### **5. Tonnage performance update**

Members noted the tables, and received a brief update from Jason Searles. He drew particular attention to certain figures:

- Total diverted from landfill stands at 57% overall, as at end June 2012. This is expected to drop to between 53% and 54% by year end, as the amount of green garden waste reduces at the end of the year
- The first six months showed a waste growth of 1% over all Essex. This is manageable, but some districts are showing a 3-4% growth; if this were replicated across the County, it would be of great concern, as it would require an extra £1.75m for waste disposal.

It was noted that Colchester Borough Council was missing from one of the circulated 2011/12 performance tables. A revised version of the table will be circulated post meeting.

## 6. Development of benchmarking information

Members received an update from Trudie Bragg, Castle Point District Council.

The Group noted the five proposed Key Performance Indicators:

- 1) Key service outputs. It was noted how difficult it is to arrive at meaningful figures in respect of service costs, as different processes are used.
- 2) Service costs. The Annual Revenue Outturn Form provides a good starting point, as it basically requires the same information from each authority. It was agreed that capital chargers should be removed, and that waste collection and recycling figures should be put together, and the subsequent figures should be brought back to the Group.
- 3) It is crucial to carry out this exercise. The intention, in time, is to produce similar questions for local authorities to answer.
- 4) Waste Disposal Cost. Joining this figure with the collection cost will give an overall figure (which can be expressed as per tonne, per resident, etc).
- 5) Environmental Impact. This will be developed in due course. It is easier for those authorities who separate out their waste, and conversely harder for those who comingle it.

Members AGREED that the Officers Working Group should now collate the benchmarking indicators with real Essex data for presentation to a future meeting so a further discussion can take place on the usefulness of indicators and any required refinement.

## 7. Commercial waste policy update

Members received an update from Trudie Bragg, Castle Point District Council & Chairman of the Officers Working Group, and noted the proposed key objectives for the provision and development of trade waster services in Essex.

The service should:

- Be reliable and affordable
- Be cost neutral to the authority
- Provide recycling collections if viable
- Set charges that are competitive with other local providers
- Provide a range of suitable collection containers
- Schedule collections appropriately.

Several issues were raised:

- It was pointed out that the issue of vehicle miles was up to each District to resolve and that several authorities had carried out some route optimisation work

- Concerns were expressed about the current situation for small businesses. Costs were high for high street traders; and local authorities should be trying to provide a service to local businesses and trying to encourage the recycling of trade waste
- The provision of business specific collections was an area that could also be explored
- Collaborative working between authorities was another area that could be explored.

Members AGREED to sign up to the recommended bullet points, plus the WRAP document. They also agreed to explore possible ways to helping businesses to recycle their waste. (Tendring abstained, as they have to consult Viola first.)

## **8. Nappy waste brief**

Members received a verbal update from Jason Searles following a request at the previous meeting.

A series of waste composition analyses that have been carried out over the past 18 months indicates that nappy waste across Essex ranges from 6-10% by weight (average: 7.5%) of the residual kerbside collected waste stream. This equates to approximately 18kt of per annum, less than 3% of the total municipal waste stream.

The key issues when considering operating a separate nappy waste collection service are

- whether there is a public demand for such a service, particular in areas where a weekly residual waste collection already operates
- the cost of collection, which will not be offset by savings elsewhere unless this is introduced as part of a switch from weekly to fortnightly collections for residual waste
- the cost of disposal if it is intended to reprocess the constituent parts, as this may be higher than current disposal routes.
- the challenge of providing a collection to a constantly changing customer base.

The only option currently available for the reprocessing of nappy waste in the UK is via Knowaste, a specialist company based in West Bromwich. Knowaste uses an autoclave to sterilise the waste and then recovers the recyclable elements for reprocessing. The small amount of non-recoverable waste is sent to EfW or landfill whilst the liquid and human waste is discharged to the sewer.

A few points were raised:

- The MBT facility at Courtauld Road has been designed to take this material and will essentially achieve the same outcome as the autoclave system in diverting this waste from landfill

- The processing via an autoclave or the MBT would equally apply to certain medical waste and pads used by adults. Research into the extent of this material in the waste stream would be useful
- If there is a need for this waste to be collected more frequently in areas operating an alternate weekly collection the most cost effective way to provide this service would probably be to dispose of this waste via the same route as other residual waste i.e. landfill/MBT
- Given the high proportion of food waste and other recyclable materials still being put into the black bag collection by residents when recycling services already operate for these materials resources should be focused on increasing participation in existing services

Although there was some differing views regarding whether the separate collection **and** reprocessing of this waste would be cost effective and desirable the Group **AGREED** to invite a representative of Knowaste to attend, or provide additional information on their system and the costs, for a subsequent meeting..

#### **9. DCLG Weekly Collection Support Scheme Outcome**

Members received an information paper, outlining successful bids to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme, made by local authorities in Essex.

Members expressed differing views on whether this approach, which commits WCAs to weekly collections, would lead to greater recycling in the long run.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

- a. Recycling credits. Tendring DC raised concerns regarding street sweepings sent for recycling and the recent Environment Agency guidance which has queried the validity of this practice. The particularly areas of concern raised by a number of WCAs was the impact this may have on both performance and recycling credit payments. The County Council is expecting to be able to provide guidance to WCAs on this matter by the end of the year

Although the full impact is unknown it is likely that financial impact will be minimal as ECC will continue to make a credit payment on all material sent to an approved reprocessor. There will however be an impact on recycling rate figures as approximately 50% of the street sweepings waste sent to these facilities is probably not going to meet DEFRA recycling criteria. This position may change following trials being planned by the EA to assess the suitability of street swept leaf litter for composting processes.

**11. Date and location of next meeting**

The meeting of the Group scheduled for 8 January 2012 was **cancelled**.

A new date would be arranged for some time in February. Details to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.30pm