

Item 3

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

Council Chamber,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Tuesday,
24 April 2007

Time: 10.00 a.m.

- Present:** Councillor V. Crosby (Chairman) and
Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, G.C. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, M.T.B. Jones,
A. Smith and Mrs. C. Sproat
- Invited to attend:** Councillor A. Hodgson
- In Attendance:** Councillors Mrs. K. Conroy, B. Hall, J.E. Higgin, J.G. Huntington,
J.P. Moran, T. Ward and J. Wayman J.P
- Apologies:** Councillors B.F. Avery J.P, D.R. Brown, K. Henderson and Mrs. L. Smith

OSC(3)35/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No declarations of interest were received.

OSC(3)36/06 MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March, 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OSC(3)37/06 RECYCLING SERVICES REVIEW
The Committee was presented with an updated report of the Recycling Services Review Group which contained changes to the Group's initial recommendations in the light of updated information. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Technical Services Manager, were present at the meeting to explain the situation and answer any queries.

Members of the Committee were reminded that the initial findings of the Review Group together with nine recommendations were reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 on 12th December, 2006. The Committee had agreed that the report be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

Prior to consideration by Cabinet updated information had come to light which was reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 at its meeting on 13th March, 2007. The Committee at that time agreed that the Recycling Services Review Group should be reconvened to consider the updated information and its possible impact on the recommendations.

The Review Group met on 3rd April, 2007 and considered the information which fell under the headings of, "Availability of Recycling Services within

the Borough”, “Local Government Review” and “Existing Kerb-it Recycling Scheme”.

In respect of the Availability of Recycling facilities within the Borough, it was explained that the sustainable implementation of a co-mingled recycling collection service depended on the availability of locally based materials recycling facility. It was explained that there was currently only one MRF within the Borough to which there were concerns over the capacity and ability to handle large amounts of additional quantities of recyclable material. The operating company were looking to expand the facilities but had been unable to obtain planning permission and were looking for alternative sites within Spennymoor. It was, however, unlikely that this would be available before 2010.

The Review Group also considered the potential impact of the Government’s recent announcement of its preferred option for a unitary structure of local government within County Durham.

With regard to the existing “Kerb-it” Scheme, it was explained that the Council’s contract with Premier Waste Management for the kerbside recycling collection scheme would end in March, 2008. It was understood that this could not be extended on legal grounds and alternative arrangements needed to be pursued.

Members were informed that the Review Group acknowledged that the updated information had had an effect on recommendations previously made by the Review Group and consequently Recommendations 1, 2 and 9 within that report were revised.

Taking all factors into account the Review Group’s preferred option for the long term was still the introduction of a co-mingled system for collecting dry recyclables, utilising twin wheeled bins. However, in the absence of a County-wide Waste Disposal Policy, the lack of a locally sited recycling facility and the prospect of a single unitary authority made it unrealistic to recommend such an option in the short term.

It was considered that the only option available in the short term would be to continue segregated collection of recyclables at the kerbside. As the current scheme could not be extended for legal reasons, alternative solutions needed to be found which would preferably involve an agreement with current partners of Kerb-it to benefit from economies of scale. The anticipated revenue cost to the Council to operate a short term service could be in the region of £200,000 to £400,000 depending upon the level of contribution made by the County Council for recycling credits.

As an interim measure a new contract could be undertaken until a materials recycling facility was made available locally within the County and a Waste Disposal Strategy was produced by D.C.C.

The Review Group were therefore recommending :-

1. The preferred option for co-mingled collection to be implemented in the longterm be noted.
2. The Kerb-it Scheme to continue until 31st March, 2008.
3. Consideration be given to various options for the continuation of a kerbside collection service after 31st March, 2008 including working in partnership with current partners of the existing Kerb-it Scheme.

Within the report Recommendations 4 – 9 would remain unchanged. Recommendation 10 had been altered with the aim to maintain the continuation of an education and awareness programme to promote recycling and keep residents informed of any changes to the kerbside collection scheme.

The Cabinet Member then left the meeting while the Committee considered its recommendations.

RECOMMENDED : That the recommendations detailed in the report be approved.

OSC(3)38/06 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members received an update on progress in relation to the Council's Contribution to Reducing Economic Inactivity (Increasing Employability) Review Group, the recommendations of which had been considered by Cabinet. Cabinet's comments were awaited.

Members of the Committee suggested the following items to be included on the Work Programme:-

- Climate Change
- Green Space Strategy

AGREED : That the Work Programme be approved.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Liz North 01388 816166 ext 4237 email:enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk

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