

EAST KENT (JOINT SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE
WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING SUB-GROUP

9 September 2008

Minutes

Present: Councillor M Fisher (CCC)
Councillor M Harrison (TDC)
Councillor K Mills (DDC)

Officers John Bunnett, Deputy Chief Executive (TDC)
Present: Lorraine Burley, Senior Committee Administrator (SDC)

Also Councillor D Lloyd-Jones (DDC) Substitute Member
Present: Rebecca Brough (DDC)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Clifton-Holt (SDC) - substitute to be Councillor P Martin and Mr Vye (KCC) who was to be substituting for Mr Law.

2. Election of Chairman

Councillor M Harrison was elected as Chairman.

3. Terms of Reference

- (i) It was confirmed that the composition of the sub-group be five non-executive cross party members, one from each participating authority.
- (ii) It was confirmed that membership of the sub-group be nominated from the membership of the East Kent (Joint Scrutiny) Committee with named substitutes.
- (iii) It was agreed that three members are required to make a quorum.

It was agreed that items (iv) to (viii) be discussed as a single item.

John Bunnett summarised the report 'Converging the waste collection, recycling and disposal services of East Kent – working towards the optimum service' which had previously been presented to the East Kent (Joint Arrangements) Committee on 25 June 2008 and also to the East Kent (Joint Scrutiny) Committee on 9 July 2008.

Next steps for consideration included:

- a) Technical – how waste is collected and recycled, how the county deals with different materials and the costs involved in collecting waste and its disposal. The sub-group will need to increase its knowledge base regarding facts and figures, including visits to see other waste collection and disposal systems. Also to be investigated are issues around glass, efficiency, cost effectiveness and best practice elsewhere.
- b) Legal – Mark Ellender (CCC) will take the lead on legal matters and will be drawing up an arrangement that all authorities will be signing up to. Attention was drawn to the fact that all authorities taking part must be committed from the outset as there will be an outlay on capital equipment by Kent County Council on behalf of the project.
- c) Finance – Mike Davis (DDC) will lead.

It was proposed to look at best practice both in this country and abroad (desk top appraisal) and information was available from the global work done by Environmental Resources Management Ltd (ERM).

After the meeting, a programme would be drawn up detailing logistics and organisations to be contacted.

All the current waste disposal contracts the local authorities have in operation will have expired by 2013 and completing the work required between now and then will be challenging. The Waste Management Working Sub-Group is due to report back to the East Kent (Joint Scrutiny) Committee in March 2009.

It was agreed that a report on the current situation regarding waste management would be prepared by John Bunnett for the next meeting and background documents would be available.

John Bunnett went on to emphasise the importance of keeping the general public informed and updated about the project and possible consultation exercises.

After discussion, authorities and their current responsibilities for the project were listed:

Canterbury City Council – Legal
Dover District Council – Finance
Thanet District Council – Lead
Shepway District Council – Administration

It was therefore suggested that Kent County Council take over the public information role.

4. Any other business

Kent County Council had yet to appoint a successor member to Mr John Law for the Waste Management Working Sub-Group, who was the KCC Conservative lead spokesman on the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – this position has been filled by Mr John Simmonds.

5. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting be held in approximately a month's time, to start at 9am at Dover District Council offices.