

### DRAFT MINUTE

Of a meeting of the Waste Management Advisory Group held on  
Monday, 13 June 2005

#### 1. **BEST VALUE REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT, RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANING**

The Chief Environmental Health Officer indicated that the Best Value Review was now complete after some delay due to the implementation of the integrated refuse project. He presented the Best Value Review Report to the Group.

It was emphasised that a decision regarding possible externalisation of waste management services did not have to be rushed, and that the Council had time to consider the options available to it as described in the Robson Rhodes Stage 2 Feasibility Study. This was important in light of the possible changes resulting from the County Council PFI contract, decision on the housing stock and future of the DLO. Any recommendation to Cabinet regarding the funding of an options appraisal would have to take account of Council Tax capping.

The Advisory Group considered the Best Value Review report and the following issues were raised in response to it.

The Group noted that whilst household waste recycling was progressing well, there were gains to be made in the education of businesses in the district on how to practice waste minimisation, separation and recycling. In particular, local hospitals were highlighted as not practising separation or recycling and the Group agreed that this would be an area for the Council to put pressure on. As an initial step, the Portfolio Holder agreed to send a letter to the Chairs of the Trusts at Addenbrooke's, Papworth and Fulbourn Hospitals to indicate that it had come to the Council's attention that there was a problem and to request that they look at it with the assistance of SCDC advice. Whilst SCDC might only be able to put educational pressure on businesses and not provide collections at present, it would be necessary to consider extending operations to business recycling in future.

The Chief Environmental Health Officer confirmed that the County Council believed that the first EU requirement on reductions in the amount of biodegradable waste being land filled would be met (paragraph 2.2.2 of Best Value Report). Due to the significant increase in housing in the district in the next few years, alongside the statistic that the volume of waste collected nationally was increasing each year, subsequent reductions would not be met, unless different methods of waste disposal were used.

Members asked whether officers were doing enough to reduce the amount of paper used by the council and in particular, sent out to councillors. It was suggested that:

- Authors of reports are encouraged to be careful about content in order to make them shorter and thereby use less paper.
- Officers indicate at the top of e-mails to councillors whether or not they were going to receive a paper copy of a document attachment. This would prevent councillors printing out items needlessly.
- Paper copies of reports and agendas were sent out to committee/advisory group members only and that if other councillors were interested, to refer to the electronic version or refer to spare paper copies held at the SCDC office when visiting for other meetings.

- Leaflets circulated for information, such as those about sports and entertainments, are reduced to several copies available in the Members' Lounge for reference only to reduce the quantity posted out to councillors. An e-mail alert to their availability would be useful.
- A sub-group of members might meet to discuss ways for the minimisation of waste within the council office itself.

It was highlighted that whilst recycling of plastic bottles was ever popular with residents, it was an expensive exercise both for the council to manage and as a process overall and that the County Council did not include plastic recycling banks at its household waste recycling centres. However, plastic bottle recycling would be continued due to popular demand.

Street cleansing was an area still requiring investment. Parish Councils were to be approached on the ways they and SCDC could work together to help each other improve cleanliness of villages. SCDC had previously looked at street cleaning from the perspective of tidying up after people, rather than prevention of littering. Work by the Environment Enforcement Officer may start to help with this change of view. Coupled with this was the enduring problem of detritus; a distinct issue for rural areas requiring reactive cleansing, rather than preventative action, on an expanding basis.

The Waste Management Advisory Group

<b>NOTED</b>	the contents of the wide-ranging Best Value report;
<b>ACCEPTED</b>	the action plan (appendix D of the report) as being a robust plan of action that in many cases will involve subsequent reports to Members with more detail before implementation;
<b>NOTED</b>	the outcome of the RSM Robson Rhodes phase 2 report; and
<b>SUPPORTED</b>	a recommendation to Cabinet to fund, subject to the outcome of council tax capping, a full options appraisal of the various externalisation models, including in-house bids, and this to be reported back to Members for decision

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**The Meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.**

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