

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 26 April 2006 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors Barnacle, Barr, Baird, Caddell, Coburn, Cowan, Gillies, A Grant, Lyall, McDonald, Mulheron, Wilson (substituting for Councillor Barrett) and Young.

In Attendance: D Stewart (Head of Environmental and Consumer Services), K McNamara, B Reekie, A Johnston and J Valentine (all The Environment Service); S Aldred, A Wilson, Y Oliver and A Brown (all Corporate Services)

Councillor Barnacle, Convener, Presiding.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Convener advised that with work being progressed on the provision of public toilets and partnerships as previously agreed by the Committee, a report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Environment Committee on 7 June 2006 on the up to date position. He noted that the Council's present policy was significantly changed from previous policies on provision, and it was necessary to evaluate the policy's suitability for purpose.

278. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

279. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of Meeting of the Environment Committee of 1 March 2006 (Arts. 145-151) was submitted and approved as a correct record.

280. KERBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICE TRIAL – INTERIM RESULTS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (06/288) (1) providing the results of an evaluation of the new Kerbside Recycling Service for the collection of dry mixed recyclates, garden waste and kitchen waste; (2) seeking approval for the introduction of the scheme to the majority of areas in Perth and Kinross, subject to approval of funding by the Scottish Executive; and (3) making recommendations regarding the setting of charges for additional household general waste bins, as part of any future implementation of this service.

Resolved:

- (i) The positive outcome of the assessment of the new kerbside recycling service trial in parts of Wellshill, Craigie, Cleeve and Cherrybank areas of Perth be noted.
- (ii) Subject to funding from the Scottish Executive Strategic Waste Fund, the implementation of this new service for 53,000 households which had been subject to the route review and were served with a paper/garden waste kerbside recycling collection service, be approved.
- (iii) The benefits of including food waste in the scheme be noted, and the use of kitchen caddies and compostable liners for the collection of food alongside garden waste, as standard elements of any future implementation of the scheme, be agreed.
- (iv) The implementation and enforcement of the bin policy, as amended following the trial period, and in particular to charge on an annual basis for the provision of a second general waste bin except where specified exemptions are applied, be agreed.
- (v) The introduction of communal bins for the new kerbside recycling service at multi-occupancy premises (e.g. flats), as appropriate, based on individual case by case assessments by Environment Service staff, be agreed.
- (vi) Those households at present on sack collection to remain on current collection agreements, pending investigations into receptacles that may allow for their inclusion in the new recycling service, be agreed.
- (vii) The expansion of the existing recycling scheme in the trial area, to accept a wider range of recyclable materials, be noted.
- (viii) The new recycling service be continued in the trial area, until determination of long term funding from the Scottish Executive.

281. THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE – BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2006/07 TO 2008/09

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (06/290) presenting the Business Management and Improvement Plan for The Environment Service for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of the report pertaining to The Environment Service and the interests of this Committee, be approved.
- (ii) Reports detailing performance during 2006/07 and each subsequent year of the Plan, following their presentation to the Standards & Scrutiny Committee, be submitted for the information of the Environment Committee.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH IS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973

282. STRATEGIC WASTE FACILITIES – STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE, STRATEGIC WASTE FUNDING AND LANDFILL ALLOWANCE

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (06/289) drawing together several linked areas of work in connection with the development of the Council's strategic waste requirements, aiming to overcome the Council's reliance on landfill, and to minimise financial liabilities arising from Landfill Allowance legislation.

Resolved:

- (i) The position with the submission of the Waste Strategic Outline Case and application for Strategic Waste Funding to the Scottish Executive, be noted.
- (ii) To commend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the procurement of waste facilities based on:
 - a) tendering contracts for Materials Recovery and In Vessel Composting under European Restricted Procedure;
 - b) letting a larger contract for an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant, under either the Restricted or Negotiated Procedure. The scale, complexity and risk of this procurement would necessitate a Public Private Partnership approach;
 - c) a separate contract for the Council's landfill requirements, to replace the existing landfill contract which expires in 2009, with the delivery of these arrangements being through the establishment of a dedicated contract procurement and monitoring team, subject to the availability of suitable funding.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Environment) be instructed to write to the Scottish Executive, requesting that the Scottish Executive reconsiders its decision not to fund local authority waste procurement costs from the Strategic Waste Fund.
- (iv) To commend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee an investigation of the procurement options in relation to securing a site for an energy from waste facility in the Perth and Kinross area.
- (v) The Executive Director (Environment) be instructed to write to the Scottish Minister for the Environment, formally requesting that the Landfill Allowance penalties for Perth and Kinross be waived for 2006/07.