



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PANEL

9am to 10.55am

26 March 2014

Present: Councillors Stonard (chair), Carlo (vice chair), Bremner, Kendrick Gihawi, and Grahame (substitute for Councillor Boswell)

Apologies Councillors Boswell, Lubbock and Stammers

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

The environmental strategy officer presented the report. She explained that the report was an overview of actions completed in the 2012 -13 period and targets and objectives for the 2014-15 period. She highlighted pertinent points in the report and along with the environmental strategy manager, answered member's questions.

The WEEE (Waste Electric and Electrical Equipment) recycling project was the first to be held in the city and the environmental services development manager said that he had attended a meeting with Norfolk County Council to discuss ways to continue the project. As the venue for this event was the Postwick park and Ride site, some of the customers who attended the event lived outside of the Norwich City boundary. He had discussed with Norfolk County Council ways for local authorities to work together to hold more of the events. Local authorities would split the costs of holding the events and the tonnage of materials collected. Initial discussions had also been held with Biffa to scope the viability of having a dedicated WEEE collection round.

Biomass boilers for domestic use were also being investigated as a possible new technology to introduce into the council's housing stock. A member expressed concerns that biomass imported from other countries could have environmental impacts such as deforestation and was keen to ensure that locally sourced materials would be used. The environmental strategy manager agreed to look into the sourcing of the biomass materials.

Members were reminded that the report in front of them was an outline of actions completed during the period 2012-13. It reflected previous decisions and discussions taken from other committees and reports which had been agreed throughout the year. The document was for information only. The environmental strategy manager said that the environmental strategy did not have a summary of the annual progress against objectives and this report was a document which showed the culmination of decisions made.

RESOLVED to note the report.

4. INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES: QUARTERLY UPDATE NUMBER ONE 2014

The environmental services development manager presented the report. It had been agreed that he would report back to the Panel on a quarterly basis. This report provided information on those strategic objectives where there had been significant progress since the last report. An annual report would provide updated information on all the strategic objectives..

The new Material Recycling Facility (MRF) contract would begin on 1 October 2014. Publicity surrounding this would begin in early September 2014 to avoid confusion for residents and contamination of recyclable materials before the start of the contract. All recycling bins would be re-labelled to ensure that residents knew exactly what could and could not be recycled. The environmental services development manager said that once the operational plan had been finalised in June 2014, he would bring a comprehensive list of the materials which will be able to be recycled before the committee. There would be a television and radio campaign to promote the venture and it was also proposed to re-launch the Recycle for Norfolk website. It was proposed that all local authorities in Norfolk would add a link on their website to the Recycle for Norfolk site to ensure that the same message was relayed to all customers.

The garden waste service had been audited and it was agreed that a new renewal process would be established with an invoice sent to each customer and the service would be removed if payment was not received by the due date. The terms and conditions of the garden waste service had been updated and these could be viewed on the council's website. A survey was sent out to a cross section of residents living in smaller, terraced properties asking if they would consider using the garden waste service if they could have a smaller brown bin. The response to the survey was not sufficient enough to commission a production run of 900 smaller brown bins. Another survey would be undertaken in a different area later in the year to see if there was a more favourable response. Residents were able to share a brown bin and this was promoted on the Norwich City Council website.

The WEEE event had been successful with around 140 customers bringing several items each for recycling. The council had worked in conjunction with the British Heart Foundation who had calculated that around £4700 worth of retail value was to be gained from items brought to the event. A more central site for collections had been considered, but due to most items being bulky, park and ride sites around the city were one of the best locations to hold these events. The project to recycle bulky

items was still in development in conjunction with Norfolk Council and could include recycling items collected by Norwich City Council's bulky items collection service as well as items recovered from housing voids.

A one year trial with Bensons oil and Anglian Water would commence in April and would allow for the recycling of used cooking oils and fats at six sites. There would be no cost to the council for this trial service. Bensons were committed to cleaning any spills at the sites and replacing the tanks when full.

The introduction of a new scheme for city centre properties which currently used the white sacks for recycling collections was being introduced in April. Disposable blue sacks would be delivered to the 357 city centre properties currently using the white sack programme as well as to the additional 624 properties which were currently without a recycling service. This meant that for these properties, the refuse and recycling collection would be on the same day. Collections would be monitored to see if this led to an increase in participation rates

RESOLVED to note the report.

CHAIR