



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PANEL

9am to 10.50am

18 December 2013

Present: Councillors Stonard (chair), Carlo (vice chair), Bremner, Boswell (from item 3), Kendrick (from item 3), Lubbock and Stammers

Apologies: Councillor Gihawi

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2013.

3. INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2013-2020

The environmental service development manager presented the report and together with the head of citywide services answered members' questions. Members were advised that the Integrated waste management strategy 2013-20 (IWMS) had been developed in the context of waste management policy and legislation and that further information could be obtained by following the web links set out at the end of the report.

Discussion ensued in which members considered the proposed objectives for the IWMS 2013-2020. It was noted that there was a recent increase in household residual waste. The government in line with an EU Directive on waste management policy was calling on local councils to reduce residual household waste and that the focus should be on waste prevention and together with increasing the number of materials that could be recycled would divert waste from landfill. A member suggested that the government should take action to ensure manufacturers reduced packaging. Following discussion it was agreed that the head of citywide services would raise this at the waste management partnership. South Norfolk Council and Anglian Water were currently piloting a scheme to recycle cooking oil, where it is collected in containers at recycling banks and recycled as bio-diesel. It was also noted 1:10 households in the city did not participate in food waste recycling and that this could be attributed to the social stigma of wasting food and putting out a "slop bucket".

The head of citywide services said that there was opportunity to increase recycling rates and used the example of glass. Recent figures on the difference between the amount actually being recycled and what could be expected to be in the waste stream suggested that there was another 1,500 tonnes of glass that could be recycled and diverted away from landfill. Once the new co-mingled service was introduced in October next year, this would enable other materials to be recycled therefore making the target of 80% reduction in landfill tonnage by 2020 achievable.

Discussion then ensued on the action plan. Members noted that the city council could not count street sweepings in its recycling figures since they have to be disposed of at the direction of the county council. The Environment Agency has directed that leaf debris from street trees should be disposed of via landfill, rather than being composted. There were concerns about benzenes and “aromatics” from traffic pollution getting into the food chain. The council could only collect food waste from schools where a scheme existed prior to April 2012. The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012, which came into effect in April 2012, prevented district councils rolling out schemes to schools and could result in loss of credits or a charge to the county council. The cost of providing food liners to all households in the city would be £100,000 per annum. However food liners were now sold in most supermarkets and would cost a household just under £8 a year. The council did targeted surveys; for instance, to residents of terraced houses with gardens on whether they would use smaller brown bins for garden waste if available. The panel was advised on how people could be encouraged to recycle and it was noted that this was particularly important for transient groups, such as students. Members were advised that bags were used only in a few locations in the city, such as Elm Hill and that it was intended to extend co-mingled waste collection under the materials recovery facility (MRF) scheme to all households. Members also noted that green boxes might be used to collect waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). However a member pointed out that collection would be sporadic and expressed concern that green boxes would be left out on the streets. The council was not intending to collect all the green boxes in and part of the action plan in 2014 would be to address this issue.

The panel considered that it would like to receive quarterly performance reports. A member requested that percentages should not be used alone but with a base figure. It was noted that recycling figures had increased dramatically over the last 20 years; that there would ultimately be diminishing returns and there was still some way to go to persuade people to recycle and increase targets. Members also sought to review targets annually throughout the period of the strategy. During discussion members noted that there had been a slight increase in residual waste and that this did not correlate with inflation and the recession. It was suggested that this could be due to cheaper products being purchased which needed replacing sooner.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) endorse:-
 - (a) the new set of strategic objectives which will provide greater emphasis on waste prevention alongside the continued development and promotion of recycling services (paragraph 5); and,
 - (b) the headline themes for the new *Service action plan*;

- (2) agree on the content of the quarterly performance reports to the sustainable development panel (as set out in paragraph 7 of the report);
- (3) ask the head of citywide services to request that the Waste Management Partnership considers writing to the Secretary of State calling on the government to introduce measures to reduce packaging.

4. ADOPTION OF EXTENDED LOCAL LIST OF BUILDINGS OUTSIDE CONSERVATION AREAS

The head of planning services presented the report accompanied by the conservation and design officer. He pointed out that the Norwich Society had conducted the survey and the preparation of the list had been a long process due in part to uncertainty about the planning process. The list did not cover conservation areas or areas outside the outer ring-road. The council had rejected some of the buildings proposed for the local list by the Norwich Society as not being robust enough to defend for local listing. These buildings were listed in appendix 3. Members were advised that the cricket pavilion at the former Lakenham Cricket Ground had been removed from the list following the decision of the Planning Inspectorate. The planning inspector had suggested that there should be some record of the building and it was suggested that it should be placed back on the list to ensure that when a new application came forward, there would still be grounds to require that the developer records the building for heritage purposes.

Discussion ensued in which the conservation and design officer answered questions on the merits of individual buildings. He explained that parts of the Norwich Prison buildings on Britannia Road were Grade II listed and therefore not included on the local list. The head of planning services explained that the survey had been a great demand on the Norwich Society's resources with a lot of area to cover. Once the list had been adopted and applied to the development management policies it was hoped that the society would be encouraged to expand beyond the outer ring-road.

A member referred to the unique terraced areas around the city centre and the sense of community and asked whether these could be locally listed. The head of planning services said that some terraced areas were within conservation areas. Retaining common features such as windows, doors and fencing could be achieved by an Article 4 directive. In reply to a question, the head of planning services said that the council was not considering designating any new conservation areas but would be reviewing the boundaries.

RESOLVED to recommend that cabinet adopts an extended local list to incorporate the additional heritage assets, as set out in appendix 1 of the report, but including Lakenham Cricket Pavilion as suggested by officers.

CHAIR