



RURAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Special Meeting

11 January 2012

PRESENT:-

Councillors M Sheldon (Chairman)
P. Baguley, M O'Callaghan, G.E. Botterill, M Gordon, M.C.R. Graham MBE,
E. Holmes, J.B. Rhodes, J Simpson, M Barnes,

As Observers

Councillors P Chandler and J Wyatt

Strategic Director (CM), Head of Central Services (DG)
Head of Regulatory Services (JW), Waste and Grounds Maintenance Manager (RS)
Administrative Assistant (JB)

R44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Orson

R45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rhodes declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Item 5 due to his role as a Leicestershire County Councillor.

In order to cause the least possible disruption to the public, the Chair proposed that the order of items be changed to hear Item 3 last in the event that it be agreed that it was a partially exempt item. This was agreed by Members.

R46. WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE CONTAINER CHARGING & ANNUAL CONTRACT INDEXATION

The Waste and Grounds Maintenance Manager submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which drew attention to options listed in the accompanying report. There were two parts to the report. Firstly, he summarised that providing recycling containers did incur a cost to the Council but also produced some income with the sale of materials. However, savings could be made by implementing charges to the current system of providing free containers to every household.

Members were in agreement that costs to the public should not be excessive and that only new developments should be charged for containers in order to minimise financial burden to existing council tax payers.

Councillor Barnes entered the meeting.

Councillor Rhodes moved to approve the option outlined in sections 2.1 and 10.3., Option 1 only of the submitted report. This was seconded by Councillor Botterill.

Following a vote, it was agreed unanimously to approve the motion.

The Waste and Grounds Maintenance Manager addressed the second part of the report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) discussing the necessity of adopting a new contract indexation system.

Members were concerned that a different index system may prove costly to the Council if inflation or other costs rose unexpectedly.

Councillor O'Callaghan proposed to approve the change of index used to the AWE KA57 index.

The Strategic Director stated that a new index had to be adopted as the current one is no longer available and that it would be effective in 2011/12.

Members agreed that it would be difficult to be certain of future trends in the financial market that could affect the index. The debate resulted in the agreement that the index chosen should be fair and value for money.

Councillor Botterill seconded the proposal.

Following a vote, it was agreed to approve the motion. Councillor Barnes abstained.

RESOLVED that

- (i) a charge for the supply of containers, including any exemptions or discounts desired, be introduced to take effect from 1st April 2012 as follows: a delivery charge of £75 for the supply of a standard set of containers currently to developers per property for new developments
- (ii) the National Index 'AWE KA57' be used as the labour element of the annual indexation adjustment (Baxter's Index) with regards to the value of the Waste management contract.

R47. ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENT BOARD IN LEICESTERSHIRE

The Waste and Grounds Maintenance Manager submitted a report discussing the proposals to establish an Environment Board in Leicestershire. Members were told that much had changed to the structure of the Board to facilitate district Council participation.

A Member questioned if its cross-border activity would be undertaken/looked at.

The Waste and Grounds Maintenance Manager replied that the Board expected to consult and work with neighbouring authorities, including those outside the County boundary.

Members agreed that the Board would have to be pro-active rather than a 'talking shop' to be successful and would need monitoring for progress.

Councillor O'Callaghan proposed approval of the establishment of the Environmental Board.

Members discussed the proposed Board membership and voting rights, questioning the exclusion of some bodies, especially those reflecting the working environment of rural areas.

Councillor Botterill seconded the proposal for the establishment of the Board.

A vote was taken. It was agreed to approve the motion.

RESOLVED that

- (i) members support and approve the establishment of an Environment Board in Leicestershire and the participation of Melton Borough Council on this and;
- (ii) a report is received after the first year of the Board addressing its progress and achievements.

R48. WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE EFFICIENCY AND SAVINGS REVIEW
WASTE TASK GROUP OPTION APPRAISAL OUTCOME

The Chair asked Members to note that an exempt table accompanied the last item. It was noted that providing the figures within the table was not quoted then the debate would be held in open session.

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) drawing attention to options within the report and noting priorities.

Councillor O'Callaghan stated that he did not want to see a reduction in the amount of green waste recycling currently undertaken but agreed the system of moving green waste around the Borough was not efficient.

He proposed to defer the decision for a year to enable the opportunity to assemble an alternative option prepared 'in house'.

Councillor Barnes pointed out that a reduction in the number of recycling containers would be welcomed by many as a means of reducing clutter on the streets.

Members acknowledged a need to make savings and run the Council more efficiently, help meet cuts in funding and reduce the pressure on Council Tax,.

Members debated at length the opportunity for composting green waste using different schemes to encourage house holder take-up. It was agreed that co-mingling other recycling products will also incur savings.

Councillor Gordon seconded Councillor Callaghan's motion.

Councillor Botterill proposed an amendment to approve 'Option C' as detailed in the report, in accordance with recommendation 2.1 of the report

Councillor Barnes seconded the amendment.

A vote was taken on the amendment.
7 voted in favour of the amendment, 2 voted against.

A vote was taken on the original motion.
7 voted against and 2 in favour.

RESOLVED that

A revised method of service delivery presented as Option C (as detailed below) be approved with a view to it being implemented from the earliest practicable date and a supplementary estimate of £15,000 be approved from the Corporate Priorities Reserve to finance the implementation costs

Details of 'Option C':

A reduced annual sum for the contract linked to collection of recyclable materials on a co-mingled basis and the purchase of the materials for a period of 5 years (5 years being the remaining term of the existing contract) and with the management of residents' garden waste being undertaken through a 'green waste' club. The value of the collected co-mingled recycled materials will be based on the value of the actual % split of materials. They would be purchased at an initial rate of £25 per tonne and thereafter the price will be adjusted using a %age split of the collected material measured every 3 months.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman