

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL

**Minutes of a remote meeting of the Environment Excellence Policy
Development Panel of Broadland District Council, held on Monday 23 August
2021 at 6.00pm.**

Committee Members Present: Councillors: K S Kelly (Chairman), N J Brennan, (Vice-Chairman), J F Fisher, S C Gurney, K E Lawrence, G K Nurden, S M Prutton, J M Ward.

Cabinet Member Present: Councillor: J Leggett

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor: D King

Officers in Attendance: The Director People and Communities, Assistant Director Community Services, Assistant Director Finance, Internal Consultancy Lead Waste Services, Senior Governance Officer (EG), the Contracts, Policy and Partnerships Manager and the Committee Officer (JO).

9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Crotch and Cllr Cook.

10 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

11 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC RESOLVED

To exclude the press and public from the meeting for the remaining business because otherwise, information which was exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, would be disclosed to them.

12 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT

The exempt report recommended the award of a ten-year contract to the preferred bidder for the provision of the Council's Strategic Environmental Services contract. The contract included the provision of all waste collection

services including residual, recycling, food waste and street cleansing, with the contract commencing on 1 April 2022. The contract also included the option to extend the contract for up to a further ten years.

The report set out two options for expanding the food waste scheme. Option A was for urban infill, which would lead to collections for an additional 6,124 households across the parishes already covered by the food waste scheme, providing full coverage to these parishes. Option B was for a food waste collection service across the whole District

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence advised the meeting that the procurement had followed a very stringent OJEU exercise and consultants and legal advice had been used throughout the process. The contract had been based on a 60/40 quality/price criteria. The procurement had been carried out in the light of forthcoming changes to the Government waste policies as well as developments in carbon reducing technology. She thanked officers for all their hard work during the procurement process. .

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence suggested that the report recommendation be amended to Option B, instead of Option A. She emphasised that this was a service that residents wanted and that Council Tax payers should be treated equitably and receive the same level of service across the District.

Three bidders had submitted tenders for the contract with bidder C being identified as providing the most economically advantageous tender solution to the Council.

In response to a query the Assistant Director for Finance confirmed that the most cost effective option for the Council was to purchase the refuse vehicles required, as it could borrow at a cheaper rate than a commercial company.

Cllr Nurden left the meeting at 18.48pm

The Assistant Director for Community Services advised the meeting that in making their decision Members needed to be aware of the recent Government consultation on the proposal to introduce a universal weekly food waste collection service from 2024/25 across the whole of the country and from 2023/24 for those areas who currently provided a food waste service. The proposal if approved would come with New Burdens funding to meet the additional costs, but it was unclear if this funding would also be provided to those authorities who already had such a service in place. It was, therefore, recommended that members defer any decision to roll out a universal weekly food waste collection until the Government's position was clear.

A member suggested that it would be wiser to wait until the Council knew the Government's position on funding additional costs before committing to a District wide food waste collection service.

The Panel was also advised that the full roll out of the food collection service across the District would not be delivered until October 2022.

In answer to a query it was confirmed that capacity had been built into the contract to accommodate housing growth in the District.

The Panel voted on the amended recommendation and it was unanimously:

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

To award a contract to **Bidder C** on the basis of Option B for a period of ten years, with the option for a further extension of up to ten years, for the provision of the Council's Strategic Environmental Waste services.

(The meeting concluded at 7.12 pm)

Chairman