

## Environmental Excellence Panel

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Minutes of a meeting of the **Environmental Excellence Panel** held by video link on **28 January 2021** at **6.00pm** when there were present:

Cllr K S Kelly – Chairman

Cllr N J Brennan

Cllr K E Lawrence

Cllr S M Prutton

Cllr D J Britcher

Cllr J Leggett

Cllr J M Ward

Cllr J F Fisher

Cllr G K Nurden

Cllr S Catchpole and Cllr T Mancini-Boyle also attended the meeting.

Also in attendance were the Director of People and Communities, Assistant Director Community Services, Assistant Director Regulatory, Environmental, Internal Consultancy Lead – Waste, Policy and Partnerships Officer, Recycling and Partnerships Officers (MB, NN, LF), Contracts, Policy & Partnerships Manager, Internal Consultancy Assistant – Waste Systems and Processes, National Management Trainee and the Democratic Services Officers (JH and JO).

Alex Davies and James McMahon, from Eunomia, were also in attendance.

### **55 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **56 MATTERS ARISING**

*Minute No: 51 – Progress on Environmental Strategy Delivery Planning*

The Assistant Director Regulatory advised the Panel that the Environmental Coordinator post would be advertised shortly

He also informed members that scoping for electric vehicle charging points was being undertaken by the Economic Development Team. The Team were currently identifying suppliers, before considering contracts and energy terms and financial details. The charging points would initially be on land owned by the Council. A project plan on this would be brought to a future Panel meeting once the scheme had been developed further.

The National Management Trainee informed the Panel that a lot of work was being undertaken on the tree planting project. The Tree Warden coordinator had offered assistance and would be willing to plant ten percent of the

Council's target (13,000 trees) using trees from the Tree Warden's nursery. He had also suggested producing a pamphlet for a heritage trail where members could plant native trees as part of the target.

A number of parish councils were looking at greening projects and might also like to get involved in the project. Work was also being undertaken to adopt best practice in managing trees to ensure that the project was self-sustaining and it was also intended to work closely with communities to develop a sense of ownership for the trees. Members were advised that they could be reassured that a lot of groundwork had been done for the Environmental Coordinator, so that the project could start promptly once the post holder was in place.

The Assistant Director Regulatory informed members that he would be bringing a report to the next meeting with proposals to review the enforcement policy in respect of fly-tipping.

### **57 RECYCLING INITIATIVES UPDATE REPORT**

The Policy and Partnerships Officer presented the report, which outlined proposals that the Council could explore further to achieve a 60 percent recycling rate by 2025, following input from the Panel at its meeting on 8 October 2020.

The Panel had requested that officers explore the following areas to achieve this:

- Behaviour change
- Extending food waste collection
- Providing smaller bins for some residents
- Text messaging to residents
- Improving communication Kerbside Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment collections
- Incentives for garden waste

Analysis of the last 10 years had shown that recycling in Broadland has stayed fairly consistent although dry recycling had decreased slightly and food and garden waste had increased.

Recycling waste decreased slightly overall following an early decade high, this had been due to tighter markets and more material rejected at the sorting facility to improve the quality of material.

To achieve a 60 percent recycling rate the tonnage of recycling collected would need to increase by 5,173 tons or 21 percent.

Implementing district wide food waste and garden waste collections would increase the recycling rate, but this would be at a significant increase in cost.

Central Government had indicated through the Resources and Waste Strategy 2018 and the Environmental Bill that it would like to see a 65 percent recycling target achieved by 2035, as well as a range of other waste reduction measures. The Government had, however, committed to funding the net costs of new burdens on local authorities arising from any new statutory duties introduced to increase consistency in recycling.

In the interim a short term action plan had been drawn up to encourage behaviour change, reduce residual waste and increase opportunities for recycling by engagement and developing partnerships.

The next steps were to finalise the Action Plan, including clearly identifying the required resources, measures and outcomes and commencing work in collaboration with partners.

It was also proposed to consider and respond to consultations set by Government concerning requirements for consistency in recycling collections, new burdens funding and statutory guidance with a view to informing medium and long-term work plans.

It was intended to prepare an update report to be presented to the Panel in autumn 2021 detailing progress and plans to deliver consistency in waste and recycling collections.

In response to a query it was confirmed that incentivising techniques to encourage an element of competitiveness in respect of recycling in communities could be an area that was looked at.

Members noted that Household Waste Recycling Centres were operated by the County Council.

The Panel was advised that Veolia were looking at the potential of undertaking a limited trial of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) collection over the next few months and that the materials would be collected in cages attached to the existing waste collection vehicles.

Members were also informed that the current waste contract had capacity for a limited expansion of the food waste service to a further 1,700 households. This was expected to be rolled out during April 2021 and would be for properties adjacent to current rounds. It would be supported by a

comprehensive communications campaign. Part funding of the capital costs for this expansion would potentially be covered by Norfolk County Council, subject to the approval of a business case.

Following a discussion by members on the potential for the introduction of smaller residual bins and three weekly collections Cllr Fisher volunteered his ward as area in which a trial could be carried out.

The Assistant Director Community Services advised the meeting that reducing the contamination of recycling was a key element in achieving a 60 percent recycling rate, as last year of the 1,245 tons of recycling collected 210 tons (16 percent) had been rejected.

### **AGREED**

To

- (1) support scoping of reducing residual waste work streams, as outlined in Section 4 that will contribute to increasing the Council's recycling rate and are outside of the Government proposals; and
- (2) support commencement of behavioural change work streams as in section 4.2, that will contribute to increasing recycling rates, reducing residual tonnage and reduce contamination rates and are outside of the Government proposals; and
- (3) note current situation and to support participation in the Government's consultations to inform the consistency requirements for food and garden waste collections in preparation for introduction in 2023.

## **58 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.

## **59 UPDATE ON WASTE SERVICES REVIEW**

Alex Davies and James McMahon from Eunomia gave the Panel a presentation on progress with the Strategic Environmental Services procurement. Members also considered an update from the Internal

Consultancy Lead – Waste, on the Waste Customer Services Review.  
Finally members received a brief outline of the review being undertaken of the two Council's waste depots.

Following consideration of the three updates it was:

### **AGREED**

To note the report.

In closing the meeting the Chairman emphasised the commercially sensitive nature of the papers before the Panel and that they should remain confidential.

*The meeting closed at 7.30pm.*