

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environmental Excellence Panel** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **Thursday 22 March 2018** at **4.00 pm** when there were present:

Mr J F Fisher – Chairman

Mrs J Leggett
Mr I J Mackie

Mr G K Nurden
Mrs B H Rix

Mr J M Ward

Also in attendance were the Private Sector Housing Manager, Environmental Protection Manager (Special Projects), Environmental Protection Manager, Senior Communications Officer (Norfolk Waste Partnership) and the Committee Officer (JO).

39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Grady and Mr Tapp.

40 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

41 WARM HOME FUND BID

The Private Sector Housing Manager advised the meeting that, subject to contract, the Council was to be awarded £3.2m from the Warm Homes Fund to address households in fuel poverty. The funding was for a Norfolk wide project that would be delivered by Broadland and match funded by our partners.

The fund was split into three categories. Category 1 was for urban homes and communities and would mostly be for new gas heating systems. Category 2 was for rural homes and communities and would primarily focus on 'non-gas' solutions, such as air source heat pumps, oil and LPG. Category 3 was a revenue fund that would facilitate the delivery of the first two categories by identifying households in fuel poverty. It would also cover emergency repairs and fund two employees who would undertake home visits to assist households to access cheaper fuel.

The Council should receive £800,000 for Category 1, £1.7m for Category 2 and £800,000 for Category 3.

The urban category was likely to deliver 165 boiler installations. The rural category would deliver around 250 boilers and 70 heat source pumps.

Members were advised that the scheme would be far simpler to administer than the Green Deal and the whole process would be carried out under ECO Flex governance criteria to ensure that the scheme was managed efficiently, effectively and economically.

The Panel congratulated the Energy Team on winning the bid.

42 NORFOLK WASTE PARTNERSHIP WORKSTREAMS

The report requested that the Panel noted and endorsed the revised Norfolk Waste Partnership (NWP) Work Programme.

At the last NWP Board meeting Members had supported the continuation of the four workstreams in its Work Programme together with a fifth workstream to explore and strengthen secondary market reprocessing capacity in or near to Norfolk.

The workstreams were:

- (1) Infrastructure to support Resource and Waste Management Services
- (2) Reuse and Repair Services to prevent wastage
- (3) Collection system improvements to maintain recycle quality
- (4) Communications and behaviour change initiatives to underpin services
- (5) Grow indigenous reprocessing capacity for Norfolk's quality recycle

Each of the workstreams had been incorporated into the proposed NWP Business Plan, which would be presented to the NWP Board on 27 March 2018 for final approval.

Workstream 1 would include a review of depots / waste facilities across Norfolk, an assessment of future opportunities and an infrastructure options appraisal tool. The Panel was advised that the Council had pulled out of the proposed shared depot at Norwich Airport following the County Council's decision to withdraw from the Highways depot project and the low sale value of the Frettenham site. Options for a major renovation of the Frettenham site would be brought to a future meeting of the Panel.

One of the projects for Workstream 2 would be to salvage high quality furniture and encourage its reuse rather than disposal. Workstream 3 would include a project to increase householder participation in recycling. Workstream 4 would include a Call to Action to prevent avoidable food waste (this included Community Fridges).

Workstream 5 was being added in response to the loss of the Chinese market for a significant proportion of recyclable material and the need to stimulate its use locally. The Project would set out to identify recyclers and re-processors in Norfolk and determine their needs, to assess if they could be provided by the MRF. Research would also be conducted to determine if comparable countries to the UK were already producing recyclable materials for their local markets and what those materials were.

The NWP had five priorities for 2017/18:

- Anti-contamination – a ‘give your recycling a little bit of love’ campaign was being run to reduce contamination.
- Food Waste – Community Fridges were being launched across the county with one opening in the Dussindale Centre, Thorpe St Andrew on 27 April 2018. In the first three months of the project four tonnes of food had already been redistributed free from 11 Community Fridges. Dry goods could also be donated to the scheme.
- Nappies – a campaign targeted at organisations dealing with new parents would seek to make clear that nappies were not recyclable.
- The Final campaign was for the last two priority: plastics and textiles, and would have a target audience of 16-34 year olds who might not recycle at all and the over 55's who did not always recycle correctly. It would also include a Norfolk Design Challenge competition for a garment made out of PET polyester.

The NWP 2018/19 priorities were: improving the quality of recyclate; explaining the recycling rules and food waste prevention.

A Member suggested that liaising with the UEA Students Union might be a useful means of encouraging recycling amongst younger people.

RESOLVED

to

- (1) note the contents of the report and endorse the NWP Work Programme; and
- (2) endorse and confirm the Council's support for Workstream 5 (Grow indigenous reprocessing capacity for Norfolk's quality recyclate).

43 UPDATE ON MRF CONTRACT – PAPER MARKETS

In July 2017 China announced that it would no longer accept contaminated plastic and paper waste for recycling from January 2018. This would have a significant impact on the recycling industry.

NEWS was using a broker to source new markets; however it was clear that competition for them would be fierce. The MRF had also altered its processing methods to reduce contamination rates. However, some containers had already been rejected by the Chinese inspectors in this county due to nappy contamination.

Paper was currently being stockpiled across the country, but this could not be done indefinitely as it would degrade. Discussions were therefore ongoing with paper recyclers in this country; however they required a better quality paper than was currently produced by the MRF.

Recycled paper was also being given away, but it might get to the stage where the MRF would have to pay to have it taken away. Due to this dip in the market it was unlikely that the dividend for the NEWS shareholders that was forecast last year would be forthcoming.

The meeting closed at 6.05 pm