

Environmental Excellence Panel

Agenda

Date

Thursday 22 March 2018

Members of the Environmental Excellence Panel

Time

Mr J F Fisher (Chairman)

4.00 pm

Mr R F Grady Mrs J Leggett Mr I J Mackie Mr G K Nurden Mr V Ray-Mortlock Mrs B H Rix Mr V B Tapp Mr J M Ward

Place

Trafford Room
Thorpe Lodge
1 Yarmouth Road
Thorpe St Andrew
Norwich

Contact

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If any member wishes to clarify details relating to any matter on the agenda they are requested to contact the relevant Head of Service.

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	AGENDA	Page No
1	To receive declarations of interest under Procedural Rule no 8	
2	Apologies for absence	
3	Minutes of meeting held on 7 December 2018	3 – 8
4	Matters arising	
5	Warm Home Fund Bid	
	To receive a verbal update from the Private Sector Housing Manager.	
6	Norfolk Waste Partnership Workstreams	9 – 21
	To receive a report setting out the projects in the Norfolk Waste Partnership Workstreams.	
7	Update on MRF Contract – Paper Markets	
	To receive a verbal update from the Environmental Protection Manager (Special Projects).	
8	Thorpe Community Fridge	
	To receive a verbal update from the Environmental Protection Manager (Special Projects).	

P C Kirby Chief Executive Minutes of a meeting of the **Environmental Excellence Panel** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **7 December 2017** at **4.00 pm** when there were present:

Mr J F Fisher - Chairman

Mrs J Leggett Mr V Ray-Mortlock Mr V B Tapp Mr I J Mackie Mrs B H Rix Mr J M Ward

Mrs Mancini-Boyle also attended the meeting for item 35 – Environment Agency Proposal to Rationalise Parts of the Main River Network

Also in attendance were the Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Housing and Environmental Services, Head of Finance and Revenue Services, Food, Safety and Licensing Team Manager, Private Sector Housing Manager, Environmental Manager and the Committee Officer (JO).

33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

34 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Minute no: 29 - Community Renewables Update

The Private Sector Housing Manager confirmed that he would forward the information sheets on Community Grants to Members.

The Panel was also advised that there was still £1,250 available in the Community Renewables Fund for projects in the district.

35 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY PROPOSAL TO RATIONALISE PARTS OF THE MAIN RIVER NETWORK

The report informed the Panel about a proposal from the Environment Agency to rationalise the Main River network and the potential implications for Broadland.

The Environment Agency was leading on a pilot project that could see some Main Rivers reclassified as Ordinary Watercourses (known as 'de-maining').

This would transfer maintenance powers to the relevant Internal Drainage Board or the District Council; however there would be no additional resources to accompany this transference of power. The Environment Agency had suggested that these stretches of river would need little maintenance, although they had so far provided no evidence of this.

If the power was transferred to the Internal Drainage Board they could increase their levy to take account of any extra costs. This would also impact on the Council as it would be taken into account as part of the £5 limit that Council Tax could be increased by before triggering a local referendum.

The Environment Agency had confirmed that Internal Drainage Boards had expressed an interest in being given the power to carry out essential maintenance under their supervision.

The Head of Housing and Environmental Services confirmed that he had voiced his concerns with the Environment Agency over this issue and they had confirmed that they would not de-main where the local authority or Internal Drainage Board did not want the power.

A consultation was to have been held in December; however given the concerns expressed it had now been deferred until summer 2018.

The Chairman suggested that the Internal Drainage Boards should be made aware of the financial consequences for the Council if they took on this responsibility. It was also suggested that expert opinion on the condition of the watercourses be sought, as well as details of how much the Environment Agency was spending on their upkeep. It was noted that the Internal Drainage Boards had a very good technical advisor who might be able to assist with this.

Members were advised that the Norfolk Rivers Special Levy collected through Council Tax was £600,000, so the costs of maintaining the watercourses could be considerable.

The Head of Finance and Revenue Services confirmed that she would liaise with the 70 other local authorities with Internal Drainage Boards to lobby the Department of Communities and Local Government regarding this issue.

RESOLVED

to recommend to the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence that further information be sought from the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards regarding this issue, so that an informed response could be made to the consultation.

36 DIVERSIFICATION OF FOOD SAFETY SERVICE

The report set out proposals to expand, develop and diversify the food safety service with a view to future proofing service delivery within Broadland as well as assisting businesses and generating revenue.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) had announced plans for future food regulation in the UK. The aim was to create a modern, flexible and responsive regulatory service.

The following five principles had been identified:

- (1) Businesses were responsible for producing food that was safe and genuine what it says it is, and should be able to demonstrate that they do so. Consumers have the right to information to help them make informed choices about the food they buy businesses have a responsibility to be transparent and honest in their provision of that information.
- (2) FSA and regulatory partners' decisions should be tailored, proportionate and based on a clear picture of UK food businesses.
- (3) The regulator should take into account all available sources of information.
- (4) Businesses doing the right thing for consumers should be recognised, action will be taken against those that do not.
- (5) Businesses should meet the costs of regulation, which should be no more than they need to be.

To meet these changes a proposal had been drawn up and the Panel was asked to consider the diversification of the Food Safety Service with the launch of a Broadland Food Safe Brand to champion food safety in Broadland.

The brand would initially pursue the following key areas:

- (1) In liaison with Broadland Training Services, deliver specialist food safety training which was not currently provided.
- (2) To provide specialist advice, guidance and information visits over and above those visits normally provided to businesses and currently beyond any statutory service requirement.

In each of the above, levy fees for the services on a cost recovery basis.

In pursuing these activities, other potential opportunities, projects and activities could emerge for the Food Team to develop and deliver with a key aim to assist Broadland's food businesses to improve, develop and prosper.

Members were advised that the Food Safety Team officer costs would be met from within existing budgets and costs associated with marketing and promotion from within existing Communications Team budgets.

The Panel was advised that a high hygiene rating could have a very beneficial impact on a food business and this was increasing due to social media. Of the 870 food businesses in Broadland, currently included in the rating scheme 714 were rated the maximum five.

Members commended the proposal, as it would be good for businesses as well as generating income for the Council. It was also noted that the service could be provided for businesses in neighbouring local authorities also and that it could be an opportunity to work collaboratively with South Norfolk Council.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

- (1) to agree to the diversification of the Food Safety Service; and
- (2) delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence and the Food, Safety and Licensing Team Manager to take all necessary steps to implement the decision.

37 ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY REVISION

The report sought Members' views regarding updating the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan to cover the period 2017-2020.

The existing Environmental Strategy covered the period 2013-2016 and brought together the Council's green initiatives and set the direction for the future delivery of low carbon projects and programmes. It was proposed that the Strategy be revised to reflect the Government's Clean Growth Strategy, which proposed a means of achieving a low carbon future for the country and ensure an affordable energy supply whilst stimulating economic growth. Therefore, the Strategy would outline the Council's low carbon priorities, and highlight the Council's key achievements and planned future actions.

In addition there would be a number of key themes identified in the Environmental Strategy including:

- Adapting to climate change
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Sustainable development
- Procurement
- Transport
- Waste
- Water

It was proposed that a number of workshop style meetings would be held with key internal stakeholders to inform the revised draft Strategy. The resulting draft Strategy would be used to consult more widely with neighbouring authorities, parish and town councils and local environmental and charity organisations.

A Member suggested that as part of the themes wider sustainability issues should be considered, such as flora and fauna, as the district had an abundance of natural wealth. It was also suggested that a workshop be scheduled to allow Members to contribute to the Strategy.

It was also noted that measures to reduce car usage and promote public transport would be linked to the Council's growth agenda.

It was envisaged that the consultation process would be conducted over a six week period and the resulting Strategy considered by the Environmental Excellence Panel before submission to Cabinet in May/June 2018.

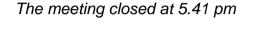
The Chairman suggested that revisiting the provision of double glazing at Thorpe Lodge to improve the Council's carbon footprint should also be looked at, as part of wider energy efficiency measures.

RESOLVED

to recommend to the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence that a Member Workshop be held as part of the Environmental Strategy consultation process.

38 HEAD OF HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Chairman advised the Panel that the Richard Block, the Head of Housing and Environmental Services, was leaving the Council to take up a senior role at another local authority. Members thanked Richard for all his hard work at Broadland and wished him well for the future.



NORFOLK WASTE PARTNERSHIP WORKSTREAMS

Portfolio Holder: Environmental Excellence

Wards Affected: All

1 SUMMARY

1.1 At a previous Panel, Members were provided with an overview of the Norfolk Waste Partnership (NWP) Work Programme. This has recently been reviewed and at the last NWP Board, Members supported the continuation of the NWP's four workstreams together with a fifth workstream to explore and strengthen secondary market reprocessing capacity in or closer to Norfolk.

2 KEY DECISION

2.1 This is not a key decision.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The NWP Officer Liaison Team has developed a SMART Business Plan setting out the five NWP workstreams. These were tabled for discussion at the recent Member Workshop on 27 February 2018. Further comments and ideas generated from the workshop together with the setting of realistic timescales for each projects within each of the five workstreams have been incorporated into the proposed NWP Business Plan which is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 As a reminder the NWP's workstreams are:
 - Infrastructure to support Resource and Waste Management Services
 - Reuse and Repair Services to prevent wastage
 - Collection system improvements to maintain recyclate quality
 - Communications and behaviour change initiatives to underpin services
 - Grow indigenous reprocessing capacity for Norfolk's quality recyclate

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 It has been noted that Partnership projects need to be undertaken with the level of existing officer resource available across the NWP constituent authorities. Councils have also committed funding for the communications

work and the Senior Communications Officer until 31 March 2019.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 The detailed Work Programme will be presented to the NWP Board meeting on 27 March 2018 for final approval.

7 OPTIONS

- 7.1 The Environmental Excellence Panel has the following options:
 - (1) to note the contents of the report and endorse the NWP Work Programme; or
 - (2) any other action the Panel deems appropriate.

Sarah Bruton
Environmental Services Manager (Special Projects)

Background Papers

None

For further information on this report please email Paula Boyce (Senior NWP Comms Officer) at paula.boyce@norfolk.gov.uk



[2 March 2018 Version 1.0 for OLT/SOG/Board]



Norfolk Waste Partnership – BUSINESS PLAN (2018/19 onwards)

Workstream 1 – Infrastructure to support resource & waste management services (Lead: Nicola Young)

Project	What?	How?	Why?	Aim/Target	Measure
1.1	Depot Review	Review current waste infrastructure provision including: Depots, recycling centres and transfer stations Current land used for waste management across the County Known pressures and barriers on current provision including transport infrastructure, housing growth, forecast waste levels, contractual issues, leases Outline key risks and opportunities e.g. Brexit, Fiscal Measures, new legislation Costs associated with current infrastructure provision Ideal provision of facilities based on key	Understand the current infrastructure in Norfolk and the potential impact of growth.	Shared understanding of waste infrastructure provision and pressures across Norfolk	Mapping and report completed
1.2	Assessment of Future Opportunities	 determining factors Potential for co-location of services and the benefits and costs Proposed infrastructure changes to HWRC network and future provision of transfer stations e.g. along A11 corridor Site specific plans if required Potential for funding and developing local facilities Specific consideration to the following 	Ensure opportunities to improve the waste infrastructure are fully explored and projects have business cases ensuring they are funding ready.	Increase efficient use of Norfolk's waste infrastructure network Improve health, safety and environment standards on our waste sites. Reduce revenue costs and	Business cases

		waste streams: Reuse, Food and Trade Waste Link in with reuse hub under reuse and repair workstream		increase potential capital receipts through release of land. Identify costs, barriers and key risks to development	
1.3	Infrastructure Options Appraisal Tool	Explore scope to develop a tool to review infrastructure options and assess total systems costs. The appraisal tool should inform the following scenarios: • Service change impacts on infrastructure, such as contract changes • Housing and waste growth and cost implications for infrastructure • Procurement of services • Potential legislative pressures/ impact Develop appropriate NWP policies for dealing with change (smoothing, evaluation, tipping away, round optimisation costs)	Understand the whole system cost for infrastructure change and implement appropriate change mechanisms	Development of a tool for assessing costs.	Agreed methodology for dealing with changes

Workstream 2 – Reuse and Repair services to prevent wastage (Lead: Alun Housago) **Project** What? How? Whv? Aim/Target Measure Expand and refine Reuse Shop network. To increase reuse, income and Increased reuse tonnage. Number of 2.1 Increase reuse from **Recycling Centres** diversion of materials from waste. reuse shops. Work with charity partner East Anglian Air Increased income. Ambulance to raise profile and throughput. Tonnage. Reduced residual waste Focused communication on and off site. Cashflow. Increased commercialisation, eg pricing Increased strategies and links to retail. awareness. Diversion of items from To increase diversion of materials 2.2 **Reuse Hub** Focus on a strong financial driver, eg paint Avoided costs. Development reuse, deliver that as a core element and then to new users, eg paint, furniture, waste stream build additional elements around that. WEEE. Tonnes reused. Reduce system costs. Build on reuse models used elsewhere. To reduce costs. A sub-regional approach, ie Complete business case and options appraisal. with Suffolk. External funding, eg LEP. 2.3 **Reuse Network** Reuse Locator Tool on Recycle for Norfolk To divert materials from disposal Online tool optimised and Locator tool website to channel shift customer choices by enhancing existing routes or kept up to date, promoted embedded. towards reuse and away from disposal. developing new ones. and being used. Locator tool Establish a reuse stakeholder network. Increased reuse from To increase understanding and usage. participation in reuse and repair. Recycling Centres Network fully To promote joint working Increase repair by established collaborative joint working

Works	Workstream 3 – Collection system improvements to maintain recyclate quality (Lead: Chris Eardley/Scott Martin)					
Project	What?	How?	Why?	Aim/Target	Measure	
3.1	Increase householder participation rates for existing recycling and other diversion schemes	Norwich City to work with WRAP to measure impact of householder interventions for food waste collections.	To increase take-up and capture rates for an existing services. To maximise return on investment.	To measure the impact on dry mixed recyclables, food waste and residual waste of these food waste interventions.	WRAP delivered. Results available and disseminated across the NWP as key learning points to improve collection services.	
3.2	Improve the quality of recycling through operational system/process checks and inspections	 Develop tried and tested 'tools' to ensure consistency across collection services and to maintain or improve the quality of recyclate. To include, for example, crew and householder: Promotion of recycling rules via education Reinforcement of recycling rules via nudge and remind (bin tags) Enforcement of recycling rules (bin tags) Toolbox talks for frontline and support staff to ensure they understand the reasoning behind WCA policies Review of policy in favour of picking-up only recycling bins containing the required items (Clean, Dry and Not Bagged) Pooled resources to exploit the economies of scale across the NWP of having a greater impact with campaigns, both broad and focused (link to 3.3 and work stream 4) 	To improve the quality of recyclables.	An agreed county-wide toolbox of measures for tagging and dealing with contaminated recycling bins Incoming audits of dry mixed recyclables show a reduction in the amount of weight-based contamination Reduction in the number of failed re-processor inspections (need to consult NEWS for this target)	Adopted contaminated bin protocol in place MRF Audits Increased, accurate use of bin tags by crews Re-processor material inspection results	

3.3	Explore and develop	Review funding approach within the	To reduce total system costs.	Reduced total system	Funding options
	future funding model	Partnership to facilitate and incentivize		costs.	developed.
		improved recycling and waste reduction	To increase recycling, reuse and		
		performance and reduce total system costs.	composting.	Improved performance.	Preferred
					approach
		Evaluate options that meet Board requirement	To reduce residual waste.	A saving for WDA and	established.
		that no party is to be worse off (NWP Board		increased share of avoided	
		Meeting 13 Dec 17).		costs for WCAs.	

Project	What?	How?	Why?	Aim/Target	Measure
4.1	Contamination –	Continue 'Give your recycling a little bit of	Contamination costs		
	improve quality of	love' brand:		A decrease in	
	recyclate		De-values secondary products for	contamination rates	MRF audit
		 Focus on what can & can't be recycled 	market		
		 Look to incentivise or build competitions 'Star Bin' 			
		 Target items and explain level of cleaning required, say how clean etc. 			
		Tailor marketing collateral to socio- demographic groups via ACORN/MOSAIC data sets and NCC's Profiler			
		 Explore business case for use of a NWP contracted 'door-knocking' resource for target demo-graphics 			
.2	Contamination –	Develop resources to communicate how to	Householders' & visitors' to		
	explain the rules	recycle in Norfolk depending on property	Norfolk need to keep material		
		type:	clean	An increase in quality of recyclate	MRF audit
		Flats, communal properties & HMOs	Collection crews' role in only		
		 Second and holiday homes 	emptying bins containing clean		
		 Support enforcement work undertaken at point of collection 	material is key		
		 Link to 3.2 to support conformance with an adopted contaminated bin protocol across the NWP area 			
.3	Prevention – promote	Create a 'Call to Action' across the Norfolk	Norfolk (& Suffolk) can act as a	Norfolk seen as leading the	
	avoidable food waste	food & drink value chain:	catalyst. Demonstrates leadership	way nationally	Positive
	prevention	 Aim to prevent avoidable food waste 	working with the local food sector.		publicity abou
		 Support better participation in food 		Greater awareness of how	Norfolk
		waste collection services for	Connects householders' to the	to avoid food waste	
		unavoidable food wastes	value chain & will demonstrate		

	•	Continue to promote re-distribution	practical waste prevention	Drop in residual waste	Reduction in residual waste
		of usable food items (e.g. Community	Deduces seet bounder on secondition	tonnage over time	residual waste
		Fridges)	Reduces cost burden on council tax		
	•	Support continued promotion of	payers		
		home composting			Increase in
	•	Connect at a national level with food			participation -
		waste reduction initiatives & policy			food waste
		drivers.			collection

Works	stream 5 – Grow inc	digenous reprocessing capacity for Nor	folk's quality recyclate (Lead:	lan Roe)	
Project	What?	How?	Why?	Aim/Target	Measure
5.1	Exploration and scoping	Map what recyclers/reprocessors exist in Norfolk and scope commercial value requirements: Liaise with economic development, planning, LEP, Chamber of Commerce/Trade re: funding opportunities & need Determine demand - Identify material specialisms, source of secondary material to date, ability to flex sourcing, purchase power Quantify supply – material that can be supplied to local market, define local Quality of product – understand what al local market requires and the cost to produce it	To determine feasibility prior to expending resources	To identify what already exists in terms of the local market	First phase on scoping complete Feasibility report available
5.2	Identify methods to add value to MRF & HWRC products	Working with NEWS, review markets and potential to reprocess secondary or make primary products in Norfolk	To determine feasibility prior to committing resources	To identify what is achievable in the short, medium and long term.	That commercial discussions can move forward
5.3	Maintain awareness of national policy	 Contribute to the national agenda to grow the UK's reprocessing capacity: Track development of Resources & Waste Strategy Be ready to grasp opportunities that arise from the Industrial Strategy etc. Be part of networks: Resources Association, NAWDO, LGA & RECOUP 	To demonstrate Norfolk is open for business To keep abreast of opportunities	Maintain a watching brief and influence where/when required	Norfolk's views help shape the national agenda and vice versa

Workstream Timeline and Deliverables (2018/19)

Workstream 1 – Infrastructure to support resource & waste management services (Nicola Young)

	Project's Activity	Estimated Delivery Date	Member Sponsor / Lead Officer(s)
1.1	Depot Review	End Sept 2018	
1.2	Assessment of Future Opportunities	End March 2019	
1.3	Infrastructure Options Appraisal Tool	End March 2019	

Comments:

Note - Delivery dates are dependent on securing available resource to support project lead.

Workstream 2 - Reuse and Repair services to prevent wastage (Alun Housago)

	Project's Activity	Estimated Delivery Date	Member Sponsor / Lead Officer(s)
2.1	Increase reuse from Recycling Centres	March 2019	
2.2	Reuse Hub Development – business plan developed and approach agreed and implemented	March 2020	
2.3	Reuse Network – Online tool and network established	March 2019	

Comments:

- 9 reuse shops open at Recycling Centres.
- Online locator tool being developed for Recycle For Norfolk website to guide enquiries to reuse options ahead of collection or RC disposal points by asking for the item / material a householder wants to dispose of then identifying options.
- New reuse charity partner Norfolk Air Ambulance.
- Reuse hub concept to start with focus on a joint paint based hub with Suffolk using a Cambridgeshire model.

Workstream 3 - Collection system improvements to maintain recyclate quality (Chris Eardley/Scott Martin)

	Project's Activity	Estimated Delivery Date	Member Sponsor / Lead Officer(s)
3.1	Increase householder participation rates for existing recycling and other diversion schemes	By October 2018	
3.2	Improve the quality of recycling through operational system/process checks and inspections	By December 2018	
3.3	Explore and develop future funding model	By March 2019	

Comments:

3.3 is being developed within scope set by Board that no party should be worse off and three models are being developed by Eunomia as a part of the Wrap funded Norwich project: (a) Increased payments from the WDA to WCAs for new services that are shown to save the WDA money (b) Target based avoided costs sharing (c) WDA makes arrangements to process WCA materials and pays gate fee and makes additional payment to WCAs. The outcome of this work will be presented to the Board in Summer 2018.

Workstream 4 – Communications and behaviour change initiatives to underpin services (Paula Boyce)

	Project's Activity	Estimated Delivery Date	Member Sponsor / Lead Officer(s)
4.1	Contamination – improve quality of recyclate	By December 2018	
4.2	Contamination – explain the rules	By May 2018 (for start of summer)	
4.3	Prevention – promote avoidable food waste prevention	By June 2018 then ongoing	

Comments:

Workstream 5 – Grow indigenous reprocessing capacity for Norfolk's quality recyclate (lan Roe)

	Project's Activity	Estimated Delivery Date	Member Sponsor / Lead Officer(s)
5.1	Exploration and scoping	By March 2019	
5.2	Identify methods to add value to MRF & HWRC products	By March 2019 (in parallel with 5.1)	
5.3	Maintain awareness of national policy	Ongoing	

Comments:

Note - Delivery dates are dependent on securing available resource to support project lead.