

DEVON AUTHORITIES STRATEGIC WASTE COMMITTEE

17 OCTOBER 2018

Present: -

Councillors A Davis (Chair), B Evans, D Mills, D Harvey, R Gilbert, R Sampson, T Wright and R Cann

Apologies:-

Councillors K Lake and C Eginton

* **27** **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

RESOLVED that Councillor A Davis and Councillor T Wright be elected Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the ensuing year.

* **28** **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2018 be signed as a correct record.

* **29** **Chair's Announcement**

The Chair extended an invitation to Members to encourage entries and attend the Recycle Devon Thank You Awards for recycling on 22 March 2019 at 2pm at County Hall.

* **30** **Recycling of Plastic - future collaboration**

In accordance with Standing Order 23(2) Councillor Radford had asked that the Committee consider this item.

The Mid Devon District Council Officer on behalf of Councillor Radford asked about the work of this Committee relating to plastic waste products. The Chair enquired with the representatives of the Councils present on whether plastic waste was exported or dealt within the UK. The majority indicated that most waste plastic was treated within the UK through contract arrangements and some was exported within the EU. The representatives also reported on the range and extent of community forums throughout the Districts set up to promote a plastic free environment and minimisation of plastic waste.

* **31** **Waste Statistics 2017/18**

The Committee considered the Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/18/61) and received a detailed presentation on Devon's Waste Statistics for 2017/18 with individual authority performance data. The headline statistics 2017/18 (change from 2016/17) for Devon and Torbay respectively were:

Recycling Rate (Devon) 54.0% (-1.7%)
Waste Growth (Devon) -1.3%
Highest Performing WCA: Teignbridge at 55.4%.

Recycling Rate (Torbay) 42.6% (1.1%)
Waste Growth (Torbay) +0.5%

All district authorities (except East Devon and North Devon) and Exeter City encountered reductions in recycling performance generally due to reductions in 'dry' recyclables collected

via kerbside and banks. Devon's Household Waste Recycling Centres rate decreased by 9.4% from 81.4% to 72%. This was in the main due to the carpets and mattresses which were heavy items not having an economic outlet for recycling which therefore had to go for recovery or disposal.

The Report also detailed current service provision and plans and progress towards the 'aligned option' in respect of the Waste Collection Authorities in Devon and Torbay.

Members noted that in West Devon recycling rates had reduced which could be attributable to reduced spending on education and campaigning and which was now expected to improve with service changes proposed by the Borough. The Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructures Development and Waste suggested this as a case study on the relationship between decreased publicity and reduced performance.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Davis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Wright and

RESOLVED

- (a) that the performance of the Devon local authorities and Torbay Council be noted;
- (b) that a reduction of 1.3% in waste arisings in Devon be welcomed; and
- (c) that the reduction of 1.7% in the recycling rate for Devon to 54% be noted.

* **32** **Budget Proposal 2019/20**

(Councillor A Davis declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of her membership of the Exmoor National Park Authority)

The Committee considered the Report of the Chief Officer Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste (HIW/18/62) on the proposed funding allocations for 2019/20 which totalled £182,800 covering: Re-use credits (£49,000), Don't Let Devon Go to Waste (£41,000), Waste and Recycling Advisors Contract (£85,000), a litter and fly tipping campaign (£6,800); and audit charges (£1000).

The Committee received a presentation on the activities of the Waste and Recycling Advisors working on behalf of the Devon Authorities Waste Partnership.

Regarding 'Litter and Fly tipping' an allocation of £6,800 (which had remained unspent) had been made in 2018/19 and now a further £6,800 was proposed for 2019/20 to continue the work with partner bodies across the region to develop behavioural change and education initiatives. Preliminary discussions had been held with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; the Environment Agency; Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks; Highways England; and the NFU, with respect to forming a collaborative partnership to "Clean Devon". All these authorities were in favour of a partnership approach and a multi-agency meeting was being arranged with a view to embarking on a "Clean Devon" campaign in 2019/20. It was therefore proposed to allocate £6,800 to Clean Devon for 2019/20 and carry over the £6,800 from 2018/19 to give £13,600 to pump prime the contribution from this Committee to be made towards the wider partnership on the understanding that the other partners would allocate resource (noting that some would be by way of employee and other non-cash resources).

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Davis, **SECONDED** by Councillor Cann and

RESOLVED

- (a) that the proposed budget for 2019/20 and the extension of the Waste and Recycling Advisors Contract for one year be approved;

(b) that the 2018/19 budget position be noted.

* **33** **Hot topic - Ecowaste4food**

The Committee received a presentation on the Ecowaste4food Project. This project brought together seven local and regional authorities from seven countries throughout Europe. Its ambition was to address the crucial issue of food waste in the supply chain, by sharing knowledge, experience and innovation across the partner authorities.

The presentation covered the Project's objectives, the food and drink material hierarchy, UK food estimated waste (post farm) in the UK (amongst the highest in Europe), partnership projects across Europe, Action Plans, regional partnerships and programmes, reference to the UK Resource and Waste Strategy with a focus on food, and proposed solutions.

* **34** **Future meetings**

20 February 2019, 19 June 2019, 17 October 2019 and 19 February 2020.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 2.15 pm and finished at 3.30 pm

