

Norwich Area Committee

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Tuesday 14 September 2010
at City Academy, Earlham Road, Norwich

Members of the Committee Present:

Mr R Bearman (Chairman)

Dr A Boswell
Mr R Edwards
Mr M Hemsley

Mr S Little
Mr P Wells

Officers Present:

Adrian Akester	Head of Citywide Services, Norwich City Council
Mark Henderson	Waste Partnership and Strategy Officer, Norfolk County Council
Kristen Jones	Committee Officer, Democratic Services

Others Present:

Graham Fletcher Churches Together

Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked Mr David Brunton, the Principal at the City Academy, for the tour of the buildings prior to the meeting, and the use of the hall for this meeting.

1. Apologies and substitutions

1.1 Apologies were received from Mr Bremner, Miss Casimir, Mr Hardy, Mr Nobbs, Mr Scutter, Ms Toms, and Dr Williamson.

2. Minutes

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment at the end of the penultimate bullet point at 6.3:

“Mr Wells asked that the UEA Students Union were included in discussions about buses, as well as the UEA transport officers.”

3. Declarations of Interests

3.1 There were no declarations of interest

4. Items of Urgent Business

4.1 There were no items of urgent business.

5. Maximising Landfill Diversion – Norwich City Council

5.1 The Head of Citywide Services (Norwich City Council) presented his report which updated Members on the introduction of food waste collections in Norwich.

5.2 During the discussion the following points were made:

- The Head of Citywide Service noted that Norwich City Council had become one of the top ten local authorities with the biggest reduction in residual waste and waste sent to landfill.
- It was noted that the Connaught waste management contract had been subcontracted to Verdant and it was expected this contract would carry on as normal.
- Members questioned how waste collection rounds were organised and whether these could be more effectively linked up so that it caused less confusion among residents. The Head of Citywide Services replied that this had been recognised and where possible collection days would be zoned so that all collections would take place on the same day. The food waste collection schedules would be based around the four neighbourhood areas.
- The Head of Citywide Services noted that there were two separate leaflets of information. The leaflet attached to the agenda papers was intended for officers and councillors. A separate leaflet was produced for residents. He added that more comprehensive information would be given to residents as the caddies were delivered.
- In response to a question about the colour of the food waste caddy, the Head of Citywide Services noted that the colour of the food waste caddies was black because this meant that the highest possible percentage of recycled plastic was being used in their production.
- The Head of Citywide Services indicated that within the new contract, contractors would need to return the same bin to the property where they collected it.
- In response to a question about opting out of the food waste collection scheme, the Head of Citywide Services noted that all residents of Norwich would be receiving a food waste caddy. It was more costly to establish an administration procedure for residents to

opt out than it was to produce and deliver the caddies themselves. In addition, once residents have the caddies, even though they may have felt like they would not have participated, they may decide to try it and find that it is a useful service.

- The Waste Partnership and Strategy Officer (Norfolk County Council) noted that other district councils, such as North Norfolk and King's Lynn were looking at collecting food waste either separately or combined with garden waste as part of their current procurement of a new waste and recycling contract.
- The Head of Citywide Services noted that this year Norwich City Council expected to increase its recycling rate to 40% by the end of the year and to 55% by the end of next year.
- The Head of Citywide Services discussed the 'yellow' and 'red' card scheme used throughout the city for residents who contaminate their recycle bins.
- Members discussed the issue of recycling plastics. The Waste Partnership and Strategy Officer mentioned that the Norfolk Waste Partnership conference would be taking place on 21 October 2010 with a keynote speaker from the Department for Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). One of the main topics of discussion would be on recycling plastic in Norfolk.
- Regarding funding for the food waste scheme, the Head of Citywide Services noted that funding was in place for the project and had been helped by the enhanced recycling credit scheme from Norfolk County Council.
- Members questioned the suitability of the refuse vehicles used by the Norwich City Council's contractor. The Head of Citywide Services replied that the contractor had a variety of different vehicles and he believed that there was a good mix of vehicles to cover the needs of the city.
- Members questioned what happened with the food waste produced from the Norwich Market. The Head of Citywide Services responded by saying that he would look into this helpful suggestion.
- Members agreed that a positive way forward would be to put a value on waste, such as in other countries where consumers paid a deposit on the packaging whether it is a glass bottle or can.

5.3 The Chairman thanked the officers for attending and for the report.

6. Future Meetings and Topic Programme

6.1 It was suggested that the Norwich Area Committee look at Norwich's role

within the place based budgeting planning and the budget savings this could achieve.

- 6.2 Members wished to have the January 2011 meeting in the City Centre.
- 6.3 Mr Edwards agreed to pass the Committee Officer further details regarding the Community Nurses item to follow up for a future meeting.
- 6.4 The next meeting of the Norwich Area Committee would take place at the **Jubilee Community Centre, Long John Hill, Norwich** at 6:30pm on Thursday 18 November 2010.
- 6.5 The Chairman would consult all the committee members with a view to holding future meetings regularly at County Hall, as this would lead to cost savings and committee officer time savings.

The meeting concluded at 8:05pm.

CHAIRMAN



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