

SPECIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (INTERNAL)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2012 AT 2:00PM

Present: Councillors Keith Hitchen (Chairman); Henry Wormstrup; Michael McVeigh; Peter Kane and Norman Williams

Also in attendance: Councillors William Southward; Lena Hogg; John Kane; Graham Sunderland and Allan Holliday and one member of the Press.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Fee Wilson; Brian Dixon; Dave Smith and Eileen Eastwood.

Officers: Jessica Hall (Policy and Scrutiny Officer); Keith Parker (Head of Neighbourhoods); Janice Carrol (Waste Service Manager); Joanne Fisher (Principal Waste Officer) and Ian Curwen (Communications Manager)

OSC Int 01/12 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OSC Int 02/12 Waste Service Proposals

The Head of Neighbourhoods verbally introduced the item to Members explaining that the purpose of the meeting was to provide a context for a forthcoming review of parts of the Council's waste collection service. He advised that the review was in its very early stages and that officers would appreciate the opportunity to work with the OSC throughout the review and prior to any recommendations being made and decisions being taken.

The Head of Neighbourhoods provided a summary on the following:

- The Council's statutory functions in relation to waste collection
- Enforcement powers around smaller scale waste offences
- International emphasis on waste minimisation and recycling in the context of financial pressures to reduce costs
- The need to identify further efficiencies in a service which is already recognised

as efficient by the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) and its benchmarking data

- The financial targets to be met by the service
- Consultation with service users and representative groups
- The need for a robust Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) against any policy options and proposed changes to the service
- The timetable for making recommendations to Executive

Members highlighted the importance of balancing customer needs with financial needs.

A presentation from the Waste Services Manager followed. This provided Members with an overview of the range of services provided by Waste Services, the service's resources, some key service statistics, service spend and income and performance data. It also referred to achievements and savings already delivered and future pressures on the service.

The Waste Services Manager explained some of the outstanding issues which would need to be addressed as part of the review, the vision for a redesigned service and what the aims of the review were. It was advised that a significant part of the review would be considering policies and rules – and their potential impact - for key services including larger bins, assisted collections, green waste and off route collections.

It was advised that the next step would be preparing policy options for consultation with representative groups of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Duty and service users. It was also agreed that the draft policy options, along with the consultation plan would be brought to the next meeting of the Internal OSC for overview and scrutiny. The Chair requested that officers make arrangements for a further special meeting at an appropriate point in July to which all Members should be invited.

RESOLVED –that

- a) The presentation is noted
- b) That Officers arrange a further meeting in July for Member consideration of draft policy options and the consultation plan.