

		<b>AGENDA ITEM 4</b>
		<b>EDEH/07/13</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Economic Development, Environment and Highways Policy &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>21 March 2013</b>	
<b>SCRUTINY REVIEW ON THE FUTURE OF RECYCLING CENTRES FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE SERVICE IN ESSEX</b> (Minute 5/ January 2013)		
<b>Enquiries to:</b>	<b>Christine Sharland, Governance Officer</b> <b>01245 430450</b> <b>christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk</b>	

In January 2013 (Minute 5) the Committee approved the final report and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group's scrutiny report on the Recycling Centres for Household Waste Service in Essex.

A copy of the response received from Councillor Bentley as Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Waste is set out at Appendix A. For ease of reference the two recommendations as set out in the scrutiny report are set out at Appendix B.

It is confirmed that the proposal for an in depth scrutiny review will be initiated following the County Council's election in May 2013.

**Action required by the Committee:**

**The Committee is requested to note the Cabinet Member's response in this matter.**

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## **Appendix A**

### **Response from Councillor Kevin Bentley, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Waste to the Committee's recommendations**

'Thank you for passing me your report on the operation and future development of the recycling centre for household waste (RCHW) service in advance of the EDEHPSC meeting on 17 January, and as promised I am giving you my initial response to the recommendations set out in the scrutiny report.

As the Committee will be aware the household recycling centres are a well-used and valued service, which together with the recycling services provided by our District, Borough and City Councils and the enthusiasm of Essex residents have led to record breaking recycling performance in the County.

May I take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the members of the Task and Finish Group for undertaking this review. The scrutiny report reflects the evidence gathered by the Group on the existing service in Essex as well as looking at good practice elsewhere, and underpins the robustness of the recommendations. Subject to the Committee's approval, I shall take those recommendations fully into account as part of the consideration of the future development of the service.

With regard to the observations and recommendations set out in the interim scrutiny report, I confirm that I am fully supportive of the points made under recommendation 1, and that –

- I am committed to ensuring that residents have good access to RCHW facilities, and our dialogue with neighbouring authorities to facilitate the removal of any barriers to accessing services will continue.
- The County Council will be exploring all options, following the award of a new RCHW contract later this year, to support small business in Essex to recycle their waste through the RCHW service. In addition we will, when developing new or redesigning existing sites, explore the demand from businesses and incorporate this need into site designs.
- The new RCHW service contract will have a robust audit trail for all waste entering the site so we can track it to its end destination; ensuring service users can be confident that the waste they bring to the site is being recycled appropriately

I am particularly pleased with the second recommendation whereby the Group has proposed that this initial review should lead into a more in depth scrutiny review that will consider the RCHW service in the context of the changing environment that the service operates within. As the Essex Waste Partnership collectively focuses its efforts on making recycling easier and more efficient for Essex residents, through investment in kerbside recycling services, the demands on the RCHW service from users has and will continue to change. It is therefore essential we continue to review the contribution and on-going role of the RCHW network. It is on this basis that I fully concur with the proposal, and look forward to liaising with the Committee in the development of the new review.'

## **Appendix B**

### **Recommendations arising from the scrutiny review on recycling centres:**

1. That, subject to the formal approval of the Economic Development, Environment and Highways Policy and Scrutiny Committee, this report be commended to the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Waste and Recycling, as an overview of its initial investigation of the RCHW Service and specific attention is drawn to its observations on

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- The existing anomalies where Essex residents have to pay to use recycling facilities provided by neighbouring Councils like Southend Borough Council and the London Borough of Havering.
- Consideration of an extension of the RCHW service to incorporate trade waste.
- As part of the new contractual arrangements the contractor be required to sign up to and comply with the End Destinations of Recycling Charter (dated June 2012).

2. That an in depth scrutiny review be conducted following the 2013 County Council elections on the future of the Recycling Centres for Household Waste Service taking account of the following issues to be addressed:

- How does the implementation of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy affect the role of the RCHW Service in practice? For example:
    - How has the development of kerbside collections affected the volume and type of material deposited at recycling centres, and what changes are envisaged in the future?
    - How will the operation of the Courtauld Road facility impact upon the RCHW Service?
  - Given the changing role of recycling centres:
    - What type of modern facilities will be required in the future?
    - How many centres in total may be necessary and where should they be located?
    - What are the key factors that should be considered in developing the future design of the service
  - What is the impact upon the type and frequency of visits to recycling centres given the variation in kerbside collections operated by WCAs, which may be impacting the ability of ECC to deliver an effective RCHW service, and how can those variations be addressed effectively?
  - What other recycling collection models exist across the country and what has been their impact upon the associated RCHW Services?
  - Across Essex how can the recycling of commercial waste be improved, whilst ensuring the RCHW service does not become overburdened?
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