

Member Partnership Board

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 1:00PM IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD.

*Present:

*	Basildon District Council	Councillor Malcolm Buckley
*	Braintree District Council	Councillor Wendy Schmitt
*	Brentwood Borough Council	Councillor Roger Hirst
*	Castle Point Borough Council	Councillor Ray Howard
*	Chelmsford Borough Council	Councillor Janette Potter
*	Colchester Borough Council	Councillor Ann Turrell
*	Epping Forest District Council	Councillor John Knapman
*	Essex County Council	Councillor Kevin Bentley
*	Harlow District Council	Councillor Tony Hall
	Maldon District Council	Councillor Brenda Harker
*	Rochford District Council	Councillor Mike Steptoe
	Tendring District Council	Councillor Nick Turner
	Uttlesford District Council	Councillor Susan Barker

1. Welcome, Apologies and Substitutions

The Committee Officer welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Member Partnership Board.

2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Cllr Malcolm Buckley was nominated and elected as Chairman.
Cllr Kevin Bentley was nominated and elected as Vice-Chairman

3. Terms of Reference

The Chairman reminded Members that the terms of reference have been circulated to all Authorities. It had been noted that there was no reference to petitions. An amendment was requested to allow all petitions to be referred to the appropriate cabinet member.

Cllr Potter, Chelmsford Borough Council, requested the opportunity to refer the terms of reference to her Council prior to her agreement.

This request was noted.

4. Waste Strategy Programme Update

Members received an update from Phil Butler noting progress on the following:

Residual Waste Treatment Facility (Waste PFI Project)

Essex County Council secured a site at Courtauld Road, Basildon, that has been offered to bidders as a potential site for the residual waste treatment facility. A planning consent is in place for a large integrated waste facility. The site is in control of the County Council and all site preparation and enabling works have been undertaken. Agreement has been reached with the landlord to split the head lease into two sub-leases to enable both residual and bio-waste facilities to be developed by individual bidders.

The facility at Courtauld Road will be a mechanical/biological treatment facility (MBT) capable of processing up to 377k tonnes of waste per annum.

The facility will have the capacity to produce two end products:

- A bio-stabilised material
- Solid recovered fuel (SRF)

Courtauld Road was offered to all original bidders who could have offered their own site if available. Six initial outline solutions were shortlisted down to three bidding consortiums:

- Skanska with Cory Environmental
- Resources from Waste (*)
- Urbaser Ltd with Balfour Beatty (*)

Following evaluation, two bidders (*) were invited to submit final tenders and the evaluation is expected to be complete at the end of November 2011. The preferred bidder will be announced early in 2012.

Provision of bio-waste facilities

At present there is an interim contract in place that deals with this waste stream.

A two site outline business case has been approved with one facility mid/north of the county to deal with source segregated food waste and one in the south to deal with co-collected food and green waste.

Consultants are presently undertaking a review of the biowaste treatment. A further outline business case will be completed prior to Christmas 2011.

A network of transfer stations to support the facilities

Six transfer stations are required located strategically around the county (five in Essex and one in Southend). All activity at the transfer facilities will take place in enclosed buildings.

The locations identified to date are:

- Braintree – a joint site is proposed with Braintree District Council and purchase of the site is progressing.
- Chelmsford & Maldon – a site shared with Highways Department at Springfield is proposed and a planning application is being prepared.

- Colchester & Tendring – a potential site has been identified.
- Harlow & Epping Forest – a site has been approved at West Road, Harlow.
- Uttlesford – a site has been acquired at Great Dunmow. Consultation is underway.
- Southend & Rochford – the site is the existing Southend depot and work is underway to upgrade the facility

All transfer stations will be in place prior to the main facilities coming on stream.

Following discussion and questions from Members it was noted that all identified solutions are proven and overall delivery is in line with the original timescale projections.

It was agreed that over the course of the project there will be the need to adapt to new technologies and peoples changing attitudes to re-cycling.

5. Recycling and Composting Performance Update

Members received an update on waste collection by local authority for the first six months of the year from Jason Searles and noted:

- In some cases the data is a projection.
- Overall performance is slightly above 53% and is an improvement, compared to last year, of approximately 1.5%
- The second six months of the year will see performance decline as a result of the winter effect on green garden waste.
- A year end outturn is expected in the region of 52%
- New food waste schemes are being introduced which will have a positive impact.
- Waste arisings show a slight increase over last year the reasons being greater levels of household waste and increases in household numbers.
- The range of performance across the County and the impact of the introduction of food waste collection.
- Current performance compares well with the target of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy of 60% by 2020.
- The MBT facility will improve re-cycling rates.

Members updated the Board on waste and recycling initiatives within their respective area.

6. Essex Recycling Centres for Household Waste Update

Councillor Kevin Bentley outlined to Members details of the review of the recycling centres in Essex.

The review looked at how people use recycling centres and followed a period of consultation. It showed a reduction in usage primarily brought about through

increased kerbside recycling and change in habits towards recycling. The proposal sought to re-align some opening hours and closed two sites. (High Ongar and St Osyth). Councillor Bentley added that he had attended Parish Council meetings along with Officers to answer questions and concerns.

The decision was signed on 26 October and was then called in. The decision will be scrutinised by Committee on 17 November. The appropriate Scrutiny Committee has also been requested to look at the future use of all recycling centres.

It was confirmed that all sites will be closely monitored following the closure of the two sites to assess the impact of increased usage and fly tipping.

7. Any Other Business

There were no matters discussed.

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that this Board would meet on an annual basis and a meeting be arranged to take place in November 2012.