



## **ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2003 at 7.00 PM at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)  
Councillors Alfred Banya, Lisa Rajan and William Rowe

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr Richard Anderson, Southwark Environment Forum (Non-voting Co-opted Member)  
Dr Catherine Alexander, Goldsmith College  
Samantha Heath, Chair, GLA Environment Committee

**OFFICERS:** Phil Davies – Head of Waste Management  
Mary Morrissey – Contracts & Strategy Manager, Environment & Leisure  
Peter Roberts – Scrutiny Team

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Gavin O'Brien and Gill Davies, Director of Environment & Leisure.

### **NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT**

The Chair agreed to accept a briefing note on Southwark's waste strategy – "Moving Forward on Managing Waste".

### **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

### **RECORDING OF MEMBERS' VOTES**

Council Procedure Rule 1.17(5) allows a Member to record her/his vote in respect of any motions and amendments. Such requests are detailed in the following Minutes. Should a Member's vote be recorded in respect of an amendment, a copy of the amendment may be found in the Minute file and is available for public inspection.

The Sub-Committee considered the items set out on the agenda, a copy of which has been

incorporated in the Minute File. Each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number on the agenda.

## **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2003 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

### **1. DRAFT WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY** (see pages 1 - 115)

Samantha Heath, Chair, GLA Environment Committee

- 1.1 Samantha Heath outlined the Mayor of London's Municipal Waste Management Strategy. London currently produced 4.4 million tonnes of municipal waste, out of a total of 17 million tonnes of waste per year. Last year London had been second to bottom of a league of European cities in terms of recycling.
- 1.2 As Chair of GLA's Environment Committee, Samantha Heath took a London-wide approach and emphasised that it was essential to consider reduction and re-use. She felt that the Strategy should highlight waste reduction, that it was important not to predicate on waste growth. She proposed 60% as a recycling target.
- 1.3 In the past, London Waste Action had provided Southwark with £790,000 of funding. As a member of the group, Samantha Heath understood that Southwark had put in a further bid in respect of kerb-side collection. She felt that, in addition to waste collection, it was important to analyse the content of dustbins and to find out why people did not recycle. Often people did not know what was recyclable and this affected their ability to recycle. Southwark needed to interface with the London-wide Participation Campaign to raise waste awareness. Samantha Heath hoped that each borough would receive funding of £10,000 in order to do this. It was necessary to go into the community via as many routes as possible.
- 1.4 Samantha Heath indicated the importance of London Remade across the capital in terms of developing new markets and new uses for recyclable materials. She understood that Southwark had signed up to the Green Procurement Code but questioned whether the borough was doing as well as it could be. Effective auditing was essential. Performance Indicators and the Audit Commission could play a part in the future. At the same time it was important to be confident that the goods were adequate – ultimately, British Standards might be necessary or the creation of a London-wide body on construction materials.
- 1.5 The GLA was in the process of looking at Waste Directives from Europe and the relationship to dumping of electrical goods. Councils would need to take a decision as to preferred relationships with retailers – as to who would collect and recycle but on the premise that retailers would fund.

Dr Richard Anderson, Southwark Environment Forum and Community Recycling in Southwark Project

- 1.6 Dr Andersen commented that it would be useful to take trade waste into account in the statistics for Municipal Solid Waste. Auditing and data collection were very important but currently did not take account of the commercial or voluntary sectors. In addition, such activity as the recycling of furniture was not reflected.
- 1.7 Dr Andersen stressed that although recycling was difficult to sell to people it provided jobs, work experience and training and economically was very useful to the local community. He also stressed the importance of the WEEE directive.
- 1.8 The European directives proposed that the manufacturer held responsibility for recycling of goods. This presented an opportunity to the Council in terms of funding and remanufacture.
- 1.9 Dr Andersen indicated that composting should be encouraged and composting facilities provided as close as possible to the point where compost was generated. He also indicated that there was a good map between crime and waste, and that the attitude of looking after the environment linked to attitudes to crime. Dr Andersen stressed that a partnership between the Council and the voluntary sector was essential to encourage people to recycle and to provide appropriate services. With the population in the borough growing, limiting the growth of waste would be particularly difficult.
- 1.10 Dr Andersen informed the Sub-Committee that Southwark funded Community Recycling in Southwark, which in turn provided a recycling service to 295 businesses in the borough. The focus of the Project was businesses that could not afford commercial rates.

#### Head of Waste Management

- 1.11 The Head of Waste Management introduced Southwark's waste strategy. The Council was proposing a new waste management facility in the borough, working with private partners. A site had already been identified within the UDP. Private sector investment would be necessary as part of an integrated waste management contract, combining collection and disposal. With the limited waste facilities in London it would be possible to seek waste from other areas. Independent market research was being undertaken into what was to be recycled and options in technology. Reports would be submitted to the Executive in November and December providing a range of options.
- 1.12 A feasibility study had been done into providing a facility for organic waste at Chumleigh Gardens which would also be an education facility. A proposal for a separate collection using electric vehicles was being considered. This would be grant-funded as it would be the first bio-gas plant in London. In addition, the new refuse fleet would have a weighing facility and ways of "rewarding" estates for recycling were being looked at.
- 1.13 The Head of Waste Management explained that the Councils' Consultation Unit had advised on how best to reach different groups in the borough and that a bespoke publicity campaign was planned for January 2004.

#### Sub-Committee's Comments

1.14 Members of the Sub-Committee raised the following areas:

- determining the ability to recycle;
- the possibility of asking people to separate refuse (allowing clean as opposed to dirty Materials Reclamation Facility);
- using a wide range of methods to raise public awareness about waste and recycling;
- introducing incentive schemes to encourage recycling; and
- the importance of progressing the integrated waste management contact in order to make links with private and other partners.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That Officers either arrange visits to different types of recycling facility or provide videos showing the different technologies;
  2. That Members visit Manor Place Depot and the Community Recycling in Southwark Project; and
  3. That Officers bring to the next meeting draft comments to be submitted to the Executive in respect of the Waste Strategy.

**2. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT (see pages 116 - 142)**

2.1 These were noted.

**3. 2003/2004 WORK PROGRAMME (see pages 143 - 144)**

- RESOLVED:**
1. That Councillors Richard Porter and Richard Thomas, Executive Members for Community Support & Safety and Environment & Transport, be invited to the December meeting of the Sub-Committee;
  2. That draft questions for the two Executive Members be prepared at the November meeting; and
  3. That Domestic Violence be considered at the October meeting.

**4. FORWARD PLAN**

4.1 Noted.

The meeting finished at 9.35 pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATE:**