

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Tuesday 16 April 2013

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs Aspinall, in the Chair.

Councillor Tuffin, Vice Chair.

Councillors Bowie, Bowyer, Casey, Philippa Davey, Gordon (substitute for Councillor Murphy), James, Jordan (substitute for Councillor Monahan), Mrs Nelder, Mrs Nicholson (substitute for Councillor Nicholson) and Wigen.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Monahan, Murphy and Nicholson,

Also in attendance: Claire Oatway (Policy, Performance and Partnership Manager), Mark Turner (Waste Projects and Commercial Developments Manager), Mark Vincent (Waste Disposal Services Manager), Councillor Vincent (Cabinet Member for Environment) and Helen Wright (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 10am and finished at 12pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

143. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct.

144. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of chair's urgent business.

145. **CALL-IN: REVISED HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE OPENING HOURS AND WASTE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the call-in of the Cabinet decision; revised household waste recycling centre opening hours and waste acceptance criteria.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board heard that –

- (a) Councillors Churchill, Martin Leaves and Michael Leaves had called the decision for the following reasons –

- the apparent lack of consultation with customers who used the household waste recycling centres; no detailed information had been provided to evidence the need for the proposed reduction in the operational hours of Chelson Meadow and Weston Mill;
- the reduction in the opening hours of both household waste recycling centres would encourage fly tipping, as people would be unable to use these facilities to dispose of their rubbish; fly tipping was on the increase across the city, especially in Military Road, Central Park and Pennycross; this had a detrimental impact on the environment and would incur additional costs in removing it;

further restrictions would be placed on customers with the introduction of permits for trailers;

- reduced recycling was against council policy;
- the reduction in the opening hours would restrict the ability for working families to use these facilities; with the change in working patterns, it would not be possible for people to easily dispose of their rubbish;

(b) Councillor Vincent (Cabinet Member for Environment), Mark Turner (Waste Projects and Commercial Developments Manager) and Mark Vincent (Waste Disposal Services Manager) responded that –

- an analysis of customer usage of Plymouth's household waste recycling centres, had identified that there were relatively few visits early in the morning and decreasing after 4pm; a recent analysis of usage (which was evidenced to the Board) showed this would affect less than five per cent of users at worst; this information highlighted the scope to significantly reduce the opening hours with minimal impact on the vast majority of customers which would provide better value for money for all Plymouth charge payers;
- the inclusion of trailers within the household waste van permit scheme would limit the number of trailer visits per household, and would address the excessive misuse of the sites and increased illegal usage by traders; the restrictions on the size of the trailers would also improve site safety and reduce congestion;

- the enhanced control of soil and rubble acceptance was necessary to prevent illegal tipping by traders and misuse by residents particularly in light of tighter constraints imposed by neighbouring councils which was likely to result in Plymouth receiving waste from outside its administrative area;
- it was acknowledged that within the first year of the new opening hour arrangements, there was a potential for fly tipping to increase and as such an additional provision of approximately £15,000 had been made within the budget allocation for additional fly tip clearance;
- the household waste recycling centre at Chelson Meadow would operate extended hours on Mondays and Saturdays to allow some flexibility in access times to cater for customers who were unable to access the site during working weekdays.

The Board concluded that –

- (c) there had been an apparent lack of consultation with customers using the household waste recycling centres at Chelson Meadow and Weston Mill;
- (d) the reduction in the operational hours of the household waste recycling centres at Chelson Meadow and Weston Mill may encourage fly tipping and restrict the ability of working families to use these facilities.

The Board agreed that the decision is referred back to the decision maker (Councillor Vincent – Cabinet Member for Environment) to undertake -

- (1) a consultation exercise;
- (2) a review of the operational hours of the household waste recycling centres and detailed information is provided to support any proposed changes in operational hours;
- (3) a review is undertaken on the administration of the proposed inclusion of trailers in the household waste recycling centre permit scheme, with particular attention paid to how the scheme would operate for houses in multiple occupation.

146. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.