

POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL

15 JUNE 2009

Present :- Councillor Nick Barlow
Councillor Julie Young
(Chairmen)

Councillors Nigel Chapman, Mike Hardy,
Justin Knight and Jill Tod

Substitute Member :- Councillor Kim Naish for Councillor Julie Young

3. Minutes

Paula Whitney addressed the Panel, pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 5(1).

She wished to correct the impression given in the minutes of the previous meeting of the Panel that she had suggested that the Council was a poor performer in terms of the collection of garden waste. The point she had made was that, apart from Tendring, Colchester had the lowest levels of waste generation in Essex.

She further voiced her concern that, despite assurances from the Leader of the Council, she had not been invited to participate in meetings of the Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal Task and Finish Group and requested that she be invited to make representations to the Group.

It was further noted that the last sentence of minute number 26 was incomplete and should, in fact read:

‘She therefore stressed the importance of collecting materials separately.’

Councillor Barlow confirmed that he had been appointed Chairman of the Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal Task and Finish Group and he assured Ms Whitney that she would be invited to address the Group.

RESOLVED that, the corrections to the minutes highlighted by Ms Whitney be noted and, subject to the amendment to minute no 26 referred to above, the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. Procurement Strategy 2009-2012

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Resource Management inviting the Panel to review the contents of the draft Procurement Strategy.

Charles Warboys, Head of Resource Management and Steve Heath, Finance

Manager, attended the meeting to assist members in their discussions.

A Procurement Strategy had first been adopted by the Council in 2003 to ensure that the procedure rules remained relevant and compliant with EU regulations. This policy was updated in 2005 and it had recently been reviewed and strengthened to take account of changes in legislation and best practice. The strategy also supported the Council's Strategic Plan adopted in February 2009, together with statutory responsibilities and had taken into account sustainable procurement, equality and diversity and support of local businesses.

A key element to the strategy had been to work in partnership and collaborating on procurement. Furthermore the strategy outlined Colchester's approach to delivering best practice and highlighted the Council's support of the Essex Procurement Hub and the Procurement Agency for Essex (PAE).

The Panel gave particular consideration to the following issues:

- The potential conflicting aims of supporting local businesses whilst promoting a regional and national framework;
- The importance of educating suppliers regarding the Council's Equality and Diversity objectives;
- The appropriate decision making route to provide for the implementation of the Policy.

RECOMMENDED that, subject to the issues highlighted above, the contents of the Procurement Strategy be approved.

5. Work Programme 2009/10

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Corporate Management giving details of the work which remained outstanding from the previous year's programme and presenting a preliminary work programme for the forthcoming year from discussions with Heads of Service about likely policy areas that would need to be presented to the panel as part of their review or development.

A brief summary was provided of work so far undertaken by the Historic Town Centre Improvements Task and Finish Group which could be provided to the Panel in more detail at its next meeting, the notes of the first two meetings of the Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal Task and Finish Group were also attached to the report and Councillor Barlow provided an update on the work of the 20 mph Speed Limit Group. It was further explained that a report had now been completed for consideration by the Mayoralty Task and

Finish Group.

It was reported that the Chairman, Councillor J. Young, would be unable to attend the Panel's meeting scheduled for 21 September 2009 and the Panel was asked to consider changing the date of this meeting to Wednesday 23 September 2009.

RESOLVED that, arrangements be made for the September meeting of the Panel to be changed to Wednesday, 23 September 2009 and, subject to the addition of a review of the Town Centre Management Strategy at an appropriate time, the contents of the Work Programme for 2009/10 be approved.