

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET – 1st NOVEMBER 2011

FROM THE CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19TH OCTOBER 2011.

CSC49: RECYCLING OF WASTE

The Chairman stated that the Recycling of Waste report had been a late report to Cabinet and therefore there had been no opportunity for it to be considered by the appropriate Policy and Review Panel, however, he acknowledged the reasons behind the timing of the report. He took the opportunity to thank the Leader and the Portfolio Holder, Environment and Community for attending the meeting and participating in the scrutiny process.

Councillor Collop explained that he supported the recommendations in the report but referred to recent comments made in the local Press from the relevant Portfolio Holder at Norfolk County Council, and in doing so questioned what costs were involved in the procurement of a “black bin waste” contract. The Portfolio Holder, Environment and Community explained that the purpose of undertaking the procurement process was to gain an understanding of the costs that would be involved. It was not known how long the procurement process would take but the Portfolio Holder undertook to inform Members of the outcome as soon as it was known. In response to a further query from Councillor Collop, the Portfolio Holder gave an outline of the general costs and savings that it was hoped could be achieved for both the Council and Norfolk County Council by securing such a contract. He also explained that it was hoped such a contract would be in place within 18 months to 2 years. The Portfolio Holder, Environment and Community confirmed that the Borough Council were currently taking the lead in the procurement exercise, with interest having been expressed by all the other district councils in Norfolk, including Norwich City Council.

Councillor D J Collis stated that he also supported the report to undertake a procurement exercise for a black bin waste contract but questioned whether recommendation 3 would benefit from an amendment to make it more explicit and fully reflect the debate at the meeting of the Cabinet and to clarify that the process would involve a number of subsequent reports at the appropriate stages and fully involve the Policy & Review Panel(s). In response, the Portfolio Holder, Environment and Community explained that the procurement exercise was the initial stage of the process and that there would be a number of subsequent reports/decisions that would need to be considered by Cabinet and as ultimately it would be a change in policy, by Full Council.

The Leader concurred with the comments made by the Portfolio Holder and referred back to the Council's Extraordinary Meeting held earlier in the year at which it had been agreed to instruct officers to look at options available to the Council in dealing with West Norfolk's waste. He stated that he was more than willing to discuss the issue with any Member of the Council and gave his full assurance that the process would involve the appropriate Policy and Review Panel(s) and shared with all Members of the Council.

The Chairman referred to the statutory considerations outlined in the report in that Norfolk County Council were the waste disposal authority and may direct the Council in terms of delivery of waste to its sites for disposal and questioned the Portfolio Holder as to what the implications in relation to this were for the Council. In response, the Portfolio Holder stated that the Council were the collection authority and confirmed that the responsibility for the disposal of the waste was the responsibility of the County Council. He explained that the aim was to increase recycling rates and therefore decrease the amount of waste that would need to be disposed by the County Council.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Cabinet be informed that the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee fully endorse the recommendations detailed in the report and agreed by Cabinet.