



Agenda Item No: 4

Bristol City Council

Minutes of Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Monday 22nd February 2016

Councillors: Denyer, Fodor, Hickman, G Morris, Milestone and Negus (Chair)

Assistant Mayors in attendance: Councillor Radice

Officers in Attendance:-

Alison Comley (Strategic Director Neighbourhoods), Gillian Douglas (Service Director – Environment and Leisure), Claire Lowman (Health Improvement Specialist), Pam Jones (Service Manager – Environment and Leisure Operations), Dave Clarke (Executive Support Officer), Lucy Fleming (Scrutiny Co-ordinator), Tom Oswald (Executive Assistant) and Jeremy Livitt (Democratic Services Officer)

Also In Attendance for Agenda Item 9: Supermarkets – Dealing with Waste: Evidence Session:

Iain Ferguson, Environment Manager, Commercial Team – Food Policy, The Co-operative
Quentin Clark, Head of Sustainable and Ethical Sourcing, Waitrose

98. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies were received from Councillors Harvey, Lovell and Tincknell.

99. Public Forum (Agenda Item 2)

The following Public Forum Items were received for this meeting:

Question 1 **(including Answers Provided As Indicated)** - Q1 – Harriet Williams, Pesticide Safe Bristol Alliance

Noting the Council's intention to trial a glyphosate-free area in Cotham,

i) How exactly does BCC intend to design and deliver the trial? For instance, will it follow best practice as laid out by a major Defra-sponsored review.

ANSWER: BCC Officers are guided by the DEFRA sponsored review and are following the principles. The details of the trial are being finalised. The current view is:

Work Area	Performance Outcome	Measurement
Maintenance of hard surfaces within the (Highways) weed spraying contract.	As with glyphosate	Cost. Time taken. Staffing. Environmental inputs and outputs.
Control of invasive weeds (Japanese knotweed)	Continue with Glyphosate control	N/A
Within green spaces - maintenance of hard surfaces	As with glyphosate	Cost. Time taken. Staffing. Environmental inputs and outputs.
Within green spaces - removal of growth around obstacles to reduce demand on staff resources	Maintain current resource level. Accept potential for lower performance.	Visual comparison with control site(s). Enquiries and complaints.
Within green spaces - control of weed growth in bedding and shrub features	Maintain current resource level. Accept potential for lower performance.	Visual comparison with control site(s). Succession growth. Enquiries and complaints. Volunteer activity
Within green spaces - sterilising sites intended to be sown as floral meadows and new planting (e.g. floral displays).	Withhold spraying. Accept potential for lower performance.	Visual comparison with control site(s). Species success. Succession growth. Bloom longevity.

ii) Over what timescale will the trial take place?

ANSWER: The trial will run over the coming growing season, specifically from March through to February 2017. A review will be carried out at the end of the trial to determine the impacts of the trial and to identify the implications for wider roll out.

iii) How will the trial be monitored and evaluated?

ANSWER: See table above. The monitoring and evaluation proposals are being developed.

iv) How does BCC intend to incorporate experience from cities that have already implemented alternatives to pesticides? For instance, will BCC consider convening an advisory group comprised of credible, independent experts?

ANSWER: We have researched other approaches taken and will be guided by this. There is currently no proposal to convene an advisory group.

v) What opportunities are there for civil society groups and the general public to give input and feedback throughout the trial process?

ANSWER: The Council has strong connections with residents groups such as Redland and Cotham Amenities Society and with the citywide Parks Forum and will be discussing the trial with them. The Neighbourhood Partnership and Neighbourhood Forums will also be engaged. As customer response is a measurement of impact it is important that public information does not introduce bias to the process.

vi) Will BCC communicate the benefits of trialling glyphosate-free weed control to other land managers in the area (e.g. schools and health settings), and encourage them to join the trial?

ANSWER: There are no plans currently to do this but it is a good suggestion. We will share our findings and methodology with other land managers.

vii) Similarly what communication effort will BCC undertake to residents of Cotham?

ANSWER: Refer to question v). This is currently being considered.

Noting the Council's disclosure of current weed control arrangements, including two large contracts (with Complete Weed Control for 400,445 m² of housing hard surface, and with undisclosed contractor for 12,684,920 m² of highways),

i) What are the costs associated with these two major waste contracts? How has the Council assured itself they are good value for money?

ANSWER: Housing hard surface contract value: £40,000 for 2015/16 (whole city). This contract is subject to competitive tendering to ensure best value. For weed control on highways the cost is not separated out as it is carried out as part of a suite of services delivered by Bristol Waste Company.

ii) What records of spray treatments are kept by these contractors?

ANSWER: Detailed records are kept by contractors of dates, times, locations, operatives, product, amount.

iii) What efforts are made by the contractors to "make available full information" on the pesticides they use to members of the public (as per BCC pest management policy)?

ANSWER: Contractors make this information available to the Council and the council can communicate this information to interested parties and the public.

Noting the Council's disclosure of current weed control arrangements, including two large contracts (with Complete Weed Control for 400,445 m² of housing hard surface, and with undisclosed contractor for 12,684,920 m² of highways),

- i) What are the costs associated with these two major waste contracts? How has the Council assured itself they are good value for money?
- ii) What records of spray treatments are kept by these contractors?
- iii) What efforts are made by the contractors to "make available full information" on the pesticides they use to members of the public (as per BCC pest management policy)?

ANSWER: Housing hard surface contract value: £40,000 for 2015/16 (whole city). This contract is subject to competitive tendering to ensure best value. For weed control on highways the cost is not separated out as it is carried out as part of a suite of services delivered by Bristol Waste Company.

- ii) What records of spray treatments are kept by these contractors?

ANSWER: Detailed records are kept by contractors of dates, times, locations, operatives, product, amount.

- iii) What efforts are made by the contractors to "make available full information" on the pesticides they use to members of the public (as per BCC pest management policy)?

ANSWER: Contractors make this information available to the Council and the council can communicate this information to interested parties and the public.

The following Public Forum statements were submitted:

Statement Number 1 – Harriet Williams, Pesticide Safe Bristol Alliance – Use of Hazardous Chemicals To Control Weeds In Public Spaces

100 Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

Councillor Fodor and Councillor Milestone in respect of Agenda Item 9 – Supermarkets – Dealing With Waste – Evidence Session as members of the Co-operative Society

104 Minutes of Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission – 11th January 2016 (Agenda Item 4)

Resolved – that the minutes of the above meeting be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following changes:

- (1) the words “ for this meeting” be altered to read “for the Scrutiny Commission” in Minute Number 84**
- (2) that Di Robinson replaces Kate Murray in respect of the Action for Minute Number 93**

Action: Jeremy Livitt

105 Action Sheet – 11th January 2016 (Agenda Item 5)

Members noted progress against the Action Sheet. The Chair stated that he had recently attended a successful meeting with Richard Ennion and Guy Fishbourne concerning the Memorial Trees Programme.

106 Whipping (Agenda Item 6)

There was no whipping for this meeting.

107. Chair’s Business (Agenda Item 7)

The Chair raised the following issues:

Byelaws

In response to a question from the Chair, the Strategic Director confirmed that she would confirm with the DCLG concerning the latest situation about the byelaws consultation and advise Scrutiny Commission members accordingly.

Action: Alison Comley

Blackberry Picking

The Chair confirmed that, following a recent concern that had been raised about this issue, he was satisfied with the response he had received. The Commission noted that there had been concerns about the need to address any potential damage to plants, as well as the need to differentiate between picking for commercial and personal use.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting Housing Inquiry Day

The Chair reported that the Mayor had stated that he had felt that the number of recommendations made on this (39) was too many.

Libraries

In response to concerns raised by members concerning the requirement for staff to now work on Saturdays and Sundays, the Strategic Director confirmed that the Human Resources Committee had previously approved in consultation with Trade Unions for all Council staff to operate on a 7 day contract. However, this would not result in every member of staff working every Saturday. It was noted that this information would be included in the Libraries Update Report for the meeting on 21st March 2016.

Action: Alison Comley

108. Work Programme (Agenda Item 8)

Scrutiny Commission members noted the above Work Programme.

There was discussion concerning the following points:

Monday 21st March 2016

- (1) Annual Report from the Director of Public Health: Following a brief discussion by the Scrutiny Commission, it was agreed that this item should be deferred until the first meeting in the 2016/17 Municipal Year
- (2) Libraries Update – It was noted that there would be a comprehensive item on Capital Expenditure in this report

Action: (1) Tom Oswald to alter Work Programme, (2) Alison Comley/Kate Murray to provide a report for 21st March 2016 meeting

Monday 11th April 2016

- (3) Review of 2015/16 – The Scrutiny Commission agreed that there should be a report reviewing its work during 2015/16. The Chair requested that Councillors who wished to provide any commentary for this should contact officers accordingly.

Action: Alison Comley to produce report, Tom Oswald to amend Work Programme.

109. Supermarkets – Dealing with Waste: Evidence Session (Agenda Item 9)

The Scrutiny Commission held an evidence session concerning the role of Supermarkets in dealing with waste. The following supermarket representatives were in attendance:

Iain Ferguson, Environment Manager, Commercial Team – Food Policy, The Co-operative (IF)

Quentin Clark, Head of Sustainable and Ethical Sourcing, Waitrose (QC)

Councillors asked a series of questions to the supermarket attendees (a copy of which is held in the Minute Book).

Members also received the following paperwork in relation to the hearing (copies of both also held in the Minute Book).

- (1) A Table of Responses Received From Supermarkets to Written Questions (including a late response from Aldi)
- (2) A context note which provides some background on the voluntary agreements that supermarkets sign up to in order to tackle waste reduction.

In response to each of the questions asked, the following responses were given:

Please set out the national policy of your company with regards to waste and food waste reduction. (NB please explain where local branches have scope for local variations and where the national policy takes precedence). Cllr Fodor

Iain Ferguson (IF): Our ambition is that no food should ever be thrown away. There had been recent redistribution trial with a charity (Real Junk Food Project) in some smaller stores. It was hoped to roll out this approach across all stores.

Quentin Clark (QC): A holistic approach from food to plate was the approach being taken by Waitrose to this issue. As part of a waste hierarchy, it was anticipated that there would be a reduction in the amount of waste for customers following a reduction at an earlier stage to store partners. Waitrose had adopted a “no waste, no food waste to landfill” policy since 2012 – all waste went either to AD (Anaerobic Digestion) or if possible as animal feed.

Supplementary Question: What is your business approach to balancing maximum sales with minimum wastage?

QC: Wastage was a cost to the Company. Crops were grown in a way that will minimise surplus, although there would always be some surplus due to climactic conditions. A large number of staff were employed in calculating an ordering algorithm to match demand with supply. In addition, there was an automatic ordering process when certain products were low ie bagged bananas.

IF: The Company operated performance indicators for sales and waste. Work had previously been carried out on a project concerning the entire supply chain for potatoes and a similar one was completing concerning bacon.

Packaging / Waste reduction / Processes:

With reference to the British Retail Consortium target to reduce waste sent to landfill to 1% by 2020, please comment on the progress your company is making towards this, including:

- information on customer advice provided on recyclability of packaging
- progress on redesigning packaging to achieve savings in weight/volume and developing reusable packaging
- encouraging suppliers to reduce excess packaging and ensure recyclability
- reducing packaging for products purchased online. Cllr Negus

QC: Waitrose had a business target to halve all waste by weight by the end of 2016 as compared to 2005 and were currently on track to do so. However, this approach needed to go hand in hand with recyclability as heavier products were sometimes more easy to recycle than lighter ones.

IF: The Co-operative had achieved their targets in this area. Since targeting packaging reduction can increase waste in other ways, the approach was to aim for zero carbon production increase.

Follow-Up Question (Councillor Negus): Is there any common learning between supermarkets? **IF: Yes, there is regular contact and discussion between supermarkets.**

Dealing with waste:

How do you store waste on site?

Who collects your waste?

How / where is your waste treated? Cllr Harvey

Supplementary Question: Is all of your various types of packaging disposed of locally to each store?

IF: All waste goes back to depots. Food waste is packaged and de-packaged and treated in AD. The aim is to gain full value for recycled material. A shrink-wrapped joint would be vacuum-packed to give extra life. However, the process was not popular for some products, such as park chops because colour changes in the process.

QC: Waste was consolidated into 5 different types. The use of clean segregation added value to the process. There was a different solution for different places. If it was necessary to use Anaerobic Digestion (AD), the process was kept as local as

possible to avoid large transport costs. It was Waitrose's intention to transition to plastic wrap for meat packaging which would take a few years.

Supplementary Question: Specifically, what are you doing to reduce the proportion of your products sold in black plastic packaging (which is not accepted by most recycling services because it cannot be optically sorted). Do you have a plan to reduce this to zero over a specified time period? Cllr Denyer

QC: Foil was being used as a replacement. In addition, trials were being run on infrared plastic. The reason for the use of plastic trays was the design. Laminated card had proved difficult to use. However, plastic could be used as a fuel. Black plastic was harder to recycle. This was due to the complexity of using the MURF to set up the APET plastic trays. There were a large number of polystyrene trays that could be recyclable but they need to be recycled at the MURF. Waitrose had a target to achieve 90% kerbside recycling by 2020.

IF: Foil was also being used by the Co-operative. There were 290 Local Authorities who were collecting plastic trays. If there was consistency, this would help to drive a solution. However, at the moment, this was a problem. However, it was acknowledged that the use of a design to solve an immediate problem was not a long-term solution. The Co-operative had a target for all packaging to be recyclable by 2020. However, this was a big challenge and would require a great deal of work with Local Authorities, WRAP and other organisations.

Supplementary Question: What is your Company Policy on sourcing fresh food – do you have a local solution?

QC: Waitrose sourced from around the world. However, with the exception of New Zealand lamb, all primary agricultural products (ie fruit, vegetables, livestock, eggs etc.) were from the UK, such as chicken sourced from East Anglia and Northern Ireland and beef sourced from Dovecote Park. The Company operated with very few suppliers and with very short supply chains.

IF: 8 depots deliver to UK regions in a patchwork of local authority recycling provision. Where we have been able to match this patchwork of provision is with compostable carrier bags, made from starch based polymer for second use as a food waste caddy liner, available in selected stores where the local authority accepted them for food waste collections.

What is your policy around promoting multiple purchases and smaller packs to meet customers' needs? Cllr Fodor

What are your practices in terms of proactive discounting of products as they reach the end of their shelf life? Cllr Negus

IF: The customer was looking for products that will save money for them. However, providing food for single people was a challenge because of different portion sizes for different sized people. In response to a question concerning multiple purchases, there is no evidence that this leads to increased waste. However, it does make sense that it would. We don't do BOGOF's on perishable goods, using mix and match across ranges. Shelf life varied on a case by case basis, based on science – for example, the shelf life of skin packed steaks had recently been extended from 10 days to 17 days following microbiological testing. The Co-operative had stopped using display until dates some time ago to avoid confusion.

QC: The previous Company policy of “buy one get one free” did not operate any longer, apart from dishwasher tablets where there would be no waste. Shelf life is critical in this situation. Used by dates were assessed according to the bacteriological performance of food with standards set by the Food Standards Agency. Best before dates were based on stock rotation and were just a guidance for quality. Products were marked reduced to clear prior to the used by date being reached. The process after this was as follows: discount to staff, food share and then AD but not usually cattle feed as DEFRA had very strict rules governing this.

Do you make donations to food banks? If so, how often and to which organisations? And what is your target for food redistribution in 2016? Cllr Negus & Cllr Milestone

What targets do you have to redistribute to Fair Share?

IF: There is no national scheme by the Co-operative for food banks. Redistribution takes place where possible with Fair Share. A scheme in Leeds called Real Junk Food uses surplus food in store to affordable cafes. The Co-operative's policy was to avoid surplus wherever possible but where this was not possible, they delivered to Fair Share. Products were discounted to staff, sent to Food Share and then to AD. Animal feed was a problem because of regulation. It would only be suitable for one or two products such as sliced bread, which actually produces relatively little waste.

QC: All stores share food banks working with the Trussell Trust. Each store had a local relationship ie Clifton with the Food café, the Salvation Army etc. All retained food was subject to AD (Anaerobic Digestion).

Councillors noted that the policy on food donation was likely to vary between supermarkets.

Do you recognise the process of gleaning? What do you do with food which is no longer suitable for human consumption? (Councillor Negus)

QC: Waitrose used a series of awards entitled “Project World” to promote the collection of leftover crops after they’ve been commercially harvested. However, this practice would never be able to resolve the problem due to climactic variations. Freeganism (the practice of reclaiming food from shops) was becoming a fashionable practice but there were other key issues to consider, such as the problems caused by the failure to store food appropriately. A variety of processes were used to deal with food that is no longer for human consumption including sending to zoos.

IF: The Co-operative is looking at the Real Junk Food Project as a way of dealing with this but before the food is no longer suitable for consumption.

How is the amount of waste reduced? Cllr Hickman.

How is food waste (i.e. food not suitable for human consumption) dealt with and alternatives to anaerobic digestion have you explored? Cllr Negus

How do you deal with surplus food (i.e. food suitable for human consumption which would otherwise go to waste)? Cllr Negus

QC: Waitrose had done its best using techniques such as partner shopping. The Company sold approximately £6.5 Billion of food a year. The amount that went to AB was a very small amount of this – approximately half of 1%.

IF: It is expensive to get rid of waste by AD. The Company would prefer to use as much food as possible for human consumption. Food waste is only 1% of the total food waste in the UK.

Outline any ongoing work reviewing current specifications for produce, and opportunities to improve storage and transportation in the early stages of the supply chain. Cllr Negus

What is your policy regarding small or misshapen fruit and vegetables? Cllr Milestone

QC: Waste is not in the interest of the Company or of farmers. However, waste needed to be reduced in all its forms – for example, the cost of diesel in tractor fuel when sheep could be used instead. There may be particular solutions for certain types of crops – for example, the “Less Than Perfect” carrot packs which is part of a range of vegetables packed in a particular way outside the normal specification. In this instance, the focus is on an agricultural surplus at the rate of production which enables the farmer to have some growing and sorting costs enhanced by avoiding the manual processing of the different type of vegetable that can lower the retail return. Normally, vegetables would be sent form stock feed with the supply chain expert assessing what could go to the retailer.

Certain techniques would be used by the farmers to grow parsnips and carrots on stony ground. However, if a product was frost-damaged (ie weather-shaped apples and pears), these were sold as a separate pack. If necessary, these could be sold as cider or fruit juice, although this was not preferred since it needed to be sold at a lower price. Farmers wanted the best produce possible to maximise income.

IF: The Co-operative were now planning to provide “wonky veg” but this is to meet customer demand. Produce specifications had been relaxed in some years to continue with supply eg when we had excessive rainfall in 2012 which prevented harvesting.

How is food brought into and moved around the city? Cllr Negus

IF: This depends on the street where the delivery is being made. Many stores are in residential areas with difficult access.

QC: this was provided by articulated trucks, diesel vans and through trucks providing home delivery. Four vehicles a day delivered to the shop at Westbury Park. At the Clifton store there was a single vehicle delivering at 6pm in the morning.

IF: The Co-operative did not provide a home delivery service.

What is the impact of this on air quality? Cllr Negus

Supplementary Question: Do you have a policy of home delivery with vehicles more appropriate to local streets in terms of air pollution and physical impact?

How do you break down your loads into smaller ones to facilitate easier transport?
Cllr Negus

QC: Euro 6 trucks were used which created very low emissions. Some electric vans were used but were in development. Hydrogen had been considered as an option but there was a problem with energy balance and, therefore, they were not favoured for use at the moment. Battery trucks were not practical for use. A fleet of vehicles was being developed using a bio gas cleaner and phasing out diesel in favour of gas. The difficulty with electricity was the energy density since the battery size was too big for lorries unlike cars. Separate compressors were used to reduce emissions.

IF: Euro 6 trucks were used from Avonmouth and operated at less than 5 years old. It wasn't yet clear if gas was being considered as an option but he could find the answer and advise officers accordingly. Deliveries are on mixed load vehicles – a mixture of chilled and ambient product. He noted that the Avonmouth distribution depot could be used to break down products into smaller sizes for –potential

transport in smaller vehicles ie electric vehicles. Whilst the Company used its own depots, it would be useful to obtain further information concerning this.

What are your access arrangements for local suppliers? Do you collect products from local suppliers or must they deliver the products to you? Cllr Fodor

IF: The Co-operative uses local suppliers for some products. Arrangements for delivery or collection would be made with individual suppliers to suit both parties.

QC: Waitrose operate on a case by case basis. Collections are kept centralised to have fewer vehicle movements and better quality. However, often local suppliers cannot supply what is required (ie fresh products every day) and not a large amount at one time as local suppliers often did.

What is your policy on deliveries during antisocial hours (where there are nearby neighbours) and impacts on rush hours and bus lanes? Cllr Fodor

IF: The policy varies on a store by store basis.

QC: Deliveries took place between 8pm and 12pm and 5am to 7am. Whilst it was preferred to carry out deliveries when the roads were quieter, they were situations when this needed to take place during rush hour.

Do you send freight by rail? Do you use electric vehicles, or other low emission? Cllr Milestone

QC: Delivery by rail was difficult. Some citrus fruits were moved by rail to Scotland. Rail was frequently not suitable as many deliveries needed to be temperature sensitive in cities since the same lorry would frequently deliver different types of food, as well as fresh, chilled or frozen food.

IF: The Co-operative used the food distribution depot in Avonmouth. Members were free to visit this whenever they wanted.

How have you responded to limitations on vehicle size, emissions and access times from other local authorities? Cllr Negus

Can we tailor these to the requirements for Bristol? Cllr Negus

QC and IH: Both organisations indicated that they will comply with any regulations within which they were required to operate.

QC: Local organisations were urged to delay decisions on clean air until work had been completed concerning Euro 6 and Gas Trucks and co-ordinated to avoid a knock-on impact ie increased traffic moving to Bath.

IF: Local Authorities were requested to provide a good period of notice to allow supermarkets to take action.

At your depots, what are your BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology) ratings? What is your EPC rating? Cllr Milestone

IF: Avonmouth was very good in terms of BREEAM and had an A rating EPC.

QC: Waitrose was working to obtain an Excellence Value BREEAM which would result in a green EPC (ie high rating). Most stores provided water or, in due course, cooled water. HCFC's were being phased out.

Do credits from the recycling points in your car parks go to the local authority, or are they kept by your company? Cllr Morris

QC and IF: There were no recycling credits. However, if there were, they would be happy for these to be provided to Local Authorities.

QC: Recycling points were normally owned and operated by charities. Fly recycling points operated in Waitrose car parks. However, often what was obtained in them was not what was required and this was not a satisfactory situation.

What steps are you taking to reduce energy demand and to switch to renewable energy? Cllr Negus

QC: Waitrose currently only used Green Electricity. Green Gas was not yet available. Energy reduction was important - the biggest drain was lighting in all LED and refrigeration units (Air Conditioning and Cooling). Bio boilers were used to provide stores with bio heat. Standard BREEAM operated in respect of insulation. There had been an increase in car charging points but its future success would depend on the future of electrical vehicles.

IF: The Co-operative are on track to reach a 25% renewable objective for micro electrical regeneration. A fourth wind turbine has recently opened. LED lighting and doors on fridges were used as standard to reduce energy.

What steps are you taking to develop the circular economy? Cllr Fodor

IF and QC: Both supermarkets were involved in the Courtauld commitment.

QC: Waitrose operated a bio gas loop with cardboard and plastic recycling and also extensively using returnable plastic crates. Reverse vending was being considered for some products such as water cartridges. However, this would be considered on a case by case basis – it was not yet proposed to replace kerbside recycling. Whilst a closed loop brewery had been considered, there were currently no breweries

using recycled bottles. My role is to develop innovative solutions in this type of area.

IF: It is difficult to use refill for food for hygiene reasons – attempts had been made with fabric conditioner but customers had found it too messy. Whilst business wanted to do the right thing, the customer needed to buy into it.

Co-operative stores operated longer hours than Waitrose. Did this pose any problems? Is Fair Trade used for local sourcing? Cllr Milestone

IF: None of our stores operate for 24 hours but the long hours do present challenges for some areas such as food waste. Fair Trade was not usually produced locally. However, there was more Fair Trade operated by the Co-operative for its size than other retailers. A great deal of the circular economy work took place through bodies such as WRAP.

QC: Waitrose operated an extensive Fair Trade business such as teas, coffee, bananas and sugar. However, the Company was careful to maintain a balance between Fair Trade and championing British produce. Our company would be interested in innovating in any areas that work.

Are vehicles left running during your deliveries? Cllr Morris

QC: Waitrose used plugged in compressor fans rather than vehicles. The preferred option for the company was less delivery times with bigger trucks.

When was the first time you were involved in discussions with Bristol City Council about these issues?

QC and IF: This was the first time that we have been involved in discussions. Both companies were eager to make this meeting the beginning of a regular and structured dialogue. However, it was noted that there were 391 Local Authorities operating across the country on a regional basis. Organisations such as WRAP or the LGA should provide mechanisms for this. It was also noted that there was a Core Cities Network that discussed waste.

Are all major supermarkets signed to Courtauld 2025?

IF: They were not signed at the moment but it was likely they would all sign. Aldi had currently signed.

There was often a wide ranging consensus between retailers. However, in some areas such as compostable carrier bags there had been a difference of view as a result of which the BRC had reflected the Co-operative view within a report to DEFRA as being “from one of our members”.

The Scrutiny Commission was advised that Heart FM had referred to this meeting in their programme earlier that morning.

The Chair confirmed that he had sent a letter to the Evening Post advising them of this evidence session and of both those who had attended and stated that they would not be attending.

Iain Ferguson (IF) asked the following questions of the Scrutiny Commission:

- (1) Southwark Council operate kerbside collection of plastic film. The film is used in Co-operative brand refuse sacks at 25% with a capacity to be increased to 85% and used in other products within the range. Please can Local Authorities examine the scheme operated by Southwark Council? If successful, Bristol City Council refuse sacks could also be made from recycled kerbside collected film.
- (2) Can Bristol City Council promote compostable carried bags? Mark Husband in Oldham has operated a scheme in Oldham in the BME community which has saved £0.25 Million.
- (3) Can Bristol City Council work with other Local Authorities to promote the benefit of recycling of pots, tubs and trays with the aim of increasing the number of local authorities collecting these items. This will reduce fragmentation of collections allowing retailers to simplify messages to customers which in turn will lead to increased recycling rates.

Quentin Clark asked the following question:

- (1) Is the recycling model flawed? Why do local Authorities ask customers to segregate products if the MURF is used to sort them at a later stage?

The Chair of the meeting thanked Iain Ferguson and Quentin Clark for their attendance.

Resolved:

- (1) that officers investigate the most effective way to establish structured dialogue between local authorities and supermarkets – officers will respond with suggestions**
- (2) that Pam Jones investigates the work carried out on the Kerbside Recycling Scheme by Southwark, as requested by the Co-operative Supermarket, to enable them to increase their capacity of plastic film recycling to 85%**
- (3) that the Minutes of the meeting be circulated to Quentin Clark and Iain Ferguson.**

Action: (1) and (2) Pam Jones, (3) Jeremy Livitt

110. Waste Strategy Refresh – Draft Strategy (Agenda Item 10)

The Scrutiny Commission discussed the draft Waste and Resource Management Strategy.

In response to members' questions, the Service Director made the following points:

- (1) The timeline for landfill was indicative
- (2) Some typing errors were noted and would be corrected
- (3) The differences between the different types of disposal and the Joint Waste Strategy and the Joint Waste Core Strategy will be clarified
- (4) The document will clarify that it will not be completed until late Summer 2016;
- (5) Other issues would also be clarified ie the fact that, whilst the document was prepared by Bristol City Council, there would be consultation with other Local Authorities to link in to the strategy
- (6) The strategy shows that encouraging Bristol residents to recycle materials rather than put them in the black bin has generally been successful. It also noted that there was still considerable food waste still being deposited in the black bin, rather than the brown bin provided;
- (7) Further information could be added to clarify the situation concerning the Co-operative re-usable network on University campus;
- (8) There were no plans to collect disposable nappies as had happened in the 1970s and 1980s since this was not affordable. It was noted that Resource Futures had indicated that they might start using re-usable nappies again
- (9) Officers could provide information concerning the uptake of this service by residents with long-term illnesses and disabilities

Councillors expressed the following concerns:

- (10) The issue of waste from Europe needed to be more clearly set out in the document;
- (11) There was no reference to any future potential closure of the Days Road site – the lease was due to run out in 2019. Officers indicated that there was a separate strategic need to review current provision and how it would be delivered;
- (12) The future report needed to include a section contrasting costs and charges, an update on the current situation concerning fly tipping as well as revenue opportunities. Officers confirmed that the report would include these;
- (13) The report does not currently adequately reflect how the strategy can be achieved – it does not identify deliverable and measurable outcomes. Officers confirmed that this was the first stage of the process assessing high-level targets – the next stage would go into further detail. However, officers could provide further detail to indicate how the numbers set out in the document had been obtained;
- (14) The way that Bristol Waste Company met its required challenges would be crucial – some milestones required fast action;
- (15) There needed to be a section on Repair on pages 75 and 76 in addition to re-use and recycling;

(16) The reference in Page 86 within the Equalities Impact Assessment to “protected characteristics” needed to be specified. Officers said they would clarify this issue with the Equalities Team.

Resolved –

- (1) that it was noted that the information in the landfill recorded in Figure 8 of the timeline for Bristol Waste Contracts is indicative only and will be updated when required**
- (2) that Figures 9 and 10 be clarified to differentiate between different types of disposal treatment ie recycle and landfill**
- (3) that the difference between the Joint Waste Strategy and Joint Core Strategy is explained in the document**
- (4) that the context of consultation with other Local Authorities and with all partnerships linking to the strategy is clarified within the document**
- (5) That details of the uptake of the service by residents with long-term illnesses and disabilities is provided to Councillor Sue Milestone**
- (6) That all appropriate information from this document is incorporated as required into the reports on waste to be submitted to 21st March 2016 meeting**

Action: Pam Jones

111. Date of Next Meeting (Agenda Item 11)

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 10am on Monday 21st March 2016 in a Committee Room, Brunel House, St George’s Road, Bristol.

CHAIR

The meeting finished at 1.35pm.