

EXECUTIVE

NOTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING of the Executive held on Monday 26 July 2004 at 2 pm in the Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

Present

Councillors Phil Shaddock (In the Chair)
Alex Bentley
Mike Hancock CBE MP
Terry Hall
Eleanor Scott

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson and Les Stevens. (Councillors also present were Deputy Executive Members Councillor Paula Riches and Councillor Anthony Martin, Opposition Spokesperson for Environmental Public Protection Councillor David Horne, Councillor Patey, Councillor Storey and Councillor Park)

72 Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 1)

There were no declaration of Members' interests for this meeting.

73 Review of the Wheeled Recycling Bin Scheme (AI 2)

(TAKE IN REPORT PREPARED BY CITY ENGINEER ON BEHALF OF COUNCILLORS LES STEVENS, MALCOLM HEY AND DAVID HORNE)

The Deputy Leader Councillor Phil Shaddock invited the four members of the public who had requested to appear as deputations to address the Executive Members for a maximum of five minutes each. Deputations were then made by Mrs Neville of Station Road, Drayton, Mr Glynn of Westover Road, Mr Blake of Cranborne Road, Cosham and Mrs Owen of Pelham Road, Southsea. The deputations outlined their concerns regarding the implementation and expansion of the wheelie bin scheme. Richard Johnson from the City Engineer's Department was asked to respond to some of the comments made regarding the legality of the scheme under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the application of the law through discretionary powers to require members of the public to use one of four types of recycling receptacles before going to the Executive Member for Environmental Public Protection to consider enforcement. Whilst the preference was for the use of wheeled bins to help meet the Government targets on recycling it was accepted that some people were unable to handle these bins or their properties were not suitable to accommodate them.

A copy of Councillor Hancock's proposed amendment was circulated at the meeting which would replace the first proposal on page 3 of the report to read:

"The mandatory nature of the kerbside recycling scheme should be

maintained but applied in a discretionary manner with greater accommodation of householders' needs. This will mean that there will be a minimum requirement of a green box, but that Portsmouth City Council will encourage as many residents as possible to take up one of the three options for a wheelie bin. The choice of containers available, the capability of the householders and the suitability of properties are discussed in item 3 below. The whole scheme will be closely monitored and reviewed after two years".

The Executive Members then commented on the issues which had been raised by the deputations and within the report. Councillor Hancock CBE MP stressed that the minimum commitment that could be taken on board was the green box and that the Administration wished to retain the weekly collection of both refuse and recycling. Mr Johnson clarified that the contractors had a commitment to collect on one particular day of the week and not a specific time. Councillor Eleanor Scott commented on item 7 of the report regarding schools' recycling and she would be meeting the Director of Education later in the week to discuss proposals for encouraging more recycling in schools. Councillor Horne was then asked to comment on the review which he had participated in and he felt that the findings now gave more options and was pleased that green boxes could still be used. Councillor Shaddock reported that Councillor Alistair Thompson was unwell but his e-mail on the subject had been circulated to all members of the Executive present who had read his comments.

DECISION:

The Executive decided to reintroduce the implementation of the wheeled recycling bin in accordance with the proposal set out in the report as amended at proposal one with the substituted wording and this would be reported for the information of the City Council on 27 July 2004.

The meeting concluded at 2.43 pm.

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Councillor Phil Shaddock
Deputy Leader of the Council

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