

Extract from the minutes of the Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Meeting held on 19th April 2011

45/11 HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE STRATEGY (Agenda Item. 6)

Cabinet considered a report that set out and sought approval for a strategy for Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

Councillor Anne Purse, Shadow Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure, welcomed the increase in the range of recycling and the possibilities for reuse at the Kidlington site. She referred to the existing problems of fly-tipping and expressed some concern, being anxious at anything which made it less easy to dispose of rubbish which would lead to an increased risk of fly tipping.

She noted the enforcement activity and hoped that surveillance would also increase. In response to a question from Councillor David Robertson querying whether she would support putting cameras into vulnerable spots, Councillor Purse replied that she would support any action that was proved to work. All options to take action should be looked at. Responding to a further question about the practicality of electronic chips in bins Councillor Purse indicated that that was not necessarily what she was meaning.

Councillor Shouler as the Efficiencies Champion referred to the reduction in the savings set out in paragraph 46 of the report. He expressed concern at a trend at this early stage of the budget year not to achieve the target savings as it could undermine the validity of the budget and he queried what alternative savings would be found. He also commented on the public consultation noting that the changes were not as a result of such consultation CA3 but that in any case where there were reductions in services then there was bound to be an adverse public reaction.

The Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure in introducing the report highlighted that it was difficult to make assumptions about the level of household recycling at sites, given the success of District Council collections. He stressed that the strategy was about household waste, noting that fly tipping was often commercial in nature. He understood the concerns expressed by Councillor Shouler but felt confident that the savings target overall would be met by the Directorate. The Director of Environment & Economy reinforced the assurance given by the Cabinet Member that the agreed target savings for the Directorate as a whole would be met from within the Directorate

During discussion Cabinet Members referred to recycling initiatives in their local areas and also commented on the level of facilities provided. The Cabinet Member for Police and Policy Coordination referred to the high degree of cooperation between District Councils and the County Council. There was some debate on the merits of surveillance cameras at fly tipping

problem spots.

RESOLVED: to:

a) Approve the Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy as detailed in this report;

b) Authorise detailed implementation plans, including minor changes to the strategy, to be approved by the Director for Environment and Economy in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure.