Present:- Councillor R. S. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Ali, Atkin, Boyes, Falvey and Nightingale.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Havenhand and Walker.

39. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 6TH JANUARY, 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th January, 2009, were agreed as a correct record.

Agreed:- That a report be submitted to the next meeting on recycling in Council offices.

40. COMPOST ROADSHOWS TO SCHOOLS

Hugh Long, Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator, reported on the promotion of composting in schools which was an important element of Rotherham’s future sustainability.

A planning meeting had been held with WRAP to discuss composting issues for the year. It was the intention to hold composting roadshows in 4 Rotherham schools run by a WRAP advisor. If successful, Waste Management would look to develop further programmes for Rotherham schools in the future.

Discussion ensued on the liaison with the Education Service.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a roadshow by held in each of the 4 geographical areas of the Borough.

(3) That discussions take place with the Director of Learning Services on the initiative.

41. PROMOTION OF WORMERIES IN SCHOOLS

Hugh Long, Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator, submitted a report on the proposed promotion of wormeries in schools.

Following a successful bid for Local Area Agreement funding, money had been allocated to providing wormeries to 2 schools in Rotherham. Wormeries processed a range of food waste and turned it into worm mould and a strong organic fertilizer. 3 wormeries had been provided to 2 schools to enable them to investigate food waste processing and also whether they could process cardboard waste.
If proven effective and manageable, the good practice could be shared amongst other schools in Rotherham.

It was suggested that money from Councillors’ Leadership Fund could be used to purchase wormeries for schools. Wormeries currently cost £80.00 each from WRAP.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That an information leaflet be drawn up and circulated to all Members on the benefits of wormeries.

42. WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT UPDATE

Hugh Long, Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator, reported on the new contracts for dealing with the Authority’s waste for the next 7 years.

The submitted report set out a summary of the arrangements for interim waste treatment and disposal, green waste and the household waste recycling centres.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a report be submitted to a future meeting on the Blue Box collection scheme.

(3) That the operating guidance for household waste recycling centre be submitted to the next meeting.

43. MONITORING OF 140 LITRE EXTRA BLACK BINS

Hugh Long, Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator, reported on the extra capacity bins issued for larger families.

Following review of the pilot scheme and feedback from residents in July, 2006, it had been agreed that the qualifying criteria be changed to households with 5 or more permanent residents. Also, after reviewing manual handling techniques and considering the potential increased number of requests, the scheme was modified slightly to the provision of an additional 140 litre bin instead of 360 litre. From September, 2006 to date 3,276 140 litre bins had been issued.

An application system had been introduced whereby residents had to list the names of each resident in their property and sign a declaration that the details were correct. However, there was no way of checking whether the number of residents at a property was correct as the Council Tax Department would not release that information. There were insufficient resources to monitor that every household issued a bin was actively participating in recycling activities.
Discussion ensued on data protection and the inability to get information.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the issue of removal of extra bins upon the commencement of a new tenancy be raised in the Scrutiny Review on the new Tenancy Agreement.

44. VISIT TO ABITIBI

Agreed:- That Members of the Group be circulated with potential dates for a visit to Abitibi.

45. VISIT TO STERECYCLE

Agreed:- That a visit to Sterecycle take place at the rising of the next meeting of this Group.

46. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Waste in Council Buildings

David Rhodes, Property Environmental Manager, reported that an Environmental Champions Network had been established within the Council. Project Groups had been set up in Environment and Development Services with proposals to do the same in Neighbourhoods and Adult Services and Chief Executive's.

Meetings and training had been set up for the next 12 months.

Agreed:- That “Council Waste” be a standing item on this Group’s agenda.

PFI Schools

Hugh Long, Partnership and Development Co-ordinator, reported on recent discussions and agreement that Abitibi would provide a service under the Council contract.

47. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That a further meeting be held on 28th April, 2009 at 9.00 a.m. followed by a visit to Sterecycle.