

CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held at Frenchfields Pavilion on Wednesday 17 January 2007 at 10:00am.

PRESENT

Mr R Bloxham – Carlisle City Council (Chairman)
Mr A Holliday – Copeland Borough Council
Mr B Metz, Eden District Council
Mr D Roberts – Barrow Borough Council
Ms M Rourke - Allerdale District Council
Mrs B Woof – South Lakeland District Council

Also in Attendance:

Ms J Carrol	-	Copeland Borough Council
Mr N Christian	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr L Conway	-	South Lakeland District Council
Ms W Ferry	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr M Gardener	-	Carlisle City Council
Mrs S Garrett	-	Cumbria County Council
Ms B Jones	-	CSWP Project Officer
Mr I F Laird	-	Barrow Borough Council
Mr G Harrison	-	Cumbria County Council
Ms K Tye	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr R Watson	-	Government Office North West
Ms K Williamson	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr A Yates	-	Eden District Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Richardson (Cumbria County Council) and Mr I Stewart (Cumbria County Council).

The Chairman welcomed Ms Maureen Rourke from Allerdale District Council back to the Partnership. He also welcomed Ms Kathryn Tye from Member Services who would be sharing in the servicing of the Partnership.

The Chairman informed members that a report on Communications Strategy would be taken as an urgent item of business. The report had not been included when the agenda had been dispatched but it was necessary for the Partnership to approve the communications strategy. The report would be taken as item 9 on the agenda.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr Bloxham, Mr Holliday, Mr Metz, Mr Roberts, Ms Rourke and Mrs Woof declared a personal interest in all items of business on the agenda that affected their respective local authorities.

3. MINUTES

AGREED, that subject to the inclusion of Ms J Carroll on the list of attendees, the minutes of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership meeting held on 11 December 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Members felt that the bids which had been submitted to the local authorities for inclusion in revenue funding should have given more justification. Mr Harrison informed the Group officers had been aware of members' concerns and had now almost completed proposal forms, presenting the business case for bid submissions. It was agreed that officers would finalise the business case's, including detailing expenditure and present it to the next meeting of the Partnership.

Ms Jones would circulate a copy of a blank form to members which they could use to identify all issues which they considered needed including in the business plan.

Mr Watson informed the Group that the National Waste Strategy which was due to be published in March would show greater integration of commercial and municipal waste.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE OFFICER GROUP

Ms Jones presented the minutes of the meetings of the Officer Group held on 5 December 2006 and 5 January 2007.

5 December 2006

Mr Harrison informed the Group that based on existing figures and waste already under the control of the local authorities, a bid for funding of £45k over two years was being prepared to go towards the future management of commercial waste which would help with LATS targets. Mr Watson undertook to find out if recycling credits would be available for this work.

It was proposed and seconded that an interim report on BVI 84 be presented to the Chief Executives Group followed by a final report back to the Partnership.

Mr Bloxham commented that he understood pooling of WEPG would be given to the CSP and if this was the case he considered that the money should be ringfenced for waste. Mr Harrison assured members that he would send a letter to the CSP on behalf of the Partnership highlighting concerns and requesting that this money would be ring fenced for waste.

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Minute 5 – 3rd bullet point – change “community” to “commercial”.

Minutes 6.2 WEPG Pooling Arrangements – The districts would provide business cases for next years WPEG spending which would include the impact on BVPI 82, BVPI 84a and LATS savings.

Further work was being carried out by Barrow and Copeland to provide information regarding standardised commercial weights.

AGREED, that the minutes of meetings of the Officer Group held on 5 December 2006 and 5 January 2007 be received.

6. WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC SERVICE PARTNER AND GENERAL ISSUES UPDATE

Mr Harrison informed Members that under Emergency Powers the contract with CAW had been terminated on 5 January 2007. Procedures had been put in place to allow Cumbria Waste Management Ltd (CWM) to take over the sites from 14 January 2007 until a new contractor was in place. The relevant sites had been closed for three days to allow CWM to place staff and equipment on site. A meeting had taken place on 12 January to update Barrow Borough Council and South Lakeland District Council on the situation. The sites were now reopened and officers were not aware of any major problems.

Mr Bloxham highlighted the fact because of the recent adverse weather condition the site at Hespian Wood had been closed. Because of the new road being built, the fence around Hespian Wood had also been removed. Rubbish had had to be transported to Flusco and Members felt that this was not acceptable. Mr Harrison undertook to find out when the fence would be replaced.

7. CUMBRIA JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE PREVENTION STRATEGY

Ms Kim Williamson gave a presentation on Cumbria Strategic Waste Prevention Strategy for 2007 – 2012.

The public, retailers and manufacturers would have to be encouraged to change their thinking regarding waste production. Information would have to be available to encourage active community engagement in the three R's .

European Waste Prevention was focused on the fact that almost 80% of a product's waste was generated in manufacture. Locally the strategy was about making the public aware of the three R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Waste prevention had to be supported by educating and training everyone and by good marketing of the services available to help people reduce the amount of waste produced.

It will be necessary to enlist the help of local people to support the waste prevention strategy and this could start with more formal education programmes for schools. More events could be held to promote waste prevention initiatives with local and national organisations taking part in campaigns.

The aim was to make "Resource Cumbria" a Beacon Partnership by 2012.

Members congratulated Ms Williamson on an excellent presentation.

8. CUMBRIA JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: SELECTING THE PREFERRED OPTIONS

Mr Nigel Christian presented a report setting out the options to be taken forward in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS).

Mr Christian explained that on 11 December 2006, Members had requested that officers review and refine the six proposed JMWMS options, taking into account the latest developments in CSWP thinking and including the Local Area Agreement. The option selected would be the published set of principles that would guide and inform decisions and programmes for the CSWP for the foreseeable future and would form the benchmark against which the CSWP would be judged.

The Strategy being developed by CSWP with assistance from Entec Consultants was required by law to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Defra had commissioned Environmental Resource Management Ltd (ERM) to carry out the SEA on behalf of CSWP. Two representatives from ERM were present for this item of business.

Officers had further reviewed and refined the proposed options and now recommended option 7 as set out in detail in the report.

Members had no questions for the ERM representatives at this time and it was

AGREED, that

- a. the report be received;
- b. option 7 as set out in the report be endorsed unanimously by the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership as the options to be taken forward in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy;

9. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Members considered a report from the Corporate Director, Client Services that set out the proposed communications strategy for the CSWP for 2006-2008. The report recommended that the CSWP approve the communications strategy.

The Chair asked Members' to approve the strategy in principle and that it be circulated to district communications departments for agreement. If there were any major changes proposed a report would be presented to a future meeting of the Partnership.

Mr Harrison explained that this was an 'organic' paper which outlined the key issues and stakeholders and explained why communication was necessary. Action plans for communicating with households as the main target audience to be encouraged to use the three R's had been developed and were appended to the report. As the waste agenda developed, this strategy and the action plans would be regularly reviewed.

AGREED, that

- (a) the report be received;
- (b) the communications strategy be agreed in principle;
- (c) consultation take place with district authorities media and communications groups;
- (d) the communications strategy be reviewed on a regular basis.

10. REPORT FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICE NORTH WEST

Mr Watson reported that publication of the review of the National Waste Strategy Review was expected in early March. It would emphasize the importance of climate change, waste prevention, the separation of waste growth from economic growth and meeting the Landfill Directive targets of diverting biodegradable municipal waste.

Indications were that it may contain, amongst other things:

- New targets on the reduction of carbon emissions from waste management practices and on reducing the amount of household waste not recycled.
- National targets (proposed in the consultation) for recycling and composting of household waste of 40% by 2010 and 50% by 2020 and national targets for the recovery of municipal waste of 53% by 2010 and 75% by 2020
- National targets to reduce the amount of commercial and industrial waste going to landfill, calling for better integration of commercial and municipal waste and a target for the construction industry to significantly reduce the amount of construction, demolition and excavation waste going to landfill through reduction, reuse and recycling.
- Consideration of the Landfill Tax escalator beyond 2008, suggesting an increase beyond the current commitment of £35 per tonne.
- Further consultation on providing local authorities with voluntary powers to introduce financial incentives for households to recycle and minimize waste.
- Guidance on the definition of waste.

Action was now being focused on those products and materials where the most environmental gains could be achieved quickly and cost-effectively by diversion from landfill namely, paper, food, glass, aluminium, wood, plastic and textiles and consideration was being given to a ban on the land filling of certain wastes from 2020.

DEFRA was also encouraging the re-manufacture and reuse of products and resources in order to achieve better resource efficiency through business advisory services and working with businesses to put in place producer responsibility arrangements. WRAP were also facilitating a national working group looking at a methodology to be able to count home composting for LATS purposes.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Gardener reminded the Group that the spotlight was on Carlisle regarding commencement of the fortnightly refuse collection at the beginning of February. He asked that Resource Cumbria provide him with a link highlighting that, in regions where fortnightly collections were in place, recycling had increased. The link should also point out that **all** districts in the County were in agreement with the fortnightly collection service as the way forward.

12. FUTURE MEETINGS

AGREED, that all future meetings of the Partnership take place at Frenchfield Pavilion, Penrith. The next meeting would take place on 21 February 2007 at 2:00pm.

The meeting ended at 12:20pm.