

CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Wednesday 21 February 2007 at Penrith Leisure Centre at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT

Mr J R Richardson (Chair)

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

Also in attendance: -

Ms J Carrol	-	Copeland Borough Council
Mr E Davidson	-	Assistant Manager – Environmental Partnership
Ms W Ferry	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr M Gardner	-	Carlisle City Council
Mr G Harrison	-	Cumbria County Council
Ms B Jones	-	CSWP – Project Officer
Mr R Kitchin	-	South Lakeland District Council
Mr I F Laird	-	Barrow Borough Council
Miss K Tye	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr R Watson	-	Government Office North West
Mr A Yates	-	Eden District Council

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr I Stewart - Cumbria County Council, Mr C Pickering - Cumbria County Council and Ms M Graham - North West Waste Forum.

14. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr R Bloxham, Mr A Holliday, Mr R Kitchen, Mr B Metz, Mr D Roberts, Mrs M Rourke and Mrs B Woof declared a personal interest in all items on the agenda that affected their respective Local Authorities.

15. MINUTES

Matters Arising

With reference to Minute 8 of the previous meeting, a member expressed concern that it had not been minuted that a further report had been required regarding the Cumbria Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy; selecting the preferred options. This issue would be discussed during the meeting.

It was pointed out that Minute 5 of the previous meeting which read ...'a bid for funding of £45k over two years'... needed to be amended to read ...'a bid for funding of £90k over two years'... so that it was clear that £90k was being asked for and would be split equally over the two years.

AGREED, that subject to the amendment of Minute 5, the Minutes of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16. MINUTES OF OFFICER GROUP MEETING

Ms B Jones, Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Project Officer, presented the Minutes of the meeting of the Officer Group held on 1 February 2007. The Group were informed that planning for Millom HWRC expires on 31 March 2008 and that two possible alternative sites had been identified. It was agreed at the Officer Meeting that the issue of recycling credits would be discussed at the next Officers Meeting on 28 February 2007.

Ms Jones updated the Partnership on the WEEE Directive stating that the deadline for this was 31 March 2007, although the system was not yet up and running despite being told that it would be in February. It was established at the Officers Meeting that there would be no limit on the number of Designated Collection Facilities (DCF's) that could be registered. A Member asked how the WEEE Directive would have an impact on the Districts. Ms Jones explained that a Working Party would be set up to report on this issue in due course, once arrangements had been made to register. It was asked whether the WEEE Directive was going to start this year and Mr Watson, (Government Office North West) confirmed that although the DTI administration takes time, the WEEE Directive was definitely going live in 2007/08. The Partnership stated that the WEEE Directive was not clear regarding implications for the Districts and the duties for the producers. Ms Jones explained that the Districts needed to determine whether separate collections were required for extra items and this would be raised at the next Officers Meeting.

It was suggested that the Partnership agree that all Districts have the same arrangements in relation to collections in order to maintain consistency across the County. A Member asked what would happen if there were not enough DCF sites, however Ms Jones explained that there was no restriction on the number of DCF's in the Country. One Member of the Partnership suggested that officers should

update members on what is currently in place with regard to the WEEE Directive and what is planned for the future.

It was pointed out that an amendment needed to be made to the Officer Group Minutes at Minute 4 (WPEG Polling Arrangements), so that '35,0000' be changed to read '£35,000'.

AGREED, that subject to the amendments, the Minutes of the meeting of the Officers Group held on 1 February 2007 be received.

17. WASTE MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC SERVICE PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER ISSUES

Mr Harrison gave an update on the work carried out by the County Council in preparation for the Strategic Service Partnership. He informed members that CCC Cabinet would be updated on 13 March 2007.

Several Working Groups were to be established and developed for addressing land and planning, technical, operational, project agreement, finance and waste collection interface issues and issues regarding CWM Limited.

Mr Harrison briefed the Group that household waste was presently expected to have dropped by 4% this year, and had dropped by 2% in the previous year. The introduction of the permit scheme had resulted in a loss of 20,000 tonnes and there was now a 12% gap between the current situation and the original forecasts.

This had led to the potential requirement of two plants with a 75,000 tonne capacity, instead of three 65,000 tonne capacity plants. This should prove to be easier with regard to planning permission and Shanks was currently looking at potential sites for locating the plants. It was pointed out that locating the plants would be a commercial decision to be made by Shanks and Cumbria County Council could only offer local knowledge as an input to this. However the County Council Planning Committee would make the final decision.

There was currently a strategy being developed regarding the location of these sites. A Member questioned whether it would be more difficult to have two sites rather than three as this may result in increased journey times in the transportation of waste. He also asked whether two plants would allow for any spare capacity for commercial waste as the waste arisings were reducing. Mr Harrison explained that the two plants were planned as LATS machines and would therefore not allow for any spare capacity with regard to commercial waste. It was pointed out that when it was originally discussed, journey times and the justification of transport was taken into account and it was questioned whether it would be easier to take the waste to the Shanks Dumfries and Galloway plant as it would reduce journey times. Mr Harrison agreed and added that it needed to be determined whether the Shanks Dumfries and Galloway plant had any spare capacity for this. He proposed to members that there was an opportunity to visit the Shanks Dumfries and Galloway plant in action and suggested two possible dates; 22 March and

27 March 2007, informing members that a letter would be circulated regarding this visit.

The Partnership were briefed that an Operational Steering Group would oversee the work of the parallel work streams; the Officer Governance Group would provide guidance on financial affordability, legal issues and act as an interface with the political process.

Cumbria Scrutiny Network

The Partnership were updated on the results of the evidence session in Copeland and issues to keep in mind for future sessions were listed in the report.

Cumbria Waste Management Limited

Mr Harrison informed the Group that Cumbria Waste Management Limited had been appointed as the contractor for the operation of the seven HWRC's until August. The Group were briefed that Mr Harrison was looking into having the Minutes of the Partnership meetings uploaded on to the 'Resource Cumbria' website, after they had been signed and agreed by the Chair.

AGREED, that

- (1) the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP) note the recent activity undertaken by the County Council and Shanks since the announcement regarding the preferred bidder;
- (2) the CSWP note that the Cumbria Scrutiny Network do not wish to hold any further evidence sessions;
- (3) Cumbria Waste Management Limited have been appointed as contractor for the seven Household Waste Recycling Centres previously managed by CAW Limited.

18. CUMBRIA JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2007-2012

The Partnership were presented with a verbal report from Mr Harrison on the Cumbria Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007-2012. He reiterated that Option 7 was agreed as the preferred option and Entec were currently developing a Strategy for this. A draft copy of the Strategy was circulated at the meeting and members were informed that they were given a ten-day period in which to report back to Mr Harrison with their comments and suggestions. The strategy would then be put to Public consultation and copies would be sent to all members of the Cumbria Strategic Partnership with 'Your Cumbria' being distributed to members of the public informing them that copies of the new Strategy would be available to view in libraries across the County.

A Member asked whether a final document would be brought to the next meeting and whether an electronic copy for Members of local committees would be made available as he felt it important that everyone had access to a copy. Mr Harrison agreed and informed the Partnership that following the ten-day review a further draft copy of the Strategy would be brought to the next meeting.

19. WPEG PROPOSALS AND LATS UPDATE

An updated report on the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant Proposals 2007-08 and LATS Update was circulated at the meeting with a revised table; 'Spending Proposals and Biodegradable Waste Diversion'.

It was explained to the Partnership that some data was missing from the table, (in the section for Barrow) as the officer who would collate this information was on leave at the time of publication.

A Member of the Partnership asked whether there was a recognised way to calculate the annual LATS value so that there was a consistency in data across all Districts. The Group was briefed that Waste Data Flow information from DEFRA was used to calculate global information for the County and that District information could possibly be calculated from this. It was proposed that a common formula be agreed and monitored and that this issue be brought up at the next Officer Group meeting.

A Member advised that spending £1m for a LATS gain of £2m was not what was proposed at the last meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Prevention Strategy and that a 5:1 ratio was in fact suggested. Mr Harrison explained that the presentation being referred to was actually in relation to the 'prevention' of waste and was therefore a different issue to that of diverting the waste from within the waste stream. Upon request, Members were reminded that the annual revenue spend was £500,000, with a further £500,000 capital.

The concern was raised that some bids had been presented to include 'sustainable' business cases because they had included recycling credits. The Partnership were assured however, that it was not in the Council's interest to strip away the recycling credits and thus including recycling credits in the business case should not be a problem.

It was suggested that the issue of recycling credits should be thought about 'corporately', using individual schemes but working together as a Partnership. Members were reminded that the recycling credit arrangements would need to be rethought in 12 months time. The Member suggested that officers investigate what progress was to be made. Another Member informed the Partnership that there was a meeting due to take place the following week regarding this issue.

The Partnership were updated regarding the current status of the WPEG proposals 2007/08 and LATS. Mr Harrison explained that there had been a 3,500 tonne LATS credit in the previous year and a 5,000 tonne LATS credit this year, which

was excellent. There was a requirement to divert 13,558 tonnes of biodegradable waste from the landfill in the following year.

Mrs Woof thanked the officers on behalf of the Partnership for the excellent progress regarding the LATS status. The Chair thanked the District Council representatives for the effort put in to reach a very satisfactory solution.

AGREED, that

- (1) the CSWP endorse the proposal for allocating the WPEG in 2007/08;
- (2) the CSWP note the projected waste growth, recycling/composting and LATS outturn for 2006/07.

20. BVPI 84A

Ms Jones gave the Partnership a verbal update on 'Indicators for total household waste per head of population' (BVP184a). The Group were briefed that Entec Consultation had been appointed to investigate Cumbria and Cheshire's high total waste arisings and issues being focused on included the following: -

- Data management in local authorities throughout the County
- Comparison of how different Waste Streams are reported
- Comparison with those of Cumbria and Cheshire
- The requirement for accessing data from Waste Dataflow and local authority interviews
- The impact of Commercial Waste
- The impact of Tourism

Ms Jones informed the Partnership that a draft Report would be due in the week commencing 5 March 2007. A team of Officers representing the Cumbrian Districts and an Officer from Cheshire County Council would be meeting on 14 March 2007 to discuss the Draft Report.

21. CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP LEGAL AGREEMENT

Mr Harrison presented the Partnership with a report regarding the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Legal Agreement, outlining the need to put in place a more formal arrangement for the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership. It was identified that there were two areas that required attention for a written set of operational rules. The first being the issue that was raised at the last meeting regarding the ownership of assets bought with Waste Performance and Efficiency Grants. The second issue was concerning the development of the 'Swapit' website which has identified a need to establish more formal arrangements for the website rules. The legal team was currently redrafting the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Legal Agreement. It was suggested that a small group (ie. two Councillors and two officers) meet with the County Council Legal Advisor to draft

the Legal Agreement. The Group suggested that the two Councillors should be the Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership and that negotiation would be made as to whom the two officers would be.

AGREED, that Mr J Richardson and Mr R Bloxham represent the Partnership when meeting with the County Council Legal Advisor to discuss the draft updated agreement.

Mr Richardson left the meeting at this point and Mr Bloxham took over as Chair.

22. HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES UPDATE

Mr Harrison gave the Partnership a presentation outlining the progress made on the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) action plan since the last meeting. He explained to Members that there had been some objections to the placement of the HWRCs and this was partly due to the bad publicity and negative perceptions of the centres. A Member stated that there was a need to re-educate all Councillors on the importance of the HWRCs. Another Member agreed and proposed that members be made aware of the importance of HWRCs and their contribution to improving Cumbria's declining economy through the introduction of jobs and by addressing environmental issues such as climate change.

The Group were briefed that proposals for the Workington site were being put to the Planning Committee on the 26 February 2007 and it was hopeful that this would be agreed.

Mrs Woof congratulated Mr Harrison on the excellent service she received at a recent visit to the HWRC site at Kendal and Mr Metz stated that the team working at the Flusco site had also been very helpful. Mr Harrison would pass on these comments.

An Officer informed the Group that there had been local complaints regarding the Flusco site concerning: -

- HWRC opening hours
- the timing of lights shining from the Flusco site
- the slow rate of negotiations for the commercial sector recycling at HWRC sites as there was currently no facility available for small traders.

Mr Harrison addressed these comments. He explained that the opening hours were currently running on a trial basis and he suggested that the public be made more aware of opening times via leaflets and improved signage at the gates at Flusco. One Officer asked whether it was possible for all HWRC's to have the same opening times so that this presented a consistency throughout the County. Members were reminded that this had been discussed at a previous Officer's meeting with summer and winter opening times having been suggested. Mr

Harrison also stated that a regular advert would be placed in the Herald every fortnight to notify members of the public of the opening hours.

The Group were informed that whilst there was a possibility that the lighting at the Flusco site had been over-engineered, at one point a timing switch had broken and this had caused the lights to stay on for an extended period. This was now repaired and the Partnership were advised that Amey would be examining the lighting.

A Member asked whether it was possible to have a Commercial Section for small traders at the HWRC, as it is already manned. It was highlighted that fly tipping was an increasing problem and the issue of small commercial traders requiring recycling facilities could contribute to this. Mr Harrison asked that members notify him of small traders who were looking for a recycling service so that this could be investigated.

AGREED, that the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP) note the action taken since the last meeting and support the initiative currently underway.

23. REPORT FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICE NORTH WEST

Mr Watson, Government Office North West, updated the Partnership, informing them that the Review of the National Waste Strategy was currently with Ministers and publication was expected in mid-march, depending on the timing of the Lyons Review of Local Government Finance and the Budget. One of the issues under discussion was the possibility of landfill tax increasing beyond £35 (currently £21).

The Partnership were informed that, following the national consultation, the national target set for recycling and composting was likely to increase to 40% by 2010 and that individual Local Authority targets would probably increase percentage-wise across the board in order to achieve this. This would be kept under review in the light of the decrease in the level of waste arisings nationally over the past five years or so.

Mr Watson explained that the waste targets agreed in the Local Area Agreement, and additional 'stretch' or reward element based on performance, related to household waste. The household waste indicators (BVPI 82a and 82b) were used as proxy indicators for the LAA mandatory indicator of 'municipal waste'.

Members felt that there was confusion over the definition of each target and the boundaries between household and commercial waste within the LAA targets.

Mr Watson reiterated that there were three targets: -

- Individual District targets
- Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets (stretch targets - Cumbria)
- National targets (40% recycling and composting by 2010 - UK)

He advised that if the LAA stretch targets were achieved an extra £1.25m would be allocated.

24. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Graham Harrison asked for members' permission to list their names and contact details on the 'Resource Cumbria' website. A Member asked that contact details be placed in the form of an email address rather than a telephone number. The Group agreed to this.

25. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was suggested that the Group revert back to the old meeting schedules with meetings to be held on Wednesday afternoons. Meetings would be held at Frenchfields, Penrith wherever possible.

The following meeting dates were agreed: -

Wednesday 4 April 2007 at 1.00 pm

Wednesday 16 May 2007 at 1.00 pm

The venues of these meetings were to be confirmed and details of these would be circulated to members in due course.

The meeting ended at 3.40 pm.