

## CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Wednesday 8 August 2007 at Penrith Rugby Club at 1.00 pm.

### PRESENT

Mr R Bloxham (Chair)

Mr G Blackwell – Copeland Borough Council  
Mr B Metz – Eden District Council  
Mr J R Richardson – Cumbria County Council  
Mr D Roberts – Barrow Borough Council  
Mr S Standage – Allerdale Borough Council  
Mr I Stewart – Cumbria County Council  
Mrs B Woof – South Lakeland District Council

### Also in Attendance:

Mr M Allman - Client Services, Cumbria County Council  
Ms J Carrol - Copeland Borough Council  
Mr R G Denby - Allerdale Borough Council  
Ms W Ferry - Client Services, Cumbria County Council  
Mr M Gardner - Carlisle City Council  
Mrs S Garrett - Member Services Unit, Cumbria County Council  
Mr G Harrison - Client Services, Cumbria County Council  
Ms B Jones - Project Officer, Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership  
Mr R Kitchen - South Lakeland District Council  
Mr I F Laird - Barrow Borough Council  
Mr A Yates - Eden District Council

### 26. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr C Pickering - Cumbria County Council, Mr S Mounsey – Environment Agency and Mr R Watson – Government Office North West.

Mr Richardson arrived at this point. He acknowledged Mr Bloxham as Chair and agreed that he should continue to chair the meeting.

## **27. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Mr G Blackwell, Mr R Bloxham, Mr B Metz, Mr J R Richardson, Mr D Roberts, Mr S Standage, Mr I Stewart and Mrs B Woof declared a personal interest in all items of business on the Agenda which affected their respective local authorities.

## **28. MINUTES**

**AGREED,** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Wednesday 27 June 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Chair highlighted that the date of the next meeting had been brought forward from 19 to 10 September. He reminded members that if there proved to be a need to change the date of a meeting, this should be done in consultation with all members of the Partnership.

### **Matters Arising:**

#### **Memorandum of Understanding**

At the last meeting of the Group, Mr Harrison had informed members that the Memorandum of Understanding had been refreshed and based on the accepted format followed by most local authorities in the County. It had been intended to present the amended Memorandum of Understanding to the meeting today to allow members to formally accept it. However, the document was still being finalised by more than one authority and members agreed that it be presented to the next meeting of the Partnership on 10 September 2007.

## **29. MINUTES OF OFFICER GROUP MEETINGS**

### **a) 12 July 2007**

Ms Barbara Jones, Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Project Officer, presented the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group held on 12 July 2007.

The Officer Group had been informed that Jenny Robinson (WRAP) would try to find out if, and how, the Rotate Team could help with Recycling Credits and collections.

Lack of written confirmation had meant that there had been a delay in implementing the recycling scheme for Tetrapak. Collection provision offered by Tetrapak was listed in the report. There were no Tetrapak collection sites in the UK at this time, although there was a trial taking place at some UK paper mills. Tetrapak used caged containers with a visual guide as this had been proven to help prevent contamination. Ideally there would be four or five bring sites in each

District and there had been suitable sites identified at Barrow, Carlisle, Kendal and Wigton. Members agreed that clarification would have to be sought before entering into provision of collection and recycling of Tetrapak and requested that a report be presented to the next meeting of the Partnership.

13 Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRCs) and 4 Transfer Stations had been designated as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) collection facilities. There had been some changes made in Eden regarding collection of WEEE and Barrow had indicated that there were likely to be changes to their collection system.

Consultant Matthew Heath had been authorised to commence work with Commercial Waste. He would be contacting Districts individually for information.

The Officer Group had agreed to publish "Resource Cumbria" and Barbara Jones would contact the County Council's Communications Unit to arrange this.

Members felt that the Partnership needed to fully debate the feasibility of collection of some types of waste and the resultant implications on the authorities and agreed that this should be included on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Partnership.

A member expressed concern that the County were setting up a Materials Marketing Organisation (MMO) but the Notes of the Officer Group meeting highlighted that when asked about what happened to the recyclate if the Shanks deal went ahead, most officers did not know. Mr Harrison assured members that the MMO had been discussed in great detail and agreed by the Partnership in March 2006. With respect to the recyclate, it had been agreed that Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP) and Shanks would work together. The MMO was a CSWP idea **not** Shanks. Shanks wanted the recyclate material but the income would remain with CSWP and it was intended that there would be no changes, other than very minor, to this contract for at least the first three years once the preferred bidder had taken over their part of the contract. The decision necessary by the Partnership would be whether Cumbria County Council or Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership would set up the MMO. Mr Harrison reiterated that there may not have been many definitive details but officers had been informed about the MMO in 2006.

Members agreed that the Partnership had to be open and that all authorities had to work together to consult and maintain a corporate outcome.

**AGREED,** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group held on 12 July 2007 be noted.

#### **b) 23 July 2007**

Miss Jones updated the Partnership on the Minutes of the last Officer Group meeting held on 23 July 2007.

Generally members were displeased that bring sites were being used for all sorts of tipping and queried whether there was provision to police fly-tipping hotspots and issue fines. One member informed the Group that an opportunity had arisen in their District when a warning had been issued but there was concern that this illegal dumping of waste was again increasing. Members felt that this issue should be discussed in some detail and it was agreed that this would be considered at a future meeting of the Partnership.

The Officer Group had also:

- received a presentation of the draft Education Strategy;
- discussed the draft Annual Review;
- received an overview of the recycling for rewards for schools scheme;
- considered the recycling credit replacement scheme;
- considered the possibility of organising a task force to look at issues such as school waste;
- looked at the recycling percentage and how to increase recycling performance in schools;
- considered the MMO and the fact that costs of bulk storage and haulage of recyclate would be met by the County Council through the contract with the new waste contractor;
- agreed that income from the sale of recyclate would be passed to the MMO and therefore into the control of the CSWP.

The Districts had made bids for future funding for schemes in order not to fail with Land Allowance Target Schemes (LATS) targets. It was suggested that officers contact DEFRA to inform them that the Partnership was now two years old and to request that WPEG money be ring-fenced for the Partnership. Mr Harrison agreed to write to John Burns on behalf of the Partnership and to copy the letter to Government Office North West (GONW).

**AGREED,** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group held on 23 July 2007 be noted.

### **30. WASTE EDUCATION STRATEGY**

Members received a presentation from Martin Allman, Waste Education Officer on the draft Waste Education Strategy for 2007-2012.

Mr Allman explained that he intended to give a brief overview of the current situation, continuing waste education programme and the aims and objectives for waste education in the future. Operatives had visited schools, youth clubs and attended special events throughout the County with the aim of encouraging direct engagement with teachers, pupils and young people. The visits had resulted in 14 new Eco Schools and the introduction of recycling awards for schools. The desired outcome of waste education would be a significant reduction in waste produced by schools and to encourage young people to be aware of the need for waste reduction outside schools. Children were asked to collect pledges for recycling which could achieve awards of a green flag for their school. Mobile

operatives would be equipped to work in schools and the community and to encourage better linking with partnership campaigns. At the moment Cumbrian children produced some c5200 tonnes of school waste each year and there was phenomenal potential for considerable LATS savings.

Consideration now had to be given to future funding, how we measured success and how we compared with other authorities. An analysis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) and one on Political, Economic, Social, Technical and Environmental (PESTE) would be carried out to determine the way forward.

A member pointed out that often when a school had achieved a green flag status they did not have the finance available for planning permission or erection of the flag pole.

Members congratulated Mr Allman on his presentation and agreed that waste education was an issue that should be debated in detail at a future meeting of the Partnership. Requests for further funding would have to be put to respective Cabinets and members also agreed that the funding situation needed clarified. It was suggested that Cumbria Local Authority Strategic Board (CLASB) be asked to make a decision on funding. However, as CLASB could not make Executive Decisions and could only consider and make recommendations, it was

**AGREED,** that Ron Denby draft a letter to CLASB asking them to examine a practical solution for standardised waste collection in Cumbria and to ask Officers for further detailed findings.

Mr Allman circulated a copy of the presentation and the Waste Education Strategy for 2007/2012 for members information.

### **31. WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC SERVICE PARTNER AND GENERAL ISSUES UPDATE**

Mr Harrison updated members on the work carried out on a range of issues since the last meeting.

#### **Strategic Service Partner Update**

Negotiations continued with Shanks and work was continuing with the payment specifications. Officers were now considering plant sizes. The initial plan was for two 75000 tonnes plants as this would allow for excess in future and in the meantime any spare capacity could generate income. There was a further planning meeting with Shanks on 10 August.

## **General Issues**

Work continued to try and identify Eco Waste Transfer Sites and progress regarding the identification of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) continued.

Since the introduction of fortnightly collections in some Districts, household waste going to landfill had been reduced by 14%. Recycling had increased by 17.5% and collection of garden waste for composting had increased by 25%. Mr Harrison tabled two graphs showing the recycling and composting rates in each authority by percentage and tonnage during 2006/07. The graphs would be circulated with the Minutes of the meeting for 10 September 2007.

Mr Harrison was asked to confirm that recycle was outwith Shanks contract and would remain with the MMO. He confirmed that the specification had not changed as it had seemed the right way forward would be to retain control of recycle with the MMO and therefore CSWP.

A meeting had taken place with the relevant bodies regarding an HRWC for Moresby and this was being progressed with the Districts.

Members agreed that it was imperative that all the authorities in the County worked towards a common collection programme.

It was intended to arrange further visit to Shanks Dumfries and Galloway plant and the Secretary would e-mail details to officers and members of the Group asking them to let their respective Councillors and colleagues know the dates and to let the Secretary know which date was most convenient.

Mr Harrison tabled laminated copies of the 'Recommended Options for Future Waste Management' which members thought was a very useful handout.

### **32. CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP – ANNUAL REVIEW 2006/07**

Ms Jones presented the first annual review of the CSWP.

The review identified where responsibility for handling and disposal of waste lay within the County. It set out the purpose of establishing the Waste Partnership between the County and District Councils, highlighted how the Partnership had developed over the previous two years, its achievements and its aims and objectives for the future.

During discussion of the paper, members were assured that because of several waste minimisation initiatives including reallocation of standard commercial weight, the kg per head of population (BVPI84a) had fallen from 636kg to 594 kg.

The Partnership was a good example of how a close working relationship between the County and Districts could work in an effective and efficient way for the whole

community and consideration should now be given to the possibility of establishing a Waste Partnership Board/Authority. Members and officers were urged to talk to their respective authorities, giving assurance that the partnership worked well and asking that it be afforded the necessary funding to continue its work and achievements.

**AGREED,** that the first Annual Review of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership be received.

### **33. RECYCLING CREDIT PAYMENT REPLACEMENT SCHEME**

Ms Jones presented a report on the Recycling Credit Payment Replacement Scheme.

The report highlighted the duty of Waste Disposal Authorities (WDA) to pay Recycling Credits to the Waste Collections Authorities (WCA) within relevant authority boundaries. Recycling Credits were currently based on an average disposal cost of waste which was sent to landfill sites and valued at a price per tonne.

The Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 provided the partnership with the opportunity to develop a new system for financial support for WCA recycling.

Members were asked to:

- Recognise and note that need to develop and implement a new method for the EDA to support WCA recycling and landfill diversion;
- Support proposal to maintain the status quo, with Recycling Credit funding available to WCAs for 2008/09 at the 2007/08 level plus Retail Price Index inflation costs;
- Support proposals for a WDA top-up fund managed by a CSWP project team for achieving LATS benefits;
- Approve the CWSP officer group application for WRAP/ROTATE support to assess the financial and recycling infrastructure implication of altering the scheme to accommodate the WDAs waste management contract;
- Assist in identifying and assessing viable alternatives.

The Officers Group were confident that by adopting the interim measures for the 2008/09 financial year, the 5 options for future Recycling Support Payments as set out in an appendix to the report could be fully analysed when the negotiations with the preferred bidder were concluded.

**AGREED,** that

- (a) the report be received;
- (b) members recognise and note the need to develop and implement a new method for the WDA to support WCA recycling and landfill diversion;
- (c) members support the proposal to maintain the status quo, with recycling credit funding being available to WCAs for the financial year 2008/09 (2007/08 levels inflated by RPI);
- (d) members support the proposal for a WDA top-up fund to be focused on achieving LATS benefits and managed by a CSWP project team;
- (e) members approve the CSWP Officer Group's application for WRAP/ROTATE support in assessing the financial and recycling infrastructure implications for further altering the scheme to accommodate the WDA's new waste management contract, as well as assisting in identifying and critically assessing viable alternatives;
- (f) members agree to the enhanced commercial waste recycling – targeting biodegradable materials.

#### **34. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Members noted the dates for future meetings of the Partnership and in particular that the September meeting would now take place on the 10 at Penrith Rugby Club.

*The meeting ended at 4.15 pm.*