

## **CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP) held on Wednesday 22 April 2009 at 1.00 pm at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Penrith.

### **PRESENT**

Mr R Bloxham - Carlisle City Council (Chair)  
Mr G Nicolson - Eden District Council  
Mr N Shaw – Cumbria County Council  
Mr S Standage – Allerdale Borough Council  
Mr I Stewart - Cumbria County Council  
Mr K Williams – Barrow Borough Council  
Mrs B Woof - South Lakeland District Council

### **Also in Attendance:**

Mr M Allman	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr E Davidson	-	Allerdale Borough Council
Ms W Ferry	-	Cumbria County Council
Ms J Fisher	-	Copeland Borough Council
Mr M Gardner	-	Carlisle City Council
Ms M Graham	-	North West Waste Forum
Mr G Harrison	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr R Kitchen	-	South Lakeland District Council
Mr I Laird	-	Barrow Borough Council
Mr J Shatwell	-	Environment Agency
Mr A Yates	-	Eden District Council

### **In Attendance for Minute Number 5:**

Mr M Caul - Marks and Spencer

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr G Blackwell, Ms J Carrol, Mr A Proffitt and Mr R Watson.

### **2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

All Council Members declared a personal interest in items of business relating to their respective authorities.

### **3. MINUTES**

**AGREED,** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on 11 March 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 3 – Mrs Woof asked for further information on the payments for the percentage of recycling/composting achieved by the Districts under the Recycling Reward Scheme element of the Inter-Authority Agreement. It was agreed that the Officer Group would give further consideration to the Recycling Reward calculation in the context of any additional payment that could be made to Districts for overperformance.

**GH to Action**

#### **5. MARKS AND SPENCER “PLAN A” PACKAGING CHARTER**

The Partnership received a presentation from Mr Mark Caul, Packaging Technologist, Marks and Spencer Food Group. Mr Caul explained that “Plan A” had been launched by Marks and Spencer in January 2007 with targets for climate change, waste, sustainability of raw materials, fair partnership and health. It also included targets for the reduction of packaging by 25% by 2012 and for 100% of packaging to be recyclable. In 2007 the weight of packaging in over 700 packs had been reduced. A 10% weight reduction had been identified for 2009/10.

The presentation included examples of the recyclable and non-recyclable packaging in current use, together with the information on recyclability used on pack labelling. It was explained that Marks and Spencer wished to work with Local Authorities to divert packaging from landfill and were currently taking used plastic milk bottles to be processed into new milk bottles with recycled content.

Mr Caul answered questions on plastic and glass recycling, cereal packaging and on the use of marketing to encourage waste reduction.

The Chair thanked Mr Caul for his presentation.

#### **6. MINUTES OF CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP OFFICER GROUP MEETING**

Mr Harrison presented the Minutes of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group meeting held on 6 April 2009.

Minute 14 – Particular attention was drawn to the cost and inconvenience experienced by some householders in disposing of plasterboard following the introduction of new regulations governing its handling and disposal. It was suggested that HWRCs should act as collection centres for plaster board that householders wished to dispose of with immediate effect. If necessary, application would be made to the Environment Agency for the appropriate permits to allow HWRCs to handle this material.

**GH to Action**

## **7. CAPITAL FUNDING 2009/10**

The Partnership considered a report from the Development Officer, presented by Mr Harrison, which set out bids for capital funding received from the constituent members of the Partnership.

Members were reminded that two capital bids from the financial year 2008/09 had been prioritised by the Partnership at its meeting on 11 March 2009. One bid, from Carlisle City Council/Eden District Council, was for £35,880 for the purchase of 240 litre wheeled bins. The other bid from South Lakeland District Council, was for £15,000 to cover the cost of recycling boxes. Members were recommended to agree these bids.

The Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group recommended two other bids for approval, from Allerdale Borough Council (£104,600) and Copeland Borough Council (£75,000), involving the purchase of wheeled bins for the expansion of waste minimisation projects. Members were advised that a further bid from Allerdale Borough Council for 840 wheeled bins in the sum of £23,957 could also be approved. A recommendation on a bid from Carlisle City Council for a Recycling Advisor (£25,000) had been deferred by the Officer Group due to uncertainty as to whether it was a capital or revenue bid. It had been decided that this should be held over until clear guidance on the use of the Capital Infrastructure Grant had been received from the County Council. It was explained that all future bids would be assessed and judged according to this guidance and would be presented to the Partnership with a clear recommendation that they be approved, rejected or deferred.

It was agreed that a protocol on the timetable and procedure

for considering capital funding bids should be drawn up and submitted for approval at the Partnership's next meeting. The Chair proposed that the format of the applications should be standardised and that no further bids should be considered until the protocol had been agreed. It was also proposed that associated revenue costs should be taken into account when future bids were submitted.

Procurement issues were discussed and it was suggested that the award of funding to a Local Authority for new bins should involve an examination of the possibilities for future use of any existing stock. Each Local Authority could share information on surplus bins that it held. It was agreed that a report on the use of Partnerships/Local Authority logos on bins and their transferability could be submitted to a future meeting of the Partnership.

**GH/AP to Action**

**All to Note**

**AGREED,** that

- (1) approval be given to the bid from Carlisle City Council/Eden District Council for the purchase of 1,560 x 240 litre garden waste bins deferred from 2008/09 and to the bid from South Lakeland District Council for recycling boxes, both deferred from 2008/09;
- (2) approval be given to a new bid from Allerdale Borough Council, for the purchase of 120 black bins and 120 green bins, a new bid from Copeland Borough Council for 120 litre wheeled bins, and a new bid from Allerdale Borough Council for the purchase of 840 x 240 litre green wheeled bins;
- (3) the bid from Carlisle City Council for the employment of a Recycling Advisor be declined and funding from the Recycling Reward Scheme be used instead;
- (4) a protocol on the timetable and procedure for considering future capital funding bids be submitted to the Partnership's next meeting;
- (5) associated revenue costs be taken into account when capital bids are submitted;
- (6) the future use of any existing stock be

**GH/AP to Action**

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**All to Note**

considered in relation to the award of funding for new bins;

**All to Note/AP to Action**

- (7) a report on the use of Partnership/Local Authority logos on bins and their transferability be submitted to a future meeting of the Partnership.

**GH/AP to Action**

## **8. STRATEGIC SERVICE PARTNER UPDATE**

The Partnership received an update from Mr Harrison on the progress of Cumbria County Council's Procurement Project.

**AGREED,** that the report on the progress of Cumbria County Council's Procurement Project be received and noted.

## **9. CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The Partnership considered a report from the Development Officer, presented by Mr Harrison, which provided an update on the activities of the Partnership and the achievements of the individual organisations within it.

Members received Waste Collection Authority activity updates, with verbal updates provided by Eden District Council and South Lakeland District Council at the meeting. Members were pleased to note the successful launch of the latest phase of Barrow Borough Council's Waste Minimisation Project.

It was reported that the Officer Group had recently considered examples of press release templates produced by the Cumbria County Council Marketing Team, which might form the starting point for the development of an agreement. The Chair stressed the importance of ensuring that publicity material was coordinated and that the Partnership received credit and publicity for its work whenever possible.

**All to Note**

The Partnership was advised that recyclate movements from Waste Collection Authorities had remained consistent since the report to the Partnership at its previous meeting on 11 March. The report also included an update from the Environment Agency on green waste reprocessing provision, which confirmed that most District collection schemes were at or near to the maximum anticipated. Current capacity would be sufficient to deal with the municipal green waste collection

in Cumbria. However, this might change through the impact of proposed new waste exemption regulation on farm based units.

The Partnership also received an update on the progress of the Inter-Authority Agreement and on the "Waste Not Want Not" initiative.

Mr Harrison provided an LAA and performance update at the meeting. The Partnership was pleased to note good performance figures, with the 2007-10 target for Municipal Recyclable Waste of 38% already exceeded.

**AGREED,** that

- (1) the information provided by partners on their activities be noted;
- (2) a further update be given at the next CSWP meeting.

## **10. JOINT WASTE AUTHORITY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

The Partnership considered a report by the Development Officer, presented by Mr Harrison, on the progress made following the tentative Expression of Interest (EOI) in developing a Joint Waste Authority. Members were advised that on 3 March 2009, the Partnership Development Officer and the County Council's Head of Waste Management had attended a Defra – led seminar for the Expression of Interest Group. It was explained that the Partnership had been categorised as a "First Stage Partnership" and that Defra would help to identify the best method of developing the EOI without necessarily committing to a Joint Waste Authority.

The Partnership received details of work undertaken with Defra to date, including work with Hampshire's Partnership to identify decision making criteria for joint working options and to identify and analyse basic options. It was suggested that the CSWP Development Officer should work with the Defra representatives and the EOI Group to produce a comprehensive plan for the work associated with the Joint Waste Authority EOI.

It was noted that the Chair of the Partnership had written to the Chair of the Local Authority Strategic Board to provide an update on progress.

**AGREED,** that

- (1) a work plan be jointly developed with Defra representatives to ascertain impressions of joint working to date and how this could be further developed;
- (2) Defra representatives be invited to attend the Partnership's meeting on 15 July 2009 to identify the options open to the CSWP for strategic development and further joint working;
- (3) the same exercise be undertaken with the Cumbria Local Authority Strategic Board (CLASB), to ensure that their expectations and visions for the CSWP are integrated into the work.

**GH/AP to Action**

**GH/AP to Action**

**GH/AP to Action**

## **11. RECYCLING AND REUSE CREDITS FOR THIRD PARTIES**

The Partnership considered a report by the Waste Prevention Officer, presented by Mr Harrison, which proposed an amendment to the Recycling and Reuse Credit payment mechanism to give a more fair and equitable payment across the County. Members were reminded that, at its meeting on 11 March 2009, the Partnership had agreed to a new Recycling Rewards Scheme, replacing the statutory payments of Recycling (and Reuse) Credits to the Waste Collection Authorities.

It was explained that the Waste Disposal Authority had the power to pay credits to third parties for any tonnage of household waste that was either reused or recycled. There was currently considerable disparity in the costs of disposal to landfill across Cumbria, resulting in some organisations receiving much higher per tonne payments according to the WCA boundaries that they were working within. It was therefore proposed that the new payment for third party organisations should be based on the Cumbria average cost of landfill per tonne at 31 March 2006 plus 3% every year after. It was explained that, by applying the 3% per year indexing, the payment for the first year (2009/10) would be £52.95 per tonne. The following figures were noted as the payment growth from 2007/08 onwards;

2007/08	£49.91
2008/09	£51.40

2009/10	£52.95
2010/11	£54.53
2011/12	£56.17

It was recommended that all third parties registered to the scheme and receiving payments should adhere to the waste data quality regime that had been agreed as part of the Recycling Reward Scheme.

Mr Harrison noted members' comments on the basket of indices to be used for collating the 3% per year indexing and on the anticipated impact of the scheme within Eden. It was agreed that the budget could be examined for any flexibility prior to further discussion of the proposals at the next Officer Group meeting.

**AGREED,** that the Scheme be adopted, subject to confirmation on the indexing issue by the Officer Group at its next meeting.

**GH to Action**

## **12. GONW UPDATE**

This matter was not discussed as Mr Watson had been unable to attend the meeting.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was raised.

## **14. RELEASE OF REPORTS**

It was agreed that all the reports presented to this meeting of the CSWP could be released into the public domain.

## **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted that the next meeting of the CSWP was due to be held on the day before the County Council Elections and it was suggested that an alternative date be identified. Members also requested that a further meeting of the CSWP be scheduled for a date in August.

It was therefore agreed that the date of the meeting scheduled for 3 June 2009 should be changed and that the next meeting of the CSWP would be held as follows:

**Date:** Wednesday 20 May 2009

**Time:** 1.00 pm (12.30 pm lunch)

**Venue:** Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency if possible,  
otherwise to be confirmed.

It was also agreed that a further meeting of the CSWP should be scheduled for Wednesday 19 August 2009 to be held at 1.00 pm at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Penrith.

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm