

## CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP) held on Wednesday 20 May 2009 at 1.00 pm at Rheged Centre, Redhills, Penrith.

### PRESENT

Mr R Bloxham – Carlisle City Council (Chair)  
Mr A Holliday – Copeland Borough Council  
Mr N Shaw – Cumbria County Council  
Mr I Stewart – Cumbria County Council  
Mr M Tonkin – Eden District Council  
Mr K Williams – Barrow Borough Council  
Mrs B Woof – South Lakeland District Council

### Also in Attendance:-

Mr M Allman - Cumbria County Council  
Ms M Fallon - Cumbria County Council  
Ms W Ferry - Cumbria County Council  
Mr M Gardner - Carlisle City Council  
Ms M Graham - North West Waste Forum  
Ms B Jones - Allerdale Borough Council  
Mr I Laird - Barrow Borough Council  
Mr N Pearson - South Lakeland District Council  
Mr A Proffitt - Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership  
Mr J Shatwell - Environment Agency  
Mr R Watson - Government Office North West  
Mr A Yates - Eden District Council

### In Attendance for Minute Number 5:-

Ms J Frost - Resource Futures

### ACTION

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ms J Carrol, Mr N Christian, Mr E Davidson, Mr G Harrison and Mr S Standage.

#### 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

All Council members declared a personal interest in items of business relating to their respective authorities. Ms M Graham declared a personal interest in relevant items, as a representative of the North West Waste Forum.

### **3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED,** that the minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on 22 April 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Minute 4**

The issue of possible additional payments for outperformance under the Recycling Reward Scheme was due to be considered at the last meeting of the CSWP Officer Group, but there was insufficient time to discuss this. Mr Proffitt would speak to Mr Christian and ideas would be presented to the next Officer Group meeting and subsequently reported to the CSWP.

**AP and NC to action**

#### **Minute 5**

It was noted that CDs had been received from Marks and Spencer and copies would be circulated.

**AP to action**

#### **Minute 10**

Mr Proffitt reported that the second (Joint Waste Authority) EOI meeting/workshop took place yesterday. He was drafting a work plan which would be developed with Defra. He suggested that the relevant paper on today's agenda could be used as a health check.

Defra representatives had been invited to attend the Partnership meeting on 15 July 2009. This would be a workshop style session to ascertain the expectations of the CSWP. A similar exercise would then be undertaken with the Cumbria Local Authority Strategic Board.

#### **Minute 11**

Following a query, it was noted that Waste Collection Authorities should invoice the County Council for the specific month/quarter to which their claims under the

Recycling Reward Scheme related. The Scheme would be periodically reviewed.

The proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> party indexing system referred to in Minute 11 would be discussed by the Officer Group at its next meeting, and a report on the issue would then be made to the CSWP.

**GH/AP to action**

## **5. THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM WASTE RECYCLING AND BUSINESS RESOURCE EFFICIENCY IN CUMBRIA**

The Partnership received a presentation from Ms Janet Frost, Resources Futures on the promotion of tourism waste recycling and business resource efficiency in Cumbria. Ms Frost explained that the aims and objectives of the project were:-

- To develop a feasibility study for the introduction of a new recycling service in the Kendal to Keswick Central Lakes area;
- Identify possible options for recycling more tourism waste;
- Identify possible delivery partners within the community recycling sector;
- Investigate the possibility of developing a “sustainability hub”;
- Develop a business case for the new service;
- Provide resource efficiency workshops for tourism businesses.

Tourism businesses were defined as B & Bs, guest houses, hotels 2 star and below, hotels 3 star and above, cafes and restaurants, pubs and supermarkets. Widespread stakeholder consultation had taken place as part of the project, the results of which were explained in detail. The key findings of a waste composition analysis and the results of a telephone survey of businesses about waste disposal arrangements were shown, and the outcomes of a LATS analysis, including estimated financial implications under LATS for particular scenarios, were also given. Sites considered for a new recycling operation were listed, however it was emphasised that the lack of a suitable site was a major problem.

In summary, research showed that there was a strong local demand for a recycling service for a wide range of dry recyclables and food waste, and food waste was the dominant waste category according to the waste

composition analysis. Eden Community Recycling was the only community recycling organisation able to deliver a new food waste recycling service. Several private waste companies might also be capable of delivering such a service.

The tourism sector in the target area accounted for 15% of the custom, and produced 31% of all the waste. Financial benefits of delivering a recycling service ranged from £82,200 to £160,250 per annum. The greatest obstacle was the lack of a suitable site for bulking up, processing and composting waste. The redevelopment of Brockholes might provide a chance to promote sustainable waste management, with the inclusion of a demonstrator food composting site.

It was recommended that the County Council and the CSWP work with the LDNPA and other key landowners in the LDNP on the issue of sustainable waste management and the provision of new sites and the cost of various composting options were outlined. The CSWP Officer Group had received the presentation at their meeting on 7 May 2009 and recommended that a Project Coordinator be appointed to investigate the feasibility of funding the recommendations made, and that the Chair of the CSWP write to Richard Leaf from the Lake District National Park Authority to instigate joint work on the refurbishment of Brockholes Visitor Centre.

CSWP members discussed the serious tourism waste problems experienced in some areas of the County. As consultation results had shown, Waste Collection Authorities had little justification to provide a commercial waste recycling service with no targets or financial incentive and potentially high capital and revenue costs, and some members commented on a need to lobby government about lack of funding incentives etc. The problem of finding a new site for processing and composting waste was also emphasised.

Members felt that they needed further detailed debate on the issues raised in the presentation. A related report would be distributed and it would also be useful to circulate today's presentation. The Chair thanked Ms Frost for her comprehensive and helpful presentation and it was

**MA/AP to action**

**AGREED,** that

(1) the promotion of tourism waste

recycling and business resource efficiency in Cumbria be discussed further at a future meeting of the Partnership;

**AP/GH to action**

(2) the appointment of a Project Coordinator to investigate the feasibility of funding the project report's recommendations be agreed in principle;

**AP/GH to action**

(3) the Chair of the CSWP write to Richard Leaf from the Lake District National Park Authority to instigate joint work on the refurbishment of Brockhole Visitor Centre.

**AP/GH to action**

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

Mr Proffitt presented the Minutes of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group meeting held on 7 May 2009. The CSWP had already considered the recommendations made by the Group in relation to the promotion of tourism waste recycling etc. The Partnership also noted the Group's discussions and work on a range of other issues which were on their agenda today.

**AGREED,** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group held on 7 May 2009 be received.

## **7. WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL GRANT (WICG) APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Further to Minute 7 of their meeting on 22 April 2009, the Partnership considered a report from the Development Officer indicating that a total of £858,737 in Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant was available to them in 2009/10. The report set out a procedure for assessing bids to the WICG, to ensure that its distribution was consistent, fair and equitable. Applications had to be made on the agreed WICG application form which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. All sections of the application form should be fully complete and the deadlines for receipt of forms were clearly stated. Details of what constituted capital spend would be provided by the County Council's Finance Team. Only applications

which met the financial guidance would be considered. Once applications had been assessed by the Officer Group, using the relevant criteria, they would be presented to the following CSWP meeting with a clear recommendation to agree, reject or defer.

A member commented that there might occasionally be some justification for not adhering to the strict submission deadlines. The Development Officer pointed out that it was proposed to place a standing item on the Agendas for future Officer Group and CSWP meetings concerning the WICG. Therefore, if the submission deadline for one round of meetings was missed, there would be a number of other opportunities to make bids.

**AGREED,** that

- (1) the procedure for receiving applications for the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant (WICG) as set out in the report be approved;
- (2) a standing item be placed on future Officer Group and CSWP meeting agendas concerning the WICG.

**AP to action**

**AP to action**

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

It was noted that Mr Christian was unable to attend the meeting to give an update on the County Council's Procurement project, as he and others were meeting with Shanks' lawyers. The Corporate Director – Environment reported that the target date for sign-off was next Tuesday and everyone concerned was working very hard towards this deadline. Mr Proffitt reported that the lists of authorised collection vehicles had been sent to Shanks and these would be checked every month. A meeting had been arranged with the Environment Agency to finalise issues relating to the waste transfer note.

With regard to the authorised vehicle lists, some members made the point that replacement vehicles might be needed at short notice and, if number plate recognition was the only method of checking that vehicles were authorised, this could be a problem. It was reported that there would be a telephone number which was available 24 hours a day which authorities could ring to say that they needed to make replacements. The Corporate Director noted the views of CWSP members on the issue.

**AGREED,** that the Strategic Service Partner update be noted.

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

A report from the Development Officer provided an update on the activities of the Partnership and the achievements of the individual organisations within it. Members received some Waste Collection Authority activity updates and were pleased to note the successful introduction of the latest phase of Barrow Borough Council's Waste Minimisation project in March 2009. The new service saw the Borough's existing 240 litre refuse containers replaced with a bin half their size. A new plastic and cardboard recycling service was also introduced. All this was made possible by significant partnership investment, and the new recycling and refuse receptacles were purchased through the pooling of WICG

Details of the "Recycle for Barrow" communication campaign were outlined, and a campaign specific "Recycling Ranger" was also being recruited to help the residents recycle more using the new service. Initial results showed that the communications campaign had successfully introduced, informed and encouraged the residents of Barrow to accept and utilise both the new and existing kerbside recycling services. The new arrangements had resulted in the weight of residual waste being sent to landfill in the borough falling some 31%. Carlisle and Allerdale Councils had taken some of Barrow's surplus refuse containers.

Waste Collection Authorities were taking the Inter-Authority Agreement through their legal teams and decision making Committees and developing Implementation Plans. An update on progress would be provided at the next Partnership meeting. The second session of the waste data quality workshop was held on 13 May 2009 and a full write up and work plan would be presented at the next Partnership meeting.

**GH/AP to action**

An end of year LAA and performance update for 2008/09 was provided. The Partnership was asked to agree the performance data and report agreement to the CSP and LAA. It was noted that Defra had committed to updating and reissuing the Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice. A consultation on the proposed revised Code of Practice

was taking place and it was suggested that the Officer Group discuss the merits of a joint response. All responses needed to be with Defra by 24 July 2009.

**AGREED,** that

- (1) the information provided by Partners on their activities be noted, and a full end of year report be provided for the next Partnership meeting; **AP to action**
- (2) the LAA target and performance update be approved (subject to audit) and this approval be reported to the CSP and LAA; **AP to action**
- (3) a further update be given at the next CSWP meeting. **AP to action**

#### **10. REVIEW OF ACTIVITY IN ACHIEVING THE JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (JMWMS) ASPIRATIONS**

The Partnership considered a report by the Development Officer, updating them with details of activity across the CSWP to achieve the JMWMS's key aspirations featured in the document's Recommended Options for Waste Management. Accompanying the report at Appendix 1 were the notes of a CSWP seminar on the JMWMS held on 5 March 2008 during which members and officers from each District were invited to comment on what they felt were examples on improving practice within their area. Appendix 2 comprised the notes of a further seminar on JMWMS Option 2 (Optimise the number of Recycling Points and Household Waste Recycling Centres, linking provision to the expansion of kerbside services and waste prevention services).

Much progress had been made by the Partnership in pursuing the six recommended options for waste management developed through the JMWMS, and all constituent organisations had contributed to the actions and achievements. Achievements would be featured in the Annual Review 2008/09 to be published early in 2009/10. The Development Officer suggested that it would be useful to use the achievements detailed in the report to inform a holistic review of the relevance of the six recommended options for waste management from the JMWMS during the financial year 2009/10, the second full

year of the strategy. As previously mentioned, It would be beneficial to ensure that this task was undertaken as part of the Joint Waste Authority Expression of Interest work with Defra. In discussing the report, the view was expressed that partners should be identifying the “next steps” which might be taken.

**AGREED,** that

- (1) progress made in achieving the JMWMS aspirations be noted;
- (2) the relevance of the six Recommended Options for Waste Management contained within the JMWMS be reviewed, as part of the Joint Waste Authority Expression of Interest work, and that the “next steps” which might be taken should be examined.

**AP to action**

## **11. PLASTERBOARD FACILITIES**

A paper by the Project Development Officer provided a summary of the latest developments and the provision of facilities for the collection of plasterboard across Cumbria. The report indicated that when plaster board and gypsum waste was mixed with other waste types and landfilled, as it degraded it was thought to be responsible for producing odorous gas which had been known to cause a nuisance. To address this issue, the Environment Agency introduced new enforcement rules on the disposal of this waste stream. The rules stated that plasterboard and gypsum waste should be collected separately and sent for recovery. These changes to the rules did not affect lime plaster or plaster stuck to other waste for example bricks.

Arrangements had been made to offer, where possible, the separate collection of plasterboard and gypsum waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres. This service was now available at Flusco and at Project Furness in Barrow, Bousteads Grassing in Carlisle, and should be available at Yeathouse Quarry in Frizington. The aim was to extend this service to Canal Head HWRC in Kendal and the Project Development Officer would be asked to indicate when this would be happening.

**AP/JD to action**

In addition to the network of HWRCs, SITA also provided skips for the collection of plasterboard and gypsum at Kendal Fell and Cumbria Waste Management could now

provide similar facilities at Kingmoor Industrial Estate in Carlisle. It was planned to offer this service at Distington Landfill Site in the near future. It was noted that, at the moment, CWM would not accept foil backed plasterboard and contamination such as plastic bags etc.

Mr N Pearson mentioned that South Lakeland District Council were sending out a letter to households about plasterboard disposal. The contents of this letter would be shared with colleagues in the other Waste Collection Authorities.

**NP to action**

**AGREED,** that the report be noted.

## **12. GARDEN GREEN WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

Mr M Gardner, Carlisle City Council gave an update on garden green waste collection and disposal. The situation in relation to on-farm composting was explained and the Development Officer had spoken to the Environment Agency and guidance was awaited from Defra about on-farm sites. He had a meeting with a representative of Defra on 4 June and it was agreed that Mr Gardner should attend on behalf of the CSWP.

**AP/MG to action**

## **13. GONW UPDATE**

Mr R Watson, Environment Team Government Office North West, gave a verbal update on a range of issues. He particularly reported that the second consultation on a revised definition of "Municipal Waste" to be used in the LATS was due to commence in the near future. The intention was to implement any changes ahead of the start of the scheme year 2010/11. The proposed Defra definition of Municipal Waste to be used in the WET Act was:-

"Waste, other than separately collected construction waste, which is collected under arrangements made by a Waste Collection Authority or a Waste Disposal Authority in England"

The Consultation would include updating the LATS Guidance Note, clarifying the meaning of "separately collected construction waste" and the impact of the proposed change to NI 193. It would also cover the future of the duty contained in section 32 of the WET Act for authorities in two tier areas to produce Joint Municipal

Waste Management Strategies. It was suggested that it might be a good idea to respond to the consultation as a Partnership and the Development Officer would be informed of the consultation arrangements and the process for responses.

**RW/AP to action**

#### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

An Annual Review for the 2008/09 financial year needed to be produced and partners could inform the Development Officer of any particular issues they wished to highlight.

**All to note**

It was reported that the celebration event for the "R" factor would take place on 24 June 2009 and Partnership members were invited to attend.

**All to note**

At a forthcoming meeting regarding the CAA, the good work which the Partnership were doing would be highlighted.

#### **15. RELEASE OF REPORTS**

It was agreed that all the reports presented to this meeting of the CSWP could be released into the public domain, with the exception of a report on Plasterboard Facilities in Cumbria.

#### **16. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was noted that future meetings of the CSWP were scheduled as follows:-

15 July 2009

19 August 2009.

Meetings would take place at the Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency at Penrith, lunch would be available at 12.30 pm. (Seminars commenced at 1.00 pm and the meetings of the partnership at approximately 2.00 pm).

The meeting ended at 3.25 pm.