

## CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP) held on Wednesday 15 July 2009 at 1.00 pm at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Penrith.

### PRESENT

Mr R Bloxham - Carlisle City Council (Chair)  
Mr M Tonkin - Eden District Council  
Mrs B Woof – South Lakeland District Council

### Also in Attendance:-

Mr M Allman - Cumbria County Council  
Mr E Davidson - Allerdale Borough Council  
Mr P Feehily - Cumbria County 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  
Ms S Henderson - Environment Agency  
Ms B Jones - Allerdale Borough Council  
Mr R Kitchen - South Lakeland District Council  
Mr I Laird - Barrow Borough Council  
Mr A Proffitt - Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership  
Mr A Yates - Eden District Council

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Holliday, Mr T Knowles, Mr T Markley, Mr S Standage, Mr I Stewart, Mr K Williams, Ms M Fallon and Mr R Watson.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment at the poor attendance at today's meeting. This had resulted in a DEFRA presentation being postponed to the next meeting of the Partnership on 19 August and the Chairman urged all involved to make every effort to attend and to confirm their attendance to Mr Proffitt in advance of the meeting.

The member representing South Lakeland District Council asked whether additional officers from her Local Authority could attend the DEFRA presentation. It was agreed that attendance at the presentation on 19 August would be limited to the members and officers who regularly attend the Partnership meetings, but that the

### ACTION

**All to Note**

**All to Note**

DEFRA representatives could be asked to give a further presentation at a later date, when additional officers and CLASB representatives could be invited to attend.

## **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**

**AGREED,** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on 20 May 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

The Partnership received the minutes of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group meeting held on 25 June 2009. The Chairman referred to a letter from South Lakeland District Council, regarding the new plasterboard arrangements, that had been circulated to the Officer Group and asked if this should be circulated more widely. It was agreed that the Officer Group members could pass on the letter to their Local Authority's member representative.

**Officer  
Group  
Members to  
action**

Mr Proffitt agreed to circulate an update on developments affecting HWRCs to all members of the Partnership.

**AP to action**

**AGREED,** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group held on 25 June 2009 be received.

## **5. WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL GRANT (WICG) APPLICATION JULY 2009**

Mr Proffitt presented 6 bids for Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant (WICG) funding. It was explained that applications for funding through the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership's WICG were assessed according to the procedure and criteria agreed at the Partnership's meeting on 20 May 2009. Copies of the five applications that had been made to the Officer Group were

appended to the report. Officers recommended that four of these bids should be approved as meeting the relevant criteria. A fifth bid, from South Lakeland District Council for the purchase of replacement green waste bins, was recommended for rejection as it had previously been agreed that existing stock should be used wherever possible and work was in progress to refurbish bins which had been reclaimed from residents through the Barrow Borough Council waste minimisation project. An amended bid was tabled at the meeting, requesting funding for the refurbishment of bins reclaimed from Barrow Borough Council residents, to be used for green waste.

Members received updates on the information provided in this revised bid. It was explained that the cost of refurbishment would now be lower than the original estimate, which was expected to make the total cost of the bid less than the £45,000 quoted on the proposal. It was also noted that recycling of the unused bins that had already been undertaken had reduced the number available for refurbishment from the original estimate of 4,500 to a figure of between 2,000 and 3,000. The Partnership also agreed that the proposal could be amended to make it an application on behalf of the County Council.

**AP to action**

A number of design options for the logo to be used on the refurbished bins was circulated at the meeting and it was agreed that a white leaf logo on a green background should be used.

**MA to action**

**AGREED,** that

**AP to action**

(1) Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant funding be provided as follows:-

- Carlisle City Council – vehicle tracking and data management systems - £13,920
- Carlisle City Council – Plastic Recycling Bank (purchase of 2x 25 cubic yard plastic recycling skips) - £4,780
- Eden District Council – improvement of bring sites (refurbishment and extension of four existing bring sites in Eden villages) - £35,000
- South Lakeland District Council – refurbishment of cardboard, paper, glass, and can recycling banks and purchase of four plastic banks - £76,800
- Cumbria County Council (originally a bid from South Lakeland District Council) –

refurbishment of 240 litre wheeled bins retrieved from Barrow Borough Council's changed refuse collection service for use by CSWP members in garden waste schemes, to be stored by South Lakeland District Council. Cost of up to £45,000 (white leaf logo on green background to be used on refurbished bins).

**AP to action**

- (2) the officers amend the protocol that can be applied to future bids in order to determine which local authority's name they should be submitted in when the project concerned will be for the use and benefit of all CSWP partners.

## **6. SSP (WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC SERVICE PARTNER) UPDATE**

Mr Feehily updated members following the signing of Cumbria County Council's contract with Shanks. He explained that the period at the start of the contract was being used to review HWRCs and to decide the required standard. Regular meetings were being held with representatives of Shanks and County Council Officers. A series of training events on the Shanks Contract would be arranged. The first would provide an overview and would be held in the week commencing 10 August, followed by a programme of events modelled around Districts' needs.

Mr Feehily reported that the landfill sites had been operating well, although there had been some minor issues with the identification of authorised vehicles. Members were advised that Mr Ron Denby was the single point of contact for all such (emergency) vehicle related issues and Mr Proffitt promised to circulate Mr Denby's contact details to the appropriate officers. The Chairman asked whether these initial problems of authorised vehicle recognition could be resolved through the use of some form of permit system. It was agreed that this, and other possible means of resolving the problem, would be discussed by the Officer Group at a meeting involving Mr Denby and, if appropriate, a Shanks representative.

**AP to action**

**PF/AP to action**

The issue of litter picking at HWRCs was raised and attention was drawn to the need to avoid any problems with litter from these sites becoming a nuisance for any residential properties in the surrounding area. It was agreed that South Lakeland District Council would monitor the effectiveness of litter picking operations at HWRCs in their area and report back on any problems.

**RK to note**

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

Mr Proffitt presented an update on the activities of the CSWP and its individual partner organisations. The update presentation included a short film on the theme of Partnership Working and Sustainability that had been shown at the LGA Conference. The film had been funded by the County Council and featured the Barrow Waste Minimisation Project and the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership. The Chairman asked that thanks be conveyed on behalf of the Partnership to all who had helped in the making of the film and hoped that it would be possible to provide DVD copies to the partner organisations.

**AP to action**

In relation to the Inter Authority Agreement it was reported that amendments had been suggested by the Carlisle City Council and Copeland Borough Council Legal Departments and that their comments had been forwarded to Dickinson Dees. Members noted that Schedule 8 of the Agreement was a WCA specific Implementation Plan containing full details of WCA performance and tonnage targets, as well as collection regime details. This would ultimately inform the monthly value of the Recycling Reward Scheme payment received from the Waste Disposal Authority. Mr Proffitt advised that Implementation Plans would be forwarded to WCAs.

The CSWP Officer Group had held a workshop session to collect information to be presented at the Joint Waste Authority Workshop that was now due to be held on 19 August. The report set out the programme for this event. Mr Proffitt reported that he had conducted one-to-one meetings with the CWSP elected members in order to ensure that the JWA process was fully understood and that any concerns and queries were identified and addressed at an early stage.

The Chairman advised members that the postponement of the JWA workshop and Defra presentation would mean that the Partnership's Annual General Meeting originally scheduled for 19 August, would now have to be postponed to the next meeting of the Partnership after that date. It was agreed that the question of who would act as the next Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Partnership under the rotating Chairmanship arrangements would be discussed further outside the meeting.

**Chairman to note**

The Partnership also received an update on progress made through the Waste Not Want Not sessions. It was noted that the CSWP Officer Group would formulate a joint response to the Defra consultation on the Duty of Care Code of Practice in time for the response deadline of 24 July 2009.

**AGREED,** that

- (1) the information provided by partners on their activities be noted;
- (2) the Defra led Joint Waste Authority workshop be held on 19 August 2009;
- (3) a further update be given at the next CSWP meeting.

**AP to action**

## **8. RECYCLING REWARD SCHEME AND THIRD PARTY RECYCLING CREDITS**

Mr Proffitt reported on the current situation regarding the Recycling Reward Scheme and Third Party Recycling Credits. He explained that the Officer Group had discussed the benefits of extending the Recycling Reward Scheme payments to cover performance above 50%, together with the need to consider the impact of this on Waste Disposal Authorities' budgets and the Strategic Service Partner Contract.

As it was considered unlikely that any Waste Collection Authority would achieve a figure of 50% or more for recycling in the current financial year, it was suggested that the cost and benefit of waste collections achieving over 50% recycling rates should be debated as part of the review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy options and recommendations, through the work being undertaken with Defra.

Members asked whether any additional payment would be made during the current financial year if an authority were to achieve a recycling performance above 50%. Mr Proffitt agreed to raise this question with the appropriate County Council Officers. He was also asked to raise the question of what would happen if a recycling rate of 50% or more were collectively achieved, in relation to payments for performance and the Strategic Service Partner Contract. Members expressed concern that the current system could discourage local authorities and their local residents from maximising performance.

**AP to action**

The report also addressed the question of the annual uplift applied to the Recycling Reward Scheme and the Third Party Recycling Credit Scheme. It was explained that the Officer Group had not yet managed to compare and contrast suggested indexing calculations. The CSWP Development Officer was collecting information from the Waste Disposal Authority on the indexing

used in the Strategic Service Partner contract. This would be compared with the model provided by Eden District Council, with advice to be sought from the County Council's finance team on the suggested indexing model.

**MA to action**

Members of the Partnership expressed concern that third parties would receive less for recycling than local authorities. Mr Allman agreed to look into this.

The Partnership also discussed the question of the percentage of third party recycling being shown in Eden District Council's recycling rate. Members were advised that the County Council would be asking the Audit Commission to examine the rules that applied to this in the hope that the recycling achieved by third parties could be appropriately linked to Eden District Council's figures.

**AGREED,** that

- (1) Recycling Reward Payments for performance above 50% be considered and debated as part of the Joint Waste Authority work, through the review of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy;
- (2) in the light of the concerns expressed by the Partnership, the indexing system for the Recycling Reward Scheme and Third Party Recycling Credits be discussed further at the next meeting with a view to clarifying the situation.

**AP to Action**

**AP to action**

## **9. THE R FACTOR SCHOOLS COMPETITION**

Mr Martin Allman, the County Council's Waste Prevention Manager, presented a report on the R Factor campaign. Mr Allman explained that the R Factor had been a primary schools-based competition that had challenged children in primary schools to write, rehearse and record "a song for Cumbria" that would promote the 3 Rs of waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

Mr Allman thanked the Partnership for its support and also expressed his gratitude to the Cumbria News Group, who had helped to manage the publicity of the campaign, and to local charity Musiclinks, who had delivered professional curriculum-linked music workshops. It was noted that a total of 137 of Cumbria's 283 primary and special schools had submitted entries and that each had participated in a two hour workshop. A judging panel from the County Council, CN Group and the Local Education

Authority had selected finalists from the north and south of the county, with the finalists performing at a showcase event at the Rheged Discovery Centre.

The report concluded that the R Factor had succeeded in engaging with children in a different way. It had far exceeded expectations of the number of schools and children taking part, with over 3,000 pupils directly involved and 14,160 pupils indirectly involved in the project through internal promotions. It was estimated that the competition had achieved free publicity with an advertising value equivalent to £20,000.

The Partnership viewed the winning performances of Kirkbride Primary and Castle Park Primary Schools and noted that copies of the recording of the schools' performances would be provided to the children involved as well as to the Partnership's members and officers.

**MA to action**

Members of the Partnership welcomed the success of the competition and hoped that funding could be secured to stage a further campaign. Mr Allman explained that a secondary school campaign could be run if an appropriate sponsor could be found. It was estimated that funding of £140,000 would be required for this. In response to a member's question Mr Allman confirmed that it might be possible to use some capital funding to purchase items required for a future campaign.

**RESOLVED,** that

- (1) the successes of the R Factor campaign in engaging with primary school aged children and in reaching a wide audience via print and broadcast media be noted;
- (2) steps be taken to secure funding from appropriate sources to stage a further campaign aimed at secondary school children;
- (3) if a bid for appropriate capital funding can be drawn up, the Waste Prevention Manager submit this to a future meeting of the Partnership.

**All to note**

**MA to action**

## **10. ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009**

Mr Proffitt announced that arrangements were being made for the Partnership's second Annual Conference. This would be held in the autumn and he invited ideas for suitable themes, discussion

topics and speakers. Any ideas put forward would be fed into the Officer Group for discussion.

**AP to action**

The Chairman proposed that the "R Factor" should be featured in some way. It was also suggested that Marks and Spencer should be involved if possible, following the presentation on packaging and waste to a previous meeting of the Partnership. Other participants could include representatives from other sectors involved with recycling.

#### **11. GONW UPDATE**

As Mr Watson had been unable to attend this meeting this item was taken off the agenda.

#### **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **Recycling in Barrow**

Mr Laird reported that Barrow was currently achieving a recycling figure of 37.3% and anticipated that this would rise to 40% by the end of the year.

#### **13. RELEASE OF REPORTS**

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

#### **14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was noted that future meetings of the CSWP were scheduled for 19 August 2009 starting at 10.00 am and for 2 September 2009. Both meetings would be held at the Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Penrith.

#### **15. IAN STEWART**

It was agreed that the Chairman would write on behalf of the Partnership to Ian Stewart to thank him for his contribution to its work.

**Chairman to action**

*The meeting ended at 3.10 pm.*

