

CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP) held on Wednesday 14 October 2009 at 1.00 pm at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Penrith.

PRESENT

Mr R Bloxham (Chairman)

Ms C Feeney-Johnson – South Lakeland District Council

Mr S Standage – Allerdale Borough Council

Mr M Tonkin – Eden District Council

Also in Attendance

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Feehilly, Mr A Holliday, Mr T Knowles, Mr T Markley, Mr K Williams and Mrs B Woof.

2. CHAIRMANSHIP OF CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman reported that he had recently met with Mr Knowles, the County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, and it was proposed that the Chairmanship of the Partnership would remain with Carlisle City Council until the Partnership's Annual General Meeting in May 2010, at which point the County Council would take over the Chairmanship and a Vice-Chair from one of the District Councils would be appointed.

Members of the Partnership agreed this course of action.

3. 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.

4. MINUTES

AGREED, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on 19 August 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject, in Minute 7 "Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant Applications – August 2009" to the substitution of the words "Cumbria County Council – ENCAMS Project Box Hats Trial" by the words "Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership – ENCAMS Project Box Hats Trial".

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting of the Partnership.

6. 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 September 2009.

Particular reference was made to the Officer Group's discussion of the £80 cap applied to the Recycling Reward Scheme and the view was expressed that this was not clearly explained in the IAA. It was agreed that a report, in the form of a worked-up example, should be taken to the next meeting of the Partnership, covering what had been claimed and paid to date in the context of the payment formula being used. It was also agreed that the District Councils would receive adequate notice of any reduction in payments that might need to be made by the County Council.

The Chairman reminded members that the Partnership was planning to hold an annual conference to promote its activities. He

**NC to
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anticipated that this might involve other organisations such as VALPAC, LARAC and Marks and Spencer and hoped that some sponsorship might be secured.

AGREED, that

- (1) the minutes be received;
- (2) a report on the Recycling Reward Scheme be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership, addressing the issue of the £80 cap through a worked-up example and providing details of claims and payments made to date and the formula being used to determine payments;
- (3) officers progress arrangements for the Partnership's Annual Conference.

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7. HOME COMPOSTING OF FOOD WASTE IN CUMBRIA

Mr Allman gave a presentation on options for the disposal of food waste through home composting. The Partnership received details of the volume and cost of domestic food waste in the UK as a whole and details of steps that could be taken to address this problem, including behavioural change and the equipment available to allow home composting of food waste. It was explained that home composting/digestion would provide the CSWP with a cheaper and more practicable option for dealing with the problem than food waste collections. Examples of the technology that could be used were provided and it was suggested that a number of families could be asked to use the food waste digesters on a trial basis before the Partnership's officers considered applying for funding to make them more widely available to local residents.

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8. MAPPING THE FUTURE OF THE CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP – THE NEXT STEPS

Mr Christian presented a report on the outcome of the workshop session held at the Partnership's previous meeting on 19th August. Members were reminded that DEFRA had posed three questions in their presentation at the workshop session in relation to joint action, working together and governance.

An appendix to the report summarised activity to date and the outcome of the workshop, including areas for development and improvement. It was suggested that the officers could provide options for possible arrangements to progress greater partnership working, for members to consider at a future meeting of the CSWP.

Mr Christian was asked to provide some guidance as to the resources that would be available to undertake this work following the departure of the CSWP Development Officer. He indicated that DEFRA might be able to offer some assistance and that some support might also be available through the Cumbria Improvement and Efficiency Partnership. Officers could investigate these and other possible sources of support.

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AGREED, that officers consider possible answers to the questions about closer partnership working posed by DEFRA (What is to be done jointly? and Who is to work together?) draw up options for members to consider and report back to a future meeting of the Partnership.

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9. CSWP UPDATE PAPER

Mr Christian presented an update on the activities of the CSWP and its individual partner organisations. An appendix to the report outlined progress made to date on the work being undertaken. Particular attention was drawn to the following issues:

Inter-Authority Agreement

The CSWP officers would review the final form of the Agreement, with legal advice, and develop a legally binding document to be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership for approval.

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Enforcement Group

The CSWP officers would review this group's terms of reference, with input invited from the current members of the Enforcement Group, and provide further details for the Partnership's consideration.

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Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant

The CSWP officers would develop options for effective use of this fund. It was reported that Allerdale BC were not now expecting to draw upon the £140,000 they had bid for in relation to Wheeled Bins/Waste Prevention. The Partnership noted that Eden DC was proposing to submit a bid to cover the cost of modifying their plastics recycling banks to allow them to be lifted by vehicles equipped to operate with a different type of hook-lift fitting.

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Waste Data and Waste Not Want Not

County Council officers would complete the review of the County

Council's data management system.

ENCAMS/Carlisle City Project

Carlisle City Council would continue leading the delivery of this project.

WRAP Recycle for Barrow Project

Barrow BC would continue leading this project.

WDA Strategic Service Partner

The authorised vehicle procedure was to be agreed.

LATS Strategy

The County Council would lead the CSWP review of the LATS position against progress made to date and consider the strategy prior to treatment plant commissioning in 2012.

CSWP Annual Conference

The CSWP Officer Group was developing the programme for the conference. It was estimated that the funding requirement would be in the region of £1,000 per authority, although this could be reduced if sponsorship were obtained.

AGREED, that the report be noted.

10. SSP UPDATE

Mr Christian provided a verbal update. The project at Hespian Wood was on schedule, as was work in relation to the application for planning permission for the Barrow plant and the waste transfer stations. Mr Christian was asked to invite a representative of Shanks to attend a future meeting of the CSWP in order to outline their vision for partnership working in Cumbria.

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The Chairman reported that he had received a number of complaints in relation to the condition of the road in front of Hespian Wood. Assurances had been given at consultative meetings that repairs to this road would be carried out and he hoped that these now be undertaken. He was also aware of some continuing problems with the identification of authorised vehicles and the need for the administrative arrangements to allow vehicles to be changed at short notice if necessary.

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Mr Christian noted problems that had arisen at Bennett Bank

through closure of the tip and poorly informed staff.

11. GONW UPDATE

Mr Christian reported that he had received some information from Mr Watson, the GONW representative, who had been unable to attend this meeting. It was agreed that the notes provided by Mr Watson would be circulated separately to members of the Partnership.

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Mr Christian also agreed to seek a response to a question from Eden DC in relation to the roll over of any unspent Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant into the following year.

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12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Frizington Replacement HWRC

Mr Christian was asked for an update and explained that Shanks now had responsibility for obtaining planning permission. They would shortly be submitting a planning application for extension of the period of usage of the existing site. The County Council was currently considering the provision of sites in West Cumbria but there was no news at present of a specific replacement site for the Frizington HWRC.

Cumbria Strategic Partnership

Members were advised that, a recent workshop session of Cumbria Strategic Partnership's Thematic Partnerships, a proposal to merge the Strategic Waste Partnership with the other Cumbria Strategic Partnership's Thematic Partnerships had been discussed. Further information on the implications for the future of the CSWP was requested and Mr Christian promised to look into this.

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13. RELEASE OF REPORTS

It was agreed that the reports presented to this meeting of the Partnership could be released to the press and public.

14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that future meetings of the CSWP were scheduled for 25 November 2009 and 6 January 2010 and that they would be held at the Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Penrith, commencing at 1.00 pm.

The Meeting ended at 3.00 pm