

CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP) held on Wednesday 17 February 2010 at 1.00pm at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency.

PRESENT

Mr R Bloxham (Chairman)

Mr A Holliday – Copeland Borough Council
Mr T Knowles – Cumbria County Council
Mr S Standage – Allerdale Borough Council
Mr M Tonkin – Eden District Council
Mr K Williams – Barrow Borough Council
Mrs B Woof – South Lakeland District Council

Also in Attendance

Ms J Carrol - Copeland Borough Council
Mr N Christian - Cumbria County Council
Mr P Feehily - Cumbria County Council
Ms W Ferry - Cumbria County Council
Mr M Gardner - Carlisle City Council
Mr T Hall - Shanks Waste Management Limited
Mr I Laird - Barrow Borough Council
Ms J Monk - Eden District Council
Mr N Pearson - South Lakeland District Council
Mr J Shatwell - Environment Agency

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Allman, Mr E Davidson, Ms M Fallon, Ms M Graham 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. PRESENTATION – “CUMBRIA – THE FIRST SIX MONTHS”

The Partnership received a presentation from Mr Tom Hall,

Works Delivery and Compliance Manager, Shanks Waste Management Limited, which provided details of work undertaken and planned as part of Shanks' contract with Cumbria County Council. The presentation highlighted the following:

- Construction of two Resource Parks at Hespian Wood, Carlisle and at Bennett Bank, Barrow, to treat residual MSW and provide diversion from landfill
- Construction work at Hespian Wood had started in August 2009. This plant was on target to be in full service in April 2012. Construction work at Barrow was due to start in August 2010, subject to the granting of planning permission, with the facility due to be in full service in April 2013.
- Provision of three transfer stations, using the existing facility at Kendal Fell and new facilities to be provided at Penrith and in the Workington area.
- The process of improvement of Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Mr Hall then answered Members' questions. It was agreed that anyone interested in visiting the Resource Park at Dumfries, or the one under construction at Hespian Wood, could arrange this through the Waste Partnership Liaison Officer.

WF to note

4. MINUTES

AGREED, that the minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on 25 November 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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 MEETINGS

The Partnership received the minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group held on 11 December 2009 and the draft minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2010.

<p>Attention was drawn to the following:</p> <p>Data Quarterly Audit Check</p> <p>This aimed to simplify the system of data submission to the County Council. More detailed proposals would be submitted to the Officer Group and other interested parties.</p> <p>Enforcement Group Update</p> <p>It was agreed that when the Enforcement Group was properly established it would start reporting to the CSWP.</p> <p>Charging Mechanism for Cumbria</p> <p>Following a question on the consistency of charging for charitable organisations, Mr Christian was to review the charging mechanism for Cumbria, including a proposal to introduce a permit scheme for waste deposited at HWRCs.</p> <p>Business Continuity Plan</p> <p>Mr Christian would be drafting a report on a common approach for Cumbria for the CSWP's consideration.</p> <p>Andrew Yates</p> <p>Following Mr Yates' recent retirement, Members expressed their appreciation of his work for the Partnership and suggested that thanks for his contribution to the development of the CSWP could be included in the minutes of the Officer Group meeting.</p> <p>7. ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP WORKING</p> <p>Mr Gardner introduced the first section of this report, covering the outcome of a bid for external funding that had been submitted to the Cumbria Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (CIEP). Members were advised that the application had been successful. The £15,000 awarded would enable a detailed appraisal of the options for enhanced partnership working to be undertaken by funding 30 days of external consultancy work. A Delivery Plan for the project was outlined in an appendix to the report and it was agreed that this would be circulated to partner authorities to enable them to check the details of their collection methodologies included in it.</p> <p>It was noted that the project would be led by Carlisle City Council and that a further report would be submitted to the 11 May meeting of the CSWP.</p>	<p>NC to action</p> <p>NC to action</p> <p>NC to action</p> <p>NC to action</p> <p>MG to action</p>
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Mr Christian introduced the section of the report relating to the Inter-Authority Agreement, reminding Members that two schedules of the Agreement required amendment following completion of the County Council's contract with Shanks Waste Management. The revised document was available for inspection at the meeting and Members' attention was drawn to the revisions that had been made to the original agreement.

AGREED, that

- (1) the award of funding from the Cumbria Improvement and Efficiency Partnership be noted and that approval be given to the engagement of external consultants to undertake 30 days' work to appraise the options for enhanced partnership working.
- (2) the Officer Group undertake a final review of the revised Inter-Authority Agreement at their next meeting, prior to its further consideration by the CSWP to enable members to commend it to their constituent authorities for formal approval.

MG to action

NC to action

8. CSWP UPDATE

Mr Christian introduced an update on the activities of the CSWP and its partner organisations. Reference was made to the following issues:

CSWP Annual Conference

Following the decision of the Partnership at its previous meeting, possible venues had been reviewed in the light of cost and suitability and it had been decided that the event should be held at the Carlisle Racecourse on 31 March 2010.

Envirolink NW had agreed to sponsor the event. Their involvement would include helping to organise delegate invitations and publicity and managing the conference on the day.

The report outlined the suggested target audience for the Conference and a proposed schedule for the event. Officers noted Members' suggestions for adjustments to the Conference schedule and for guest speakers.

JC and MG

Envirolink Northwest

Envirolink Northwest wished to secure representation at CSWP meetings and had made a presentation to officers, outlining the contribution that they believed they could make to the Partnership's meetings and other activities.

It was agreed that this proposal should receive further consideration by the Officer Group.

NC to action

Waste Infrastructure Grant (WICG) Applications

- Details of the following bids that had been considered by the Officer Group at its meetings on 11 December 2009 and 29 January 2010 were provided for Members' consideration (the first three were attached to the report and the fourth was tabled)
- Establishing a "Bring " site at Alston at a cost of £15,000 (Eden District Council)
- The purchase of five skips for plastic at a cost of £8,000 (Eden District Council)
- Conversion to HL5 standard and respraying of 18 plastics skips at a cost of £6,480 (Eden District Council)
- Improvements to Household Waste Recycling Centres at a cost of £83,500 (Cumbria County Council).

The Partnership was advised that a letter had been received from DEFRA, seeking assurance on spending plans for the current year and evidence of how each local authority had used its grant. Members were reminded that the WICG would be underspent in the current year, but it had been anticipated that this could be carried forward. Mr Christian would clarify this and confirm the position at the next meeting of the CSWP. It was agreed that officers from the District Councils would liaise with Mr Christian about their future plans to assist him in preparing a response to DEFRA.

NC to action

District Council Officers and NC to action

It was also agreed that the Officer Group could examine the current grants procedure with a view to agreeing an amount up to which officers could be given delegated authority to agree spending.

NC to action

Cumbria Municipal Waste Statistics 2009/10 and Projections

Details of National Indicators relating to the end of quarter 2 were set out in the report, together with current full year projections against the LAA targets for 2009/10. The projections suggested that LAA targets would be exceeded, but assumed that significant growth in recycling would continue as in previous years. This was seen as a challenge as it would rely mainly on

increased participation in existing recycling schemes. It was stressed that any variation in any element of the waste stream could have an effect on the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) projection.

The Chairman referred to the projection that LAA targets would be exceeded and thanked all involved in delivering this level of performance. Members drew attention to fluctuations in recycling rates as a result of recent adverse weather conditions and also asked about any additional rewards that might be offered if District Councils were to achieve a recycling rate of 50% or more. It was agreed that this could be considered by the Officer Group.

NC to action

INTERREG4C W2E

The Partnership was advised that Interreg4c W2E was a fully funded European Union Programme which aimed to develop new approaches to energy recovery and low carbon waste management, based on the collective knowledge of the project partners. The County Council had a particular interest in the development of outlets for Solid Recovered Fuel.

The programme included inter-regional seminars, study visits, including Cumbria as a location, and an International Conference.

Nigel Christian and Martin Allman had been selected by the County Council to attend the first inter-regional seminar and would report back to the CSWP. The County Council had hoped that those attending could also include an officer representative from one of the county's Waste Collection Authorities and/or a representative of Shanks, but had found that funding difficulties could not be resolved in time to enable this to happen. It was hoped that this could be arranged for future meetings.

Regional Waste Strategy

The Partnership also noted that an updated Regional Waste Strategy (RWS) for the North West, together with a Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan, was due to be launched at the Regional Waste Conference on 25 February 2010. This revision was intended to address continuing development in waste and resources management. An updated set of RWS Policy Statements was appended to the report and particular attention was drawn to three new Policy Statements.

AGREED, that

(1) the information provided by partners on their

activities be noted;

- (2) progress with the arrangements for the CSWP Annual Conference be noted, including details of the proposed target audience and conference schedule, adjusted in the light of Members' comments;
- (3) Envirolink Northwest's request to attend future CSWP meetings be considered at the next meeting of the Officer Group with a view to making a recommendation to the CSWP;
- (4) Waste Infrastructure Grant funding be provided as follows:
 - Establishing a "Bring" site at Alston - £15,000
 - Purchase of 5 skips for plastics - £8,000
 - Conversion and respraying of plastics skips - £6,480
 - Improvements to Household Waste Recycling Centres - £83,500
- (5) Officers from the District Councils provide the County Council's Assistant Head of Waste Management with information on their spending plans to assist him in preparing a response to DEFRA ;
- (6) the Officer Group examine the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant procedure, with a view to agreeing an amount up to which officers could be given delegated authority to agree spending under the scheme, and make recommendations to the CSWP;
- (7) it be noted that the CSWP is making good progress towards LAA targets, but that LATS fines could be very significant in future years if household waste arisings are allowed to increase and/or recycling targets are not met;
- (8) the Officer Group consider whether any additional rewards should be offered to encourage District Councils to achieve a recycling rate of 50% or more;
- (9) the INTERREG4C W2E European Union Programme be noted, including the proposed study

visit to Cumbria in April 2010 and inter-regional seminar in Cumbria in September 2011;

- (10) the revision of the Regional Waste Strategy be noted.

9. GONW UPDATE

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

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sponsorship of Cumbria Business Environment Network's Annual Awards Event

Mr Gardner reported a request that the CSWP continue its sponsorship of this annual event which had previously been provided from the WPEG funding.

AGREED, that officers consider what funding may be available to sponsor this event, with a maximum of £1,500 to be offered if possible.

MG to action

Lunches at CSWP Meetings

The Chairman announced that the County Council had been obliged to consider reductions in budgets for the lunches that it provided at meetings and that this would affect the catering provided at future CSWP meetings.

AGREED, that it be noted that cost savings are to be made in providing lunches for future meetings of the CSWP.

11. RELEASE OF REPORTS

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

12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Partnership noted dates for future meetings and that the Annual Conference at Carlisle Racecourse would be held on the date of the next scheduled meeting on 31 March 2010.

A question was raised as to the viability of the meeting planned for 5th January 2011 due to its proximity to the Christmas and New Year holidays. It was agreed that this could be reviewed at a later date.

The meeting ended at 3.10 pm.