

CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP) held on Wednesday 12 May 2010 at 1.00 pm at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Redhills, Penrith.

PRESENT

Mr R Bloxham	-	Carlisle City Council
Mr A Holliday	-	Copeland Borough Council
Mr T Knowles	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr T Markley	-	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:-

Mr M Allman	-	Cumbria County Council
Ms J Carrol	-	Copeland Borough Council
Mr N Christian	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr E Davidson	-	Allerdale Borough Council
Ms W Ferry	-	Cumbria County 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
Ms J Monk	-	Eden District Council
Mr I Stephenson	-	Envirolink

ACTION

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

AGREED, that Mr T Knowles be elected Chairman of Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership for the ensuing year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

AGREED, that Mr M Tonkin be elected Vice-Chairman of Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership for the ensuing year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Watson.

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

Ms Graham declared a personal interest in relevant items as a representative of North West Waste Forum and an employee of Impact Housing.

5. MINUTES

AGREED, that the minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on 17 February 2010 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(1) Dates of Future Meetings

Members were reminded that the viability of the meeting of the Partnership planned for 5 January had been questioned, due to its proximity to the Christmas and New Year holidays. It was agreed that this date should be deleted from the list of future meetings and that it would only used if there were an urgent need for a meeting at that time.

JS to action

(2) CSWP Annual Conference

It was noted that the Annual Conference had been a success. In spite of bad weather conditions on the day, approximately 82 delegates had attended, including representatives of the Improvement and Efficiency Partnership for the South East. The workshops held on the day had been well attended and contacts with the 3rd sector had been further developed. The Chairman joined the former Chairman in thanking all involved in organising the Conference and hoping that it could be established as an annual event. Officers were asked to look into the possibility of combining an annual event relating to the INTERREG4C W2E programme with the CSWP Conference. Officers undertook to submit a written report on the Annual Conference to the next CSWP Meeting.

MA, NC, MG to action

MA to action

7. MINUTES OF CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP OFFICER GROUP MEETINGS

ACTION

The Partnership received the minutes of the meetings of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group held on 12 March and 23 April. Attention was drawn to the following:

(1) Enhanced Partnership Working

It was explained that the Officer Group minutes should read that it had been suggested, as opposed to agreed, that the Chair of the CSWP should report to the CSP.

(2) Bulky Waste Partnership Feasibility Study

It was noted that Mr Christian would arrange a meeting between Shanks and Impact Furniture Services to progress this.

NC to action

(3) Community Recycling Network – Funding for Officer's Post

The County Council was to quantify and calculate the value of community sector activities for each district and report to the CSWP at its meeting on 23 June 2010 with the results of this exercise and a request for contributions.

NC to action

(4) Inter Authority Agreement (IAA)

Mr Christian referred to the action arising from the Officer Group meeting involving the circulation of the IAA for final comment prior to its presentation to the 12 May meeting of the CSWP. He explained that this had not been possible. Members expressed uncertainty as to the stage that had been reached in the circulation of the document to partner authorities and voiced some concern that the procedure required to allow individual authorities to approve it would not allow it to be submitted for approval by the whole Partnership at the next CSWP meeting.

It was agreed that Mr Christian would ensure that the definitive version of the IAA was circulated to partner authorities for their approval and that, following this, the document would be considered for approval by the CSWP at its meeting on 23 June, subject to any further steps required to secure approval of the IAA by individual authorities.

NC to action

(5) Recycling Points

Members sought clarification of the proposals contained in this Officer Group minute, which included a reference to spending WICG on collectively refurbishing 1100 bins, and to purchasing bins. It was explained that these points had arisen from a discussion on managing bins more efficiently through partnership working, rather

ACTION

NC to action

than having different standards and practices in each District. The term "1100 bins" referred to 1100 litre size bins and Taylors would be invited to give a presentation to the Officer Group on options for improvements in efficiency.

(6) WDA Restructure

Mr Christian reported that a Partnership and Performance Manager post would be included in the new structure. The duties of this post would include support for Officer Group meetings and it was hoped that recruitment would begin within the next few weeks.

(7) Enforcement Group

Mr Kitchen reported that, to enhance the level of activity in discussing enforcement issues, he had suggested that the Enforcement Group's meetings should take place within the context of streetscene monitoring.

8. ENVIROLINK REPORT

The Partnership received an update on the role of Envirolink from Mr Ian Stephenson, Local Authority Liaison Manager for Envirolink North West. Members noted the following:

- Envirolink employed a team of 75 people in specialist areas.
- Two members of staff dedicated to Cumbria were based at the Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency Offices.
- Envirolink had provided support for the CSWP Annual Conference and was also involved in the Interreg Project.
- The organisation worked in collaboration with "Second Nature" and with Impact Housing, as well as with local businesses and the hospitality sector, on ways of addressing the issue of food waste.
- It supported the waste digester facility at Burneside.
- Envirolink sponsored the Cumbria Green Build Conference.

9. ANNUAL REVIEW AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mr Allman invited Members' views on the preparation of the Partnership's current and future Annual Review publications.

ACTION

AGREED, that

- (1) officers prepare and distribute an Annual Review publication covering the past year;
- (2) future Annual Reviews be published during the first six months of the year, with the Annual Conference to be staged during the second half of the year.

MA to action

MA, NC and MG to action

10. ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS FOR ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Mr Gardner presented a progress report on the CIEP funded assessment of options for enhanced partnership working that had been commissioned by the CSWP. It was noted that Beasley Associates, consultants with extensive experience of strategic waste partnerships, had been appointed by Carlisle City Council acting on behalf of the Partnership. The project methodology was outlined in an appendix to the report. Following a project inception meeting, a "perceptions survey", as detailed in an appendix to the report, had been circulated to each of the member organisations of the CSWP. Mr Gardner urged the recipients to complete this online survey and advised that the deadline for completion of the project as a whole was 30 June 2010. A report would be submitted to a meeting of the CSWP as soon as possible after that date.

AGREED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a further report be submitted to the CSWP meeting on 28 July 2010.

MG to action

11. CSWP UPDATE

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

County Council Strategic Service Partnership

Construction of the Hespian Wood Mechanical and Biological Treatment (MBT) plant was underway and on schedule to start commissioning on 1 April 2012. Planning permission had been granted for the second MBT plant at Sowerby Woods, Barrow-in-Furness, which was due to open in early 2013. The

East Cumbria Transfer Station was under construction and a planning application had been submitted for a transfer station at the CWM Distington landfill site.

Mr Christian was also pleased to report that the Strategic Service Partnership had been nominated for "Best Waste Project" in the "Public, Private and Finance Awards 2010".

Household Waste Recycling Centres

The "authority change" had been initiated for the reconstruction of the Barrow Household Waste Recycling Centre. This had proved to be complicated and time consuming because the "standard form" of contract, developed following national guidance and in conjunction with DEFRA, had never been implemented in the UK before. Construction at Barrow was now due to start in the late summer.

A proposal to rejuvenate the Canal Head area of Kendal was now becoming a potentially viable scheme. The Household Waste Recycling Centre and the SLDC depot would need to be moved to allow this area to be developed and this was now being actively considered by officers from the two authorities.

A workshop for officers from the County Council and Allerdale and Copeland Councils was to be held on 10 June to review the West Cumbria Household Waste Recycling Centre network and to discuss the County Council's proposed development programme.

Composting

Current arrangements for composting green garden waste across the Partnership were generally ad hoc and needed to be consolidated into firm contractual arrangements. Officers were reviewing current arrangements and assessing options prior to reporting to a future CSWP meeting.

Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant

Three bids had been considered by the officer group and were now recommended by approval by the Partnership as follows:-

- Carlisle: District-Wide extension of the Carlisle "Box Hat" Trial at a cost of £31,600;
- Copeland: Town Centre Kerbside Recycling at a cost of £6,155;

- Copeland: Purchase of “Box Hats” and Kerbside Boxes at a cost of £45,400.

Members approved these bids and discussed ways of streamlining the approval process. It was agreed that any bids in excess of £100,000 should be referred to the Chairman of the CSWP for a decision as to whether they required submission to a CSWP meeting for approval, or could be agreed by the Chairman on the basis of the Officer Group’s recommendations.

INTERREG4C W2E

Mr Christian provided an update on the County Council’s participation in the INTERREG4C W2E programme, which aimed to develop new approaches to energy recovery and low carbon waste management.

A study visit to Cumbria had taken place in early May, introducing visitors from Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden and Hungary to waste management in Cumbria. The visit had been a success and the County Council thanked Carlisle City Council, Impact Housing, Cockermouth School and Envirolink for their help in running the programme. It was noted that an Inter-Regional Seminar was due to be hosted by Cumbria in September 2011.

Consultation on New Legislation

DEFRA were running consultation exercises, with a deadline for responses of 10 June 2010, on the following issues:

(i) **Meeting EU Landfill Diversion Targets**

DEFRA had issued a consultation paper on a revised approach to meeting EU Landfill Diversion Targets. This was intended to bring a much larger proportion of commercial and industrial waste into the definition of municipal waste, which would be extended to cover waste managed by private waste management companies.

Arrangements already in place for private waste management companies to report to DEFRA would be reviewed and used for reporting to the EU. There were no proposals to change the obligations of local authorities to manage waste or to make changes to the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS).

(ii) **Restrictions on Landfilling Certain Wastes**

The aims of the restrictions featured in this consultation were to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resource efficiency. Mr Christian advised that local authorities could be asked to collect these wastes and make different arrangements for their disposal in future, which could have implications for the operation of the Strategic Service Partnership.

(iii) **Household Waste Recycling Centres in West Cumbria**

In response to a member's statement about the need for refurbishment of some HWRCs in West Cumbria, the Chairman advised that steps were being taken to upgrade the sites in question.

AGREED, that

- (a) the progress in developing two Mechanical and Biological Treatment Plants for Cumbria and the proposals for Household Waste Recycling Centres in Barrow, Kendal and West Cumbria be noted;
- (b) approval be given to the following bids for Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant:
 - Carlisle – District-Wide Extension of the Carlisle 'Box Hat' Trial at a cost of £31,600
 - Copeland – Town Centre Kerbside Recycling at a cost of £6,155
 - Copeland – Purchase of 'Box Hats' and Kerbside Boxes at a cost of £45,400
- (c) the Officer Group be authorised to approve future bids for Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant where the bid is for less than £100,000 with any bids in excess of £100,000 to be referred to the Chairman of the CSWP for a decision as to whether they require submission to a CSWP meeting for approval, or can be agreed by the Chairman on the basis of the Officer Group's recommendation;
- (d) it be noted that the CSWP is making good progress towards LAA targets, but that LATS

All to note

ACTION

finances could be very significant in future years if household waste arisings are allowed to increase and/or recycling targets are not met;

- (e) the success of the INTERREG4C W2E European Union Study visit to Cumbria be noted, together with planned inter-regional seminar in Cumbria in September 2011;
- (f) the DEFRA consultations on progress on meeting EU landfill diversion targets and restrictions on landfilling certain wastes be noted.

12. GONW UPDATE

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

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Haulage Contractors and the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership

In response to a member's suggestion it was agreed that officers could look into the involvement of representatives of the road haulage industry, considering whether their involvement with the Partnership would be possible and appropriate.

NC to action

(b) Partnership Identity and Waste Collection Vehicles

A member asked whether District Councils' waste collection vehicles could display some clear form of identity linking them to the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership. It was explained that individual districts should be allowed to display their own authority's identity logo, but the Chairman anticipated that publicity establishing clearer links between these vehicles and the CSWP might be developed further in future.

(c) Agenda for Future Meetings of the CSWP

It was agreed that, in future, steps would be taken to divide the agenda for meetings of the CSWP into business items and items for information.

NC, WF and JS to action

(d) Mrs Brenda Woof

Mrs Woof advised that this was the last meeting of the CSWP that

she would be attending. She spoke of the value of partnership working and thanked all she had been involved with during her years as the South Lakeland District Council representative on the CSWP. Both the Chairman and former Chairman thanked Mrs Woof for her considerable contribution to the work of the Partnership and wished her all the best for the future.

14. RELEASE OF REPORTS

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

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Partnership noted dates for future meetings, subject to the removal of 5 January 2011 from the formal list of future meetings.

The Meeting ended at 2.30 pm