

CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Monday 10 September 2007 at Penrith Rugby Club at 1.00 pm.

PRESENT

Mr R Bloxham (Chair)

Mr G Blackwell – Copeland Borough Council
Mr B Metz – Eden District Council
Mr J R Richardson – Cumbria County Council
Mr I Stewart – Cumbria County Council
Mrs B Woof – South Lakeland District Council

Also in Attendance:

Ms J Carroll	-	Copeland Borough Council
Mr R Denby	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr E Davidson	-	Allerdale Borough Council
Ms W Ferry	-	Client Services, Cumbria County Council
Mr M Gardner	-	Carlisle City Council
Mr G Harrison	-	Client Services, Cumbria County Council
Mr R Kitchen	-	South Lakeland District Council
Mr C Pickering	-	Client Services, Cumbria County Council
Mr A Proffet	-	Barrow Borough Council
Ms K Tye	-	Member Services Unit, Cumbria County Council
Mr R Watson	-	Government Office North West

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Mounsey – Environment Agency, Ms Jones - Client Services, Cumbria County Council, Mr Laird – Barrow Borough Council, Mr Roberts – Barrow Borough Council, and Mr Standage – Allerdale Borough Council. ANDREW YATES

Mr Bloxham would stand as Chair for this meeting.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr G Blackwell, Mr R Bloxham, Mr B Metz, Mr J R Richardson, Mr I Stewart and Mrs B Woof declared a personal interest in all items of business on the agenda which affected their respective local authorities.

3. MINUTES

AGREED, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Wednesday 8 August 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Members stated that it should be recorded that Mr Denby had been seconded to the County Council function?

Members showed concern that the Minutes of the last meeting did not include that recycling credits should be tied in to the Materials Marketing Organisation. It was **AGREED** that Graham Harrison and Mr Metz would meet to discuss an amendment to these.

Mr Harrison would bring further information to the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership regarding recycling credits in due course.

4. MINUTES OF OFFICER GROUP MEETING

Mr Graham Harrison, Client Services, Cumbria County Council presented the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group held on 16 August 2007.

A member showed continued concern regarding fly tipping on bring sites and stated that this may be because HWRC sites are not open for long enough. This issue had been previously discussed and opening hours had still not been expanded. Mr Harrison explained that this was a budget issue. He stated that Cumbria Waste Management and the Council had looked at analysis site usages and costed these and would be budgeting for it in the next financial year. He stated that the decision to change the hours lies with Local Committees, subject to Cabinet agreeing to the revised budget.

Another member stated that there was difficulty in prosecuting people who were fly tipping on the bring sites as they were inviting people to bring their waste to the bring site anyway. The signs needed to be reworded to reduce the objections to the prosecution. Mr A Proffet stated that he had been collecting names in order to set up a working group to examine the issue of flying tipping. This group should come up with the appropriate legislation regarding prosecuting those who fly tip at bring sites. He would bring something to the next meeting of the Strategic Waste Partnership and a report would be made on the creation of the Working Group and presented to the partnership in due course.

Ms Carroll stated that there was a need to standardise enforcement across the County and that there was a need for a consistent approach towards enforcement activities this was a huge task and should be focussed on.

It was noted that Andrew Yates would be hosting an environmental health officer from Zambia. William Mdhlovu had asked that he attend the next meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership during his stay. The Group agreed to this.

Mr Gardner asked Mr Watson whether he had any experience of people carrying out a private refuse collection and whether there was any legislation on this. Mr Watson said that DEFRA were aware of it and were looking in to it he would find guidance on this and bring it to the next meeting.

Members showed concern that there where private collections of waste being made throughout the County and were then charging the County £65 per tonne. These were affecting Cumbria's results on waste.

Mr Stewart stated that this sounded like a very important issue and suggested that a paper be written on this issue for the next meeting.

Mr Watson, Government Office North West would prepare a report and bring it to the next meeting in consultation with Trading Standards, Cumbria County Council and Environmental Health in all districts. Mr Harrison had a meeting with Trading Standards in the following week and would raise this issue.

The memorandum of understanding was signed at this point by Eden District Council, Allerdale Borough Council, Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council.

5. WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

Mr Harrison presented the report which outlined the work carried out by the County Team since the last meeting, in preparation for the Strategic Service Partnership

Parallel Workstreams

Shanks and their advisors had meet with Cumbria County Council on 10 August 2007. Shanks were still aiming at 01-04-2011 as their full service commencement date. Officers are working on the schedules for the contract. Shanks had now accepted the use of SOPC4 drafting and DEFRA derogations. Shanks had also agreed to a reprofiling of the early years finances to smooth out the spike in the mechanisms. A report to Cabinet and Council had been proposed for January 2008 which would ask Council to confirm Shanks as Cumbria County Council's contractor subject to final negotiations which are ongoing. A joint briefing document was planned with Shanks and their media advisors.

Mr Harrison asked the partnership how they thought Shanks should approach the Districts and members suggested that all members of all districts needed to be made aware of the situation and as they would be asked questions by the public. It was suggested that rather than a special meeting, it may be more appropriate to hold a member seminar in each district between the district councils and Local Committees and to encourage this as a format. It was also suggested that funding assistance could possibly come from ACE.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

Brampton

There was no need for any further archaeological investigation on this site. Planning application would be ready for submission in September with a view of gaining approval in November. Cumbria County Council was currently consulting local stakeholders and would be presenting their plans to the Carlisle Neighbourhood Forum and Brampton Parish Council in the near future.

Barrow

There was no need for an Environmental Impact Assessment and the transport statement had found no issues. A small ground investigation was required on public health requirements but there was no risk of flooding. If possible, Cumbria Waste Management did not want to close the Barrow HWRC whilst it was being redeveloped. The aim was to produce a construction plan that allowed the site to stay operational whilst it was being built. Once Capita had developed the construction plan, there would be consultation with Cumbria Waste Management about the best way to proceed. Assuming the consultation framework is adhered to, it could be possible to obtain planning permission by December 2007. It was possible that the new site would be operational by May 2008.

Frizington/Whitehaven

The detailed design for this HRWC was currently being worked on. Issues raised by the local Councillors were being addressed. It was planned to submit an application for planning permission in October. Unless there are any unforeseen issues, the planning application should be considered in December 2007. It is planned to consult Copeland Borough Council and Natural England before the planning application is submitted.

Millom

The local stakeholders would prefer to redevelop the existing site as opposed to moving the HWRC to an alternative site. However, there are concerns regarding the stability of the current site and requests have been made for a geo-technical investigation of the current site. This report would be ready in late September. Until this investigation had been completed, a decision about the site and plans for the future could not be made. It would be likely that an application would be submitted to extend the planning permission for Millom HWRC and a meeting would be arranged with the planning department to discuss this.

Performance

Officers shared details of their individual authority's performance in the first quarter with the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership.

All the authorities appeared to be making good progress towards reaching their targets. It was interesting to note that Eden District Council had remained on the weekly collection compared to Carlisle City Council on the two weekly collection and targets had remained that the same rate in both Districts.

Mr Harrison stated that the County as a whole was bordering on the 40% target set for 2010. The Chair stated that it would be good to see County performance information alongside district performance information for future reference.

One Member stated that there was a need for consistency of data and that the targets are not challenging enough. It was explained by Mr Harrison that the targets had been set by themselves although they had been shared with the audit commission and published. Mr Pickering reinforced that to alter the targets would come at a cost, as Cumbria was heading in the right direction, and three of the six districts were performing better than others, it was suggested that Cumbria as a whole should look at improving the other three districts before pushing forward with the leading three.

A member suggested that this was not just a message for officers but that Government Office (GONW) should take this message back that Cumbria as a County is doing more and is prepared to challenge themselves more but requires more funding for this. Cumbria is serious about reducing the amount of waste going to landfill but needs the support from the GONW.

It was important to note that close working was essential in improving performance, and that in order to bring all the districts to a cohesive unit, performance needed to be examined overall. One member suggested that examining whether bring sites were cost effective enough in comparison to kerb side collections and whether they should be paying twice for the same product it was not needed. Having said this, another member stated that in their district they had a scattered population who relied on the bring sites.

Cumbria Local Authorities Strategic Board

Mr Harrison reported that there had not been a reply from CLASB regarding the proposal to further investigate the benefits of joint collection and further joint working as an authority. The letter had been sent three weeks ago but the partnership was waiting for a reply.

Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA)

The Partnership were informed that Stuart Donaldson, formerly with GONW and now with MWDA had asked that the partnership hold a joint information sharing day. This meeting would take place on 18 September and would focus on strategy development and education issues. District officers were welcomed to join the County team on that day.

Annual Review

At the last meeting of the CSWP, members had requested for more emphasis to be given to future strategy in their annual review. Members were provided with Appendix 1 to this report with an outline of the issues to be addressed in the next 12 months. These included a request from officers to promote the procurement of products made from recycled materials Buy Recycled banner.

Dumfries and Galloway Ecodeco

The Partnership were informed that further visits had been planned for the 25 and 27 September. Members were advised that any requests to attend either of these dates should be forwarded to Sally Garrett at Member Services, 01228 606375.

Local Area Agreement

The Partnership had been asked to form an officer group to represent the wider waste and street scene activity for the Local Area Agreement performance targets. Officers and Members were asked to consider who from their own authority should represent their interests at this key group, and advise Mr Harrison accordingly. It should be someone who could represent Streetscene as well as waste.

One Member stated that it was important that the partnership had a good representation at the officer group.

Cumbria News Community Awards

The Partnership were briefed that the County were sponsoring the annual Cumbria News Community Awards which recognised those individuals and groups who had contributed over the last 12 months. One of these awards was the Environment Award which would be termed the "Resource Cumbria" environment award. This would bring about lots of publicity for the partnership and it was suggested that in order to have a fuller representation, that Cumbria Waste Management gave a response on whether another table could be made available for the partnership representation on the night.

CSWP Annual Review

Graham Harrison, Head of Waste Management updated the partnership on the CSWP Annual Review. This had been discussed during the previous Minute.

Mr Harrison reminded everyone that Barbara Jones, the Resource Cumbria Partnership Officer attends all County Waste Unit, Senior Management Team and Operational Steering Group meetings, and is therefore able to answer members' and officers' queries with regard to any Partnership issues.

6. WPEG UPDATE

Mr Harrison updated the Partnership on the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grants (WPEG) for 2007/08. Members were informed that the draft reconciliation for the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) allocation for 2006/07, added to the allowance carried forward from previous years, provided 12,563 tonnes that could be traded or carried forward to 2007/08. It was projected that by the end of 2008/09 the WDA would be holding 42,279 tonnes of LATS credit. It was noted that a LATS allowance deficit of 14,097 tonnes was projected for 2009/10 (the first Landfill Directive Target year) equivalent to a penalty of £2.11m.

Members noted that spending of the 2007/08 WPEG was currently projected to be on target.

Mr Harrison stated that at the 2005/06 average price for LATS allocation, the LATS allowance credit brought forward to date and projected for 2007/08 and 2008/09 at a total of 42,279 tonnes would sell for £719,000. One member suggested that if the LATS credit was capitalised, it should be recycled within the waste area.

Although it looked as though there would be a deficit for LATS allowance for 2009/10, officers believed it possible to achieve the targets required.

Mr Harrison stated that it was the 14,097 tonne deficit that needed to be addressed and it should be the focus of the partnership's attention. As long as the two plants were in place in 2011, the target should be reached at this time.

7. REPORT FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICE NORTH WEST

Richard Watson, Government Office North West updated the partnership on issues that had arisen since the last meeting. Mr Watson stated that indicators from the Local Area Agreement were mandatory. But that given the rising status of the development agencies, there were looking at ways of integrating the commercial and household waste. Mr Pickering stated that as two thirds of the waste was commercial to one third household, he hoped that DEFRA knew that this was the case and would take this on Board.

It was suggested that the partnership write to the Local Government Authority and make the message clear. Mr Harrison would draft this letter with Mr Bloxham. It was not possible to deal with municipal waste without addressing commercial.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

One member asked whether it was possible to bring in her shadow member who would stand in as substitute if she were unable to attend a meeting. This would enable the member to familiarise themselves with the way that the partnership works and prepare that member in case that member was a substitute on the Partnership. The Partnership agreed to this and stated that it would be beneficial across all the districts for this to happen.

Members were briefed, for information, that the strategy was out on 17 September, back in on 10 December and feedback would be gathered on 31 January 2008. This information can be accessed through the Resource Cumbria website and all libraries and this has also been sent to sixty organisations throughout Cumbria.

The Chair welcomed Ernie Davidson to the Partnership as officer for Allerdale Borough Council

The Meeting ended at 3.30 pm.