

CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Wednesday 31 October 2007 at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency at 1.00 pm.

PRESENT

Mr I Stewart (Chair)

Mr R Bloxham – Carlisle City Council
Mr M Holliday – Eden District Council
Mrs B Woof – South Lakeland District Council

Also in Attendance: -

Ms H Blake	-	Cumbria County Council
Ms J Carrol	-	Copeland Borough Council
Mr N Christian	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr W Mdhlovu	-	Visitor from Zambia, (hosted by Eden District Council)
Ms W Ferry	-	Cumbria County Council
Ms B Jones	-	Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership
Mr M Gardner	-	Carlisle City Council
Miss M Graham	-	North West Waste Forum
Mr R Kitchen	-	South Lakeland District Council
Ms S Mounsey	-	Environment Agency
Mr R Watson	-	Government Office North West
Mr A Yates	-	Eden District Council
Mrs S Garrett	-	Cumbria County Council

1. CHAIRMANSHIP

Members noted that following Mr Stewart's appointment to the County Council Cabinet he had replaced Mr Jack Richardson as Chair of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership.

Mr Stewart welcomed Mr William Mdhlovu to the meeting. Eden District Council was hosting Mr Mdhlovu's visit to the County. He was an Environmental Health Officer from Zambia and would be in the UK for approximately three months to study environmental issues.

Mr Stewart also welcomed Mr Michael Holliday from Eden District Council to the Group. Mr Holliday had been appointed to the Partnership temporarily while Mr Brian Metz was indisposed. Mr Holliday gave Members an update on how Mr Metz was and Members asked that their best wishes be passed back to Mr Metz for a full recovery.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr B Metz (Eden District Council), Mr D Roberts and Mr I Laird (Barrow Borough Council), Mr S Standage and Mr E Davidson (Allerdale Borough Council), Mr G Blackwell (Copeland District Council), Mr C Pickering and Mr G Harrison (Cumbria County Council).

The Chair informed Members that the item regarding disclosures on interest had not been included on the Agenda for this meeting as the County Council at a meeting on 9 September had decided not to adopt the Standards Committee's version of the Code of Conduct as they felt it was too restrictive. The County Council had, therefore, adopted the model Code of Conduct with effect from 1 October 2007. The model Code stated that disclosures had only to be declared at formal meetings of the County Council and not Working Groups or other bodies.

As the Constitution of the Partnership involved both County and District Councillors, the elected Members present were asked whether they wished this item to be included in future agenda or whether they agreed that this item no longer need be included. District Councillors present felt that as they were bound by the Code that their respective Authorities had agreed the agenda for meetings of the Partnership should continue to include an item for disclosure of interest. They also requested the declarations of interest be recorded for this meeting.

It was therefore,

AGREED, that Mr Bloxham, Mr Holliday and Mrs Woof declare a personal interest in all items of business on the agenda that affected their respective Authorities. Mr Stewart asked that it be noted that he declared a personal interest in all items of business which affect South Lakeland District Council as he was also a District Councillor.

The Chair then asked that the membership list on the agenda be amended as follows:

Mr 'D' Metz be changed to read Mr B Metz
Mrs B Woofe be changed to read Mrs B Woof

The Chair then proposed that in future Chairmanship of the Partnership alternate annually between the County and District Elected Member representatives i.e. when the Chair was the County Council representative the Vice-Chair would be one of the District Council representatives and vice versa.

Members agreed that this change to the Constitution would help ensure the continuing maturity of the Partnership. The Chair informed Members that their agreement meant that the Memorandum of Understanding would have to be altered to accommodate this change and it was

AGREED, that

- (a) Following the County Council annual meeting in May of each year, Chairmanship of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership alternate between County and District Elected Member representatives;
- (b) the Memorandum of Understanding be amended to reflect the change in the constitution and presented to the next meeting of the Partnership.

Mrs Woof commented that there was no representation from Barrow Borough Council and that there had been no Elected Member representation at the previous meeting of the Group. Members suggested that Barrow Borough Council be asked that their Member representative or substitute make every effort to attend meetings of the Partnership to ensure that the County and District Councils were all working together and progressing at the same pace.

3. MINUTES

AGREED, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Monday 10 September 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Arising From the Minutes

Minute 3 – Members had been concerned that the Minutes of the previous meeting had not included a reference that recycling credits should be tied into the Materials Marketing Organisation and had agreed that Mr Harrison and Mr Metz would meet to discuss an amendment to this. However, Mr Metz had been indisposed since soon after the last meeting, therefore, in Councillor Metz' absence Mr Harrison had proposed that the Minutes should have said 'Mr Harrison suggested that in the Materials Marketing Organisations Model recycling credits would be paid into the organisation and used to fund recycling.'

Minute 6 – in answer to a question from Mr Yates, clarification was given that LATS credits could be carried forward until 2010 but after 2010 Cumbria would be facing a fine of £12.11m if recycling performance did not improve from the existing level.

4. PREPARING THE CSWP FOR THE FUTURE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) AND COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA)

Ms Helen Blake, Senior Policy Officer with Cumbria County Council gave a presentation on "Preparing the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP) for the Future Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). She highlighted that the LAA had gone live on 1 April 2007. The policy context of the LAA was about shared aspirations and the CSWP plans would need to fit in.

Cumbria's LAA is to be refreshed in 2008. BVPI's will be abolished from 2008 and there will be a new set of 198 measures for Comprehensive Area Assessment including targets aimed at reducing the amount of waste which is sent to landfill, increasing recycling and composting, reducing litter and detritus and collected household waste, resulting in a cleaner, safer and greener County. The 2007 LAA is being supported by £13 M pooled grant and organisations have aligned with this just over £80M. In the refreshed LAA the £13M is expected to be increased due to a rise in the number of grants being pooled. .

Overall 35 targets are to be negotiated with Government including 16 mandatory targets. Any other local targets could be included as and when desired.

Thematic Partnerships linked a wide range of partners. These involve Elected Members and the private sector. They have authority to make executive decisions and should provide effective representation under Cumbria Strategic Partnership Executive. The Strategic Waste Partnership will be one of Cumbria's Thematic Partnerships aimed at managing delivery of the LAA. It will receive performance and financial monitoring on a regular basis and hold agencies accountable for delivering targets. It will also help identify any areas of under-performance and agree actions needed to address them.

Members agreed it would be important to ensure political representation on the Cumbria Strategic Partnership in order to maximise allocation of appropriate funding. They stressed that there would have to be appropriate officer representation at meetings of the CSWP in future to ensure that this would not detract from the prime work of the Partnership.

Members felt that the CSWP was a good example of how well partnerships could work.

The Chair thanked Ms Blake for her presentation and it was

AGREED, that an item be included on the agenda for the meeting on 12 December to nominate and agree the Waste Partnership representatives on Cumbria Strategic Partnership.

5. MINUTES OF OFFICER GROUP MEETINGS

19 September 2007

Ms Barbara Jones highlighted issues which had been discussed at the Officer Group meeting on 19 September as follows:-

It had been hoped that Shanks would identify two sites for ITS by the end of September 2007. However, negotiations were ongoing so it was not possible to update Members at this time. As soon as the outcome was known the information would be circulated to the Partnership. The target date for completion of the plant was still April 2011.

Shanks would provide Ecodeco Plants, Transfer Stations, landfill and would operate household waste recycling centres. For at least the next three years, the Districts would continue to deal with all other recyclate.

Work is ongoing with Entec regarding repeat of BVPI84a and Impact of Tourism study. and an update on this would be brought to a future meeting of the Partnership.

The Recycling Rewards for Schools Programme was due to be launched on 1 October.

Regarding Notes 16 and 17 (Awards) a Member commented that several Members had not been notified about these events.

Mrs Woof was concerned that South Lakeland's contract for recyclate ended in February 2009 and in order to get a new contract it was important that they knew the time frame for Shanks taking over the current one. Authorities needed to know what should be set in place in the interim. Assurance was given that recyclates were not part of the negotiations at this time. What was being considered was a common method of collection throughout the whole area as this was thought to be the effective and responsible way forward.

16 October 2007

Mr Brendan Sharpe from ENTEC had given a presentation on "Draft Waste Flow. He had visited each of the Districts to:

- Review Shanks waste flow model against WCA projected performance
- Establish whether 2 x 75000 tonnes ITS was appropriate
- Establish whether 38.5% kerbside recycling (as in the CCC model) was realistic
- Identify what the consequences of planned and potential recycling performance being realised on a District by District basis were
- Find out if CCC projection of waste flows was realistic
- Establish what the effect of introducing co-mingled collection would be
- Highlight what the consequences of household waste recycling centre performance falling short of 60% recycling were

There were some differences between the County Council, the Shanks model and WCA projections but none seemed significant. Each District had been asked to provide a Lead Officer to deal with commercial waste equality and diversity.

Bulky Matters, a Lancaster based project providing bulky waste service on an appointment basis would give a presentation to the Officer Group on 18 December 2007.

AGREED, that the Minutes of the Officer Group meetings held on 19 September and 16 October 2007 be received;

Janice Carrol informed Members that she had recently attended a conference in London where a presentation had been given by Greater Manchester Authority who had promoted their waste partnership. Greater Manchester were some way behind Cumbria and Members agreed that Cumbria was an excellent example of how well partnerships could work and the CSWP should promote itself much more.

The Chair proposed and Members agreed that a short meeting, with a facilitator take place immediately before the next meeting of the Partnership to allow Members to consider the way forward. The meeting would be called "Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership – The Next Five Years".

AGREED, that

- (a) at the CSWP on 12 December:
 - (i) lunch would be available from 12.30 pm;
 - (ii) a meeting, with a facilitator take place between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm;
 - (iii) the meeting of the Partnership would commence at 2.00 pm.
- (b) future meetings of the Partnership alternate with one meeting to discuss broad issues and one to concentrate on a specific item to be agreed at the previous meeting;
- (c) CLASB be informed about what was necessary to ensure the continuation of successful partnership working.

6. WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC SERVICE PARTNERSHIP AND GENERAL ISSUES UPDATE

Mr Nigel Christian presented a report which updated Members on work carried out since the last meeting of the CSWP.

At a meeting between the CSWP and the County Scrutiny Network, the Network had suggested reviewing:

- That consultation on waste strategy to check that meaningful responses were gained from public and partners and if necessary, to

chase up the more important consultees. The Strategy, to include clear timetables, targets and review periods, should be in place during 2007.

- The CSWP complete a County-wide project to consider collection of commercial waste. Make any changes required and continue to consider the broader issues of commercial waste and how progress could be made.
- Whether the CSWP were closer to understanding the trends in municipal waste BVPI 84(a) and projecting future statistics and LATS fines with greater accuracy. Research other Authorities to develop whether further waste minimisation measures in Cumbria have been completed and the findings acted upon.
- Following on from the BVPI82 (a) work, the projections of LATS fines to be defined and further avoidance measures be considered.
- Checks to ensure that the waste statistics around the County were robust and reliable.
- Assessment of effectiveness of WRAP funded work including changes in the number of 'committed recyclers'.
- Develop recycling and reuse credits arrangements for 2008/09 onwards have been developed and reflect the need to drive further improvements in the rates of recycling and reuse across the County.
- Look for continued improvements on the website, particularly in the visible accountability of the CSWP through documents, summaries of Minutes etc on the Resource Cumbria website. Annual report be produced and made publicly available.

The report included an update against each issue. Cumbria Scrutiny Network had now handed over monitoring of the outstanding issues to the County Council's Environment Scrutiny Panel but the Network reserved the right to institute further investigations in future should they feel the need.

The report also highlighted for Members information that the Waste Management Unit had hosted a successful visit from the People's Government of Suzhou City Science and Technology Bureau, China on 24 September. The delegation were interested in finding out how CSWP tackled waste and recycling issues.

AGREED, that the report be received.

7. WDA TOP-UP FUNDING AND WPEG FOR 2008/09

Mr Nigel Christian presented a report on WDA top-up funding and WPEG for 2008/09.

At the meeting of the CSWP on 8 August 2007 Members had supported proposals for a WDA top-up fund aimed at achieving LATS benefits which would be managed by a CSWP Project Team. CSWP Officers concentrated initially on the provision of funding to replace the revenue element of the WPEG range. In October 2007 Government Office North West (GONW) had announced that it expected that the former WPEG would be made available in 2008/09 through a non ring-fenced Revenue Support Grant and that there would be a separate Capital Grants scheme. Details of the GONW announcement would be published in December and would allow the CSWP to determine if this was the most effective funding mechanism.

Members were recommended to approve the proposals put forward for ongoing revenue support for recycling and composting as listed in Appendix 1 to the report. Note that WDA top-up fund would be available to support proposals in Appendix 1 if required, and note the recent GONW announcement of WPEG (revenue only) and capital support for 2008/09. Funding proposals listed would be reviewed once details of GONW announcement were published.

8. REPORT FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICE NORTH WEST

Mr Richard Watson, Government Office North West updated the Partnership on issues that had arisen since the last meeting as follows:

- The Environment Agency were publishing LATS for 2006/07 for England
- The timetable for spatial strategy would be ready by mid November
- The North West Waste Conference for England Waste Strategy 2007 would take place on 18 January. Members suggested that CSWP could have a stand at the Conference.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted that the next two meetings of the Partnership would take place in Frenchfields Pavilion on

Wednesday 12 December 2007
Wednesday 23 January 2008

The meeting on 12 December would begin with a working lunch at 12.30 pm. There would then be a Seminar at 1.00 pm and the CSWP meeting would commence at 2.00 pm.

The meeting on 23 January would start at 1.00 pm and lunch would be available from 12.30 pm.

Members **AGREED** that meetings of the CSWP take place at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, commencing at 1.0 pm on:

5 March 2008	28 January 2009
16 April 2008	11 March 2009
28 May 2008	22 April 2009
9 July 2008	3 June 2009
20 August 2008	15 July 2009
1 October 2008	
12 November 2008	

The meeting ended at 3.50 pm.

SG/FB