

CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Wednesday 5 March 2008 at 1.00 pm at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Penrith.

PRESENT

Mr I Stewart (Chair)

Mr R Bloxham	-	Carlisle City Council
Mr D Roberts	-	Barrow Borough Council
Mr K Phillips	-	Eden District Council
Mrs B Woof	-	South Lakeland District Council

Also in attendance:-

Ms J Carrol	-	Copeland Borough Council
Mr N Christian	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr E Davidson	-	Allerdale Borough Council
Ms C Feeney-Johnston	-	South Lakeland District Council
Mrs W Ferry	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr M Gardner	-	Carlisle City Council
Ms M Graham	-	North West Waste Forum
Mr G Harrison	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr R Kitchen	-	South Lakeland District Council
Mr I F Laird	-	Barrow Borough Council
Mr J Shatwell	-	Environment Agency
Miss K Tye	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr R Watson	-	Government Office North West
Mr A Yates	-	Eden District Council

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr B Metz (Eden District Council), Mr C Pickering (Cumbria County Council), Mr J Richardson (Cumbria County Council), Mr S Standage (Allerdale Borough Council) and Mr G Blackwell (Copeland District Council).

33. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr I Stewart, Mr D Roberts, Mr R Bloxham, Mr K Phillips, Mrs B Woof and Ms C Feeney-Johnston declared a personal interest in all items of business on the Agenda relating to their relevant District Councils.

34. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on 23 January 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

35. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

36. MINUTES OF OFFICER GROUP MEETING

Mike Gardner presented the Minutes of the Officer Group Meeting held on 19 February 2008. He reported that issues in relation to commercial waste had been raised and the availability of BREW funding for a Commercial Waste Recycling project had been raised at the meeting. Following a lengthy discussion, it had been agreed at the Officer meeting to develop and submit a proposal which targeted biodegradable commercial waste from Cumbria's tourism sector. This was specifically in relation to paper and cardboard and food waste, which would be carried out in partnership with the North West Community Recycling Network. Members were informed that the deadline for submission of applications was 29 February 2008.

Mr Harrison informed the Group that the CSWP Project Officer post was currently being evaluated and would be advertised before the end of the current financial year.

Mr Bloxham commented that District Council could have had more input into the agenda. Graham Harrison pointed out that the agenda was prepared jointly by the officers. Mr Bloxham added that he was referring to District Members promoting items of concern to the partnership to ensure that they were brought to the attention of the meeting.

Mike Gardner raised the issue of the Hespian Wood Composting Site and stated that it was currently experiencing a major problem with odour from the green waste transferred from the WRG Lillyhall site. Mr Bloxham commented that, when originally built, the Hespian Wood site was built to service Carlisle and the surrounding district.

Mr Harrison informed the Group that, it was proposed to produce a network of composting sites in the West and one in the South. Cumbria Waste Management (CWM) would develop their own Business Plan and there would potentially be a composting site in the West within the next 6 months.

37. WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Graham Harrison updated members on a range of issues that had taken place since the last meeting of the Partnership.

Title	2006/7	07/08 target	December 07	y/e forecast
BVPI 82 a – recycling	18%	22%	22%	22%
BVPI b – composting	14%	17%	18%	17%
BVPI 82 d ii – household waste landfilled	195,741	180,600	122,558	155,300
BVPI 84 + LAA	594kgs	588kgs	410kgs	530kgs
LAA – reduction in % of municipal waste landfilled	n/a	-4%	-12%	-12%
LAA - % of municipal waste recycled and composted	29%	33%	34%	33%

He provided members with an update on the December 2007 Waste Performance Statistics and stated that it was forecast that the county would achieve a 39% recycling rate by the end of the year. Members were also informed that a 40,000 tonne drop in household waste going to landfill was expected by the end of 2008. BVPI 84+ LAA was forecast at 530kg at the year end, with waste being currently 12-13% less than last year. He informed the Partnership that the county had achieved the largest drop in waste per head in the UK in 2007, with a 6% drop. He also informed the group that the county was on target for its percentage of Municipal Waste Recycled and Composted which was anticipated to be at 33%.

Members were informed that the GONW Sustainable Waste Management Conference at Old Trafford, Manchester had been an excellent day. Mr Harrison informed the Group that the Rt. Hon. Joan Ruddock was present as Keynote Speaker and the GONW did an excellent job.

The Resource Cumbria website had been updated. It was now easier to navigate and looked “cleaner”. There was also the facility for a “Swap it” feature, whereby users can swap items they no longer wanted. Mr Stewart suggested that it may be useful to include the media on this issue, in order to raise awareness of the ‘Swap It’ feature.

Mr Harrison briefed the Group on the Envirolink Northwest team. Members were informed that in using £10m of Northwest Development Agency funding, the team helped a range of types of organisations in the Northwest. The Group were briefed that Harrison’s of Silloth and Innovia of Wigton had been working together to analyse anaerobic digestion. Mr Harrison presented the Group with a summary of the 9 month position in the Northwest of England for targets set by the North West Development Agency.

Mr Shatwell left the meeting at 2.50 pm.

The Partnership were briefed that the second draft submission of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008/11 was sent to the Government Office North West on 21 February 2008. Work had now commenced on setting a baseline figure for the

new agreement and, targets for the next three years had been set. NI191 and 195 had been chosen as Waste Indicators and members were informed that the audited data for 2006/07 would be used as the baseline data. The Partnership felt that it would be worthwhile to have district targets as well as a countywide target.

The Partnership were updated on the draft Waste Management Service Delivery and Improvement Plan 2008/11. The key operational priorities within the Waste Management team for 2008/11 would be:-

- Avoid LATS penalties
- Achieve 50% recycling and composting of household waste
- Achieve 60% recycling at HWRCs
- 2% reduction in municipal waste per annum
- 50% recycling and composting of commercial waste
- Sale of 12,000 compost bins
- 50,00 Bags for Life per annum into the community
- 65% of schools to achieve Eco Status
- Double the circulation of "Review"
- 300 real nappy circulation voucher schemes per annum

One member expressed concern that it was a very worded document, although the Chair informed him that the document had more than one audience. Mr Harrison updated the Group that an abridged version was available in the form of the annual plan, which is presently under production.

The Chair asked whether there was an opportunity for members to have an input into future planning of the Waste Management Service Delivery and Improvement Plan and Mr Harrison welcomed all comments.

Mr Harrison updated the Partnership on waste prevention and recycling schemes in Cleator Moor. He explained that the Waste Prevention team at Cumbria County Council had worked in partnership with its district Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) to provide a range of market tested and innovative communication and public engagement campaigns, with the aim of raising recycling rates and reducing the burden of waste being landfilled. An intensive awareness campaign was developed to re-launch kerbside recycling in the Cleator Moor area after a survey revealed that only 27% of households were using the Black Box Kerbside Recycling scheme. This was compared to a 70% participation rate in some other parts of Copeland.

The fortnight long scheme commenced on 23 February 2008 and ran up to 9 March 2008, with officers from the county Waste Prevention team and Copeland Waste Management team conducting a wide range of community engagement events. Members were informed that over 20 events were planned to take place including recycling roadshows and clinics, school assemblies and youth workshops, the sponsoring of local school events and plastic bag amnesties at the local Co-op store. A door drop of service leaflets and the "Great Cleator Moor Recycling Giveaway" competition also took place.

Mr Roberts stated that resource Cumbria were more than welcome to carry out similar schemes in the Barrow area.

Members were updated of the response to the BCF campaign from WRAP, whereby the Cumbria Waste Partnership Behavioural Change Campaign was called a “genuine success, with some fantastic increases seen in residents participation in their recycling schemes and that real reduction in contamination of recycling containers” by the local Communications Project Manager of WRAP.

One member raised the issue that Marks and Spencer had recently stated that they were to start charging five pence for bags, in the food department of Marks and Spencer Stores and that they would not be increasing their food packaging. Marks and Spencer had also stated that it was the responsibility of the Local Authority to ensure that there was provision for disposal of packing. The members felt that this was a highly inappropriate and irresponsible comment to make.

The Chair asked that the Director of Marks and Spencer be contacted for an explanation. He suggested that a letter be drafted from the CSWP, for all members to sign and then be sent to Government Office North West to the Director of Marks and Spencer. The Chair felt that the media should be alerted to this.

38. WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT UPDATE

Nigel Christian, Assistant Head of Waste Management, updated members on the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations in Cumbria.

Members were informed that the WEEE regulations had allowed capital investment of £108,000 in the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and domestic WEEE was flowing through the system and being reprocessed as required. It was explained that manufactures and retailers of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) were now responsible for recycling it and covering the cost of doing so. This included fridges, freezers, TVs and monitors, small electrical appliances, large electrical appliances and fluorescent tubes. He stated that in accordance with the regulations, Cumbria County Council had registered all HWRCs as “Designated Collection Facilities” (DCFs) for domestic WEEE. In return for registering, the HWRCs received £108,000 capital grant which was being spent on upgrading the sites specifically to enable them to segregate WEEE for recycling.

Members were informed that companies known as “compliance schemes” had been created to enable the WEEE producers to meet their obligations. Cumbria Waste Management (CWM) were contracted with a compliance scheme called “Electrolink” who agreed that CWM would arrange for the haulage and processing of WEEE on their behalf. This arrangement has been severed and members were informed that CWM were negotiating with several players in the market.

Members noted the report.

39. WPEG CAPITAL ALLOCATION 2008/09 AND NATIONAL INDICATORS

Nigel Christian updated members of the Partnership on the situation relating to WPEG Capital Allocation for 2008/09 and of National Indicators.

The Partnership were reminded that at the meeting in October 2007, CSWP members approved proposals for spending the revenue shares of WPEG into the LAA grant for 2008/09, which amounted to approximately £517,000. Members were informed that there was no WPEG capital funding for 2008/09, however there was a Waste Infrastructure Capital fund for three years: £860k for 2008/09; £895k for 2009/10; and £316k for 2010/11.

Officers had developed three submissions for the capital grant, amounting to £270,000, which resulted in £590,000 unallocated. Mr Christian briefed the Partnership that the final definitions of 148 indicators were due to be published at the end of February 2008.

The CSWP supported a capital grant of £7,500 for the purchase of 5 plastics recycling banks in Eden District Council, which could possibly be funded from a WPEG capital underspend in the current financial year (2007/08) or from the 2008/09 Waste Infrastructure Capital Fund. Keith Phillips stated that annual revenue support of £16,900 would be needed for the scheme to be sustained. He informed members that unless revenue support became available from the WPEG revenue support, or other revenue funding available to the CSWP or the County Council, it seemed unlikely that the introduction of the scheme would go ahead.

Mr Bloxham felt that if more funding was invested to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, this would reduce the LATS fines and thus save the county council money. He thought that this was an investment and the county council should take note of this.

The Chair stated that during the County Council budget process for 2009/10 it would be possible to equate a fund for savings incurred for redistribution. Mr Harrison agreed that there was the possibility for an overall County Council "Collection Support Grant", which would look to enhance the collection arrangements within the County. The Chair stated that in summary, there was potential for additional revenue funding on a year by year basis.

Mr Gardner asked that an amendment be made to the recommendation set out in the report at 2.1, to include paragraph 3.3 and 3.4. This was **AGREED**.

The Chair suggested that the money allocated to Waste Management be ringfenced within the Waste Disposal Service and that any savings coming from this should enable the partnership to have the potential to invest. However, he highlighted that if the funding was ringfenced, overspends would also be ringfenced.

Mr Christian briefed members on National Indicators and stated that NI191 was now classed as the "residual household waste per household", and not head.

Members **AGREED**, that

- (1) Members approved the proposals put forward for spending Waste Infrastructure in paragraph 3.3 and 3.4 and noted that £590.000 remained to be allocated;
- (2) Members noted that the final definitions of the new capital National Indicators Set were due to be published at the end of February 2008.

40. GOVERNMENT OFFICE NORTH WEST UPDATE

Members received a verbal update from Richard Watson, Government Office North West who reiterated that the figures based on 2006/07 would be used as baseline information for the next year's National Indicators. He reinforced that NI191 was now "Residual Waste per Household" and that this had altered the UK league table of county performance. Cumbria was now third in the Northwest for this National Indicator. In 2006/07 Cumbria achieved 930kg per household and it was noted that the national target for 2010 was 691kg.

41. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Woof asked that in future the item "Any Other Business" include 'Items for the next Agenda', in order for members to have more input into the planning of future meetings.

Members **AGREED** to this.

The Partnership were asked to suggest items for the next agenda but there were no suggestions.

The Partnership were invited to put forward suggestions for the seminar at the next meeting.

42. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting of the CSWP was scheduled as follows:-

Date: Wednesday 16 April 2008
Time: 1.00 pm (12.30 pm lunch)
Venue: Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency (CREA), Penrith

A Seminar would be held from 1.00 pm until approximately 2.00 pm. The formal meeting will then take place

The meeting closed at 3.55 pm.