

CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Wednesday 4 April 2007 at Penrith Methodist Church at 1.00 pm.

PRESENT

Mr J R Richardson (Chair)

Mr R Bloxham – Carlisle City Council (Vice-Chair)

Mr A Holliday – Copeland Borough Council

Mr M Metz – Eden District Council

Mr D Roberts – Barrow Borough Council

Mr I Stewart – Cumbria County Council

Mrs B Woof – South Lakeland District Council

Also in Attendance:

Ms J Carrol	- Copeland Borough Council
Mr R G Denby	- Allerdale Borough Council
Mrs S Garrett	- Cumbria County Council (Secretary)
Mr M Gardner	- Carlisle City Council
Miss M Graham	- North West Waste Forum
Mr G Harrison	- Cumbria County Council
Ms B Jones	- CSWP – Project Officer
Mr R Kitchen	- South Lakeland District Council
Mr I F Laird	- Barrow Borough Council
Mr C Pickering	- Corporate Director – Client Services, Cumbria County Council
Mr A Yates	- Eden District Council
Mr R Watson	- Government Office North West
Ms H Younger	- Cumbria County Council

13. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr D Kemp (Allerdale Borough Council), Mrs M Rourke (Allerdale Borough Council) and Mr G McLaughlin (Environment Agency).

14. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr Bloxham, Mr Holliday, Mr Metz, Mr Richardson, Mr Roberts, Mr Stewart and Mrs Woof declared a personal interest in all items of business on the Agenda that affected their respective local authorities.

15. MINUTES

AGREED, that subject to Mr R Kitchin being listed as an officer and not a Councillor, the Minutes of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Wednesday 21 February 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Arising from the Minutes

Mr Harrison informed the Group that since the last meeting of the Partnership two visits to Shanks Waste Management in Dumfries had taken place.

The Chair asked for views from those who had visited and comments from some Members and officers were as follows:

- The noise level was higher than expected at directional points around the site;
- The site had been dirty and had an unacceptable amount of flies inside the building. The officer at the site had agreed that there was a problem with flies but stated that staff used insecticide to get rid of them from the operations room;
- The filtration system seemed to be very effective;
- The doors at the rear of the building were not constructed out of metal and not all of the doors closed so there was a fair amount of noise;
- The Dumfries Plant was half a mile from the closest residential area and positioning of plants in Cumbria would have to be very carefully chosen;
- Members were not very impressed with the end product;
- As there would be between 30 and 40 slow moving vehicles entering and exiting from each site daily, access to sites would be a major area of concern.

Mr Harrison stated that there would be further visits to the Shanks site in Dumfries arranged for local Councillors and their views would be considered alongside those already put forward. No site would be confirmed in Cumbria until the best possible contract for the County had been agreed with the final preferred bidder. No final commitment to any company had been made at this time and, indeed, officers continued to negotiate with and visit WRG.

16. MINUTES OF OFFICER GROUP MEETING

Ms B Jones, Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Project Officer, presented the minutes of a meeting of the Officer Group held on 14 March 2007.

A Member commented that the minutes from the Officer Group meeting held on 28 February 2007 had not been included with the Agenda and it was agreed that these would be circulated to Members as soon as possible following the Easter break.

Ms Jones informed Members that Carol Romero from the Environment Agency and Jane Ince from Cumbria County Council had both recently joined the Officers Group.

Discussion on the minutes took place regarding collection of items such as white goods from people who did not have access to transport and it was felt that there could be cost implications if authorities were told they had a statutory duty to collect and dispose of these items. A communications strategy regarding this would need to be agreed by the whole Partnership. Ms Jones would include current arrangements and possible implications in a report which would be presented to a future meeting of the Partnership.

If charities were not registered nationally then they, as well as places such as church halls, should not be charged for removal of waste. The local authority had to work to the legislation regarding collection and disposal of waste. It was suggested that if Bring sites were closer to schools, it may be possible to encourage them to use the facilities and recycle the waste that was currently discarded.

Members agreed that it was necessary to keep lobbying Government via Government Officer North West (GONW) to put pressure on companies to reduce the amount of packaging used.

AGREED, that

- (a) the Minutes of the meeting of the Officers Group held on 14 March be received;
- (b) the Minutes of the meeting of the Officers Group held on 28 February 2007 be circulated to Members as soon as possible.

17. SURVEY OF NORTH WEST RECYCLERS AND REPROCESSORS – REMADE NORTH WEST

Ms Gill Tatum from Urban Mines gave a presentation on a survey of North West Recyclers and Reprocessors. She explained that the 10 week survey had been commissioned by Enrivolink because of the need to move away from landfill.

The scope of the consultation had been to capture

Company names

Company locations

Company contact details

What type of materials were dealt with

What capacity each company had for each type of material dealt with

Pricing

Plans for expanding the capacity on a site

The survey had been conducted by sampling company methodology, telephoning companies and data analysis like GIA mapping.

There had been 9 Substance Orientated Classifications as follows:

- Chemical waste (solvents, used oils etc)
- Metallic
- Non-metallic (paper, rubber, plastics etc)
- Discarded (computers, white goods etc)
- Animal and vegetable
- Common sludges
- Mixed
- Minerals
- Health (clinical waste)

These had then be further divided into 31 sub-groups.

12 of 16 companies in the North West that had taken part in the survey handled 22 different types of waste material. Six companies in the North West specialised in mineral waste. No reprocessors undertaking mixed ordinary waste had been surveyed.

The draft report had been sent to Envirolink. It would then be sent to Cumbria County Council officers before being distributed wider and the final results would be in the public domain in the near future.

Members felt that the document should be available to all officers of the Partnership and Mr Harrison agreed that as soon as he received a copy he would circulate it to the officers.

Ms Tatum agreed to send a copy of the slides used for her presentation to the Secretary for circulation to Members.

The Chairman thanked Ms Tatum for her presentation.

AGREED, that

- (a) Mr Harrison would distribute a copy of the report to all officers on the Partnership;
- (b) Ms Tatum would provide a copy of the presentation for circulation to Members of the CSWP.

18. WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC SERVICE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Mr Harrison presented a report outlining the work carried out by the County Council in preparation for the Strategic Service Partnership since the last meeting

of the Group held on 21 February. He informed Members no recycling sites had been identified in Cumbria yet but the Partnership would be informed as soon as the locations were known. Shanks were hopeful that two sites in Cumbria would be sufficient and enquiries were being undertaken to identify the potential for using rail links to facilitate access to sites. Mr Pickering confirmed that as this was a prime consideration there was an engineer looking at this possibility.

Mr Harrison stressed the need for transparency in identifying cost savings and highlighted item 3.1(c) in the report. He informed Members that a Seminar would be arranged to explain the interface between Shanks and Cumbria. A meeting had been arranged with Shanks on 16 April and feedback would be given to the next meeting of the Officer Group. Districts would be asked to contribute as well and it was agreed that officers would take this forward.

Mr Harrison also passed round a copy of the CSWP funding for 2006/07 for information.

AGREED, that

- (a) the report be received;
- (b) the CSWP note the recent activity undertaken by the County Council and Shanks since February 2007.

19. WRAP BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

Ms Helen Younger gave a presentation on the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Behavioural Change. She began by explaining that she intended to provide an overview of the campaign and identify key resultant issues. The campaign had been developed around the 'Talking Rubbish' survey. The main objective had been developing a partnership approach to recycling in Cumbria and achieving a 60% by 2011. There were generic elements such as a telephone helpline, site signage, recycling rangers and a website all of which accounted for 70% of the budget allocated to this project.

The campaigns has been split into three sections:

Secure and flourishing families". – this group recycled more, more often.

Wealthy achievers - recycled more, more often and better.

Low or non recyclers - would be encouraged to try recycling or encouraged to recycle more than they did at present.

The survey identified that committed recyclers regarded recycling as important and would recycle even if it required additional effort. Some areas had not had recycling receptacles delivered so there was a perception that the kerbside collection service was poor.

A survey of 13 sites, 4 HWRC and 9 recycling points showed that the main reason for not going to an HWRC site was the success of the kerbside collection service and the site at Flusco set a good benchmark for customer satisfaction with Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

A report would be presented quarterly to the Partnership, and a copy of the slides used by Ms Younger would be circulated to Members and officers of the Partnership following the Easter break.

AGREED, that

- (a) an update report would be presented quarterly to the Partnership;
- (b) a copy of the slides used in the presentation be circulated to Members and officers of the Partnership;

20. WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) UPDATE

Members received a report from Ms Barbara Jones, Project Officer on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). The report recommended that the implementation of the WEEE Directive as regulation and subsequent consequences on selection arrangements be acknowledged. The regulations would result in the need to provide a greater range of WEEE separation and collection from each HWRC by the relevant Waste Disposal Authority. Authorities who currently delivered the waste to privately owned transfer or bulking stations would have to ensure that the owners operated registered sites. The deadline for registering WEEE sites had been 31 March 2007.

Members queried what happened if hazardous waste, for example batteries, were disposed of in the domestic refuse collection service. Mr Harrison informed the Group that if this sort of waste was put in with recycling then it would be sorted out at recycling plants. If it was included in domestic refuse it was not possible to remove it before the refuse was taken to landfill.

It was agreed that there had to be a unified approach for WEEE which the County and all Districts agreed and officers would have to liaise to ensure that all options were taken account of. Mr Harrison would also contact GONW to get a regional approach.

AGREED, that

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) officers take forward the recommendations as set out in the report.

21. CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS WASTE DISPOSAL CHARGING POLICY

Ms Jones presented a report which reviewed the collection and disposal charges from charitable organisations in light of Government guidance. The report recommended that the CSWP authorities consider reviewing their current charging policies for waste collected from charitable organisations from 1 April 2007.

AGREED, that

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) officers liaise to assure consistency throughout Cumbria in respect of a charging policy for waste collected from charitable organisations.

22. ALTERNATIVE WEEK COLLECTIONS – CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Mr Gardner reported on the recent implementation of alternative week collections in Carlisle. He informed the Group that changing from weekly black bag collections to alternative week collections had been a huge challenge for the Authority. There had been some initial confusion for people but generally the change had worked well. The card and plastic scheme had been so successful that extra vehicles would have to be allocated to cope with demand. The target for residual waste had been 22k per property but so far this had been reduced to 14-15k per property. He acknowledged that this was still early days and that there were still issues to be considered. He would report to the Group again.

Members requested that they be given a presentation and a report.

AGREED, that Carlisle City provide a presentation to the CSWP to show how things were progressing with alternative week collections in Carlisle.

23. BVPI 84A

Ms Jones gave the Partnership a verbal update on BVP184A indicators for total household waste per head of population.

There had been a rise in waste from Bed and Breakfast establishments and holiday homes throughout the County.

The HWRCs permit scheme was progressing and work had been done in respect of commercial waste.

There was a need to revisit the issue of waste from schools as well as the impact on BVPIs.

A report would be presented to the next meeting of the Officer Group.

AGREED, that a report on BVPI184A be presented to a future meeting of the Partnership.

24. REPORT FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICE NORTH WEST

Mr Watson, Government Office North West informed Members that:

- The review of the National Waste Strategy would not be published until after Local Government Election in May;
- There were likely to be three main indicators for Local Authorities
 - 1 percentage of residual household waste per head
 - 2 percentage of household waste recycled and composted
 - 3 percentage of municipal waste landfilled.

25. FUTURE MEETINGS

AGREED, that meetings of the Partnership take place as follows:

- 16 May
- 27 June
- 8 August
- 19 September
- 31 October
- 12 December

Meetings would take place in Penrith preferably at Frenchfields.

The meeting ended at 4.10 pm.

SG/FB

Signed

(Chairman)

Date 16 May 2007

DRAFT