

The **WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**
met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on **12 June 2007**

Present:

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor Peter Fowler

Officers

Richard Dobbs

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillor Geoff Ashford

Officers

Peter Benham

Rugby Borough Council

Councillor Heather Timms

Officers

Sean Lawson

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

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Officer

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Warwick District Council

Councillor Michael Kinson

Officer

Jackie Webb

Warwickshire County Council

Councillor Ken Browne

Councillor Jose Compton

Councillor Eithne Goode

Councillor Martin Heatley (Chair)

Officers

John Deegan

Glenn Fleet

Jean Hardwick

Jo Ingle

Ian Marriott

Martin Stott
Kalen Wood

Also Present: Jim Poll, AEA Energy and Environment.

1. Appointment of Chair

Councillor Martin Heatley was appointed as Chair for the ensuing year.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair

Councillor Heather Timms was appointed as Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon Jackson (Stratford District Council) and Ray Sweet (Warwickshire County Council).

4. Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2007

(a) Minutes

Resolved:-

That the minutes of the Partnership meeting held on 27 February 2007, copies having been circulated, be approved and be signed by the Chair.

(b) Matters Arising

Minute 10 Joint Waste Authority Options Appraisal Working Group

Glenn Fleet reported that the delay in setting up the Working Group to look at options appraisal for closer partnership working was caused by the elections and the appointment of new portfolio holders for some district/borough councils.

It was agreed that the relevant Members would be consulted about a suitable date for the first meeting of this Working Group. (Note: Meeting now arranged for Monday 16 July 2007 at 10:00 a.m.)

6. Warwickshire Waste Analysis

Jim Poll with the aid of a power-point presentation (copy attached) outlined the –

- results from waste analyses conducted in October 2006 and February 2007
- estimate of additional recyclable and compostable material that could be recovered
- modelling of the introduction of alternate week collection on :
 - recycling rate
 - residual waste composition.

He highlighted –

- graphs showing the composition of waste brought to recycling centres; residual household waste; kerbside collected dry recyclables and the kerbside collected green waste.
- additional material that could be collected –
 - dry recyclables – 13,000 tonnes/year
- that the introduction of alternate week collection together with food waste collection, would:
 - increase recycling rate to 42%
 - reduce biodegradable content of residual waste to 60%
 - increase calorific value of residual waste by 7%

The Partnership –

- (1) thanked Jim Poll for his presentation and asked that copies be circulated to Members;
- (2) asked for a press release of the findings of the analyses.

7. Waste Minimisation Strategy (Glenn Fleet)

Glenn Fleet presented the report, which outlined the results of the public consultation and sought Members' approval for the adoption of the revised Waste Minimisation Strategy. He asked each partner authority to approve the Strategy once an action plan had been developed and supported by the Partnership. He highlighted that, with regard to the general consultation exercise, only 6 returns had been received from the 107 organisations and individuals contacted (two from organisations and four members of the public).

During discussion and, in reply to concern expressed, Glenn Fleet advised that once the Partnership had approved the Strategy, attached as Appendix A to the report, and instructed the officers to develop an action plan to support the overall strategy, Members would then need to seek formal approval of the Strategy and action plan by their individual district/borough councils. The Strategy and Action Plan would be brought back to the Partnership's September meeting.

Following discussion the Partnership recommended that the revised Waste Minimisation Strategy be approved and agreed to seek adoption of the Strategy by their own partner authority once an action plan has been agreed by Members (to be scheduled for the Partnership's September 2007 meeting).

8. INTERREG IVB Project – REDUCE (Glenn Fleet)

Glenn Fleet presented the report, which outlined the main objectives of a European funded Waste Minimisation project and sought Members approval to become a project partner if funding was approved.

During discussion concern was expressed about the –

- (1) County Council becoming involved in this initiative which it was considered was led by a remote body (based in Belgium) without any tangible benefits and that it would be more appropriate to focus resources and expertise on Warwickshire.
- (2) lack of clarity about the funding required to support the project.

In response Glenn Fleet advised that the cost to the Waste Minimisation Team would be minimal in that participation would involve the use of existing resources and projects.

John Deegan added that this initiative involved exchanging information and expertise across the European Union. He expressed disappointment about Members not wishing to support this project particularly as the County Council was a leading authority in this area of work. He suggested that, as this initiative related to the use of County Council resources, Cabinet approval should be sought to under-write the cost of the project.

Ian Marriot advised that his understanding was that existing officer resources would be used for the project and that they would not be diverted from the work they would be carrying out under the auspices of their European work. He also understood that external funding could be sought and his view was that this could be dealt with under the Strategic Director's delegated powers.

John Deegan proposed that, taking on board, Members' comments that he would seek Cabinet approval for the use of County Council resources to support this project.

Resolved –

(1) 4 Members voting in favour and 3 Members voting against, that Members approve the Warwickshire Waste Partnership joining the REDUCE partnership bidding to the North West Europe INTERREG IVB Programme.

(2) to note that the Strategic Director will be seeking Cabinet support to underwrite this project.

9. The Provision of Biowaste Treatment and Material Recycling Facilities

Jo Ingle presented the report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy on behalf of the officer group which summarised the outcome of the work undertaken by the AEA Group on the provision of biowaste treatment facilities and recommended a way forward.

During discussion the following comments were noted –

(1) Support was expressed for the general principles outlined in the report.

(2) Councillor Heather Timms said that, whilst she supported the general principle of recycling, she could not support scenario 6, paragraph 3.4 of the report, as this would undermine aspects of the current consultation being undertaken with Rugby residents.

(3) Other Members expressed reservations about alternative weekly collections (AWC).

(4) Jackie Webb urged endorsement of the contract as set out in paragraph 4.4. of the report and expressed concern that any delay might jeopardise the tender for Warwick DC's pioneering collection contract.

John Deegan acknowledged Members' reservations but suggested that, whilst all district and borough councils might not agree on AWC, they should supported the principle of in-vessel composting and devolve authority to the officers about the method of collection.

The Partnership endorsed the way forward for in-vessel composting as set out in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of the report.

10. Letter from the Leader of Rugby Borough Council following Audit Commission Review

The Partnership noted the letter from the leader of Rugby Borough Council following the Audit Commission Review (copy circulated).

Sean Lawson advised that the view expressed in the letter was not that of Rugby Borough Council but that perceived by the Audit Commission.

The Chair thanked the officers for bringing the letter to the attention of the Partnership.

11. Waste Partnership 2nd Annual Conference – Wednesday 7 November 2007 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Partnership noted the date of the 2nd Annual Warwickshire Waste Partnership Conference was to be held on Wednesday 7 November 2007 at Benn Hall, Rugby.

12. Any other business.

Waste Materials Recycling Facility – Planning Application.

Martin Stott reported the receipt of A planning application by Revolve for a 39,000 tonne MRF at Ettington in Stratford District.

13. Future Meeting date (2:00 p.m. Shire Hall) –

Future meeting dates were noted as follows-

Tuesday 25 September 2007
Tuesday 27 November 2007

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Chair of Partnership

The meeting closed at 4:40 p.m.