

The **WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**
met at the Shire Hall, Warwick on **29th September 2009**

Present:

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor Tilly May
Officer Richard Dobbs

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillor N Grant
Officer Peter Benham

Rugby Borough Council

Councillor Heather Timms
Officer Sean Lawson

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Councillor Simon Jackson
Officer Robert Weeks

Warwick District Council

Councillor Dave Shilton
Officer Rob Hoof

Warwickshire County Council

Councillor Alan Cockburn
Councillor John Whitehouse

Officers

Roy Burton
Glenn Fleet
Paul Galland
Stephen Levington
Ian Marriott
Martin Stott
John Wright

1. Election of Chair

Resolved that Councillor Alan Cockburn be elected Chair

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Penny Bould and Michael Doody.

3. Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Shilton declared personal interest in all items related to Warwick District Council as he was a portfolio holder for waste matters.

Councillor Whitehouse declared personal interest in all items as he was a financial contributor to Friends of the Earth.

4. Election of Vice Chair

Resolved that Councillor Heather Timms be elected Vice Chair

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2009

Resolved that the minutes of the Partnership meeting held on be approved and be signed by the Chair.

6. Presentation on Project Transform

The Partnership received a presentation from John Daley and Andrew Walster on Project Transform. The presentation covered

- The background and aims of Project Transform
- The options for long term residual waste treatment
- The outline business case for Project Transform
- The reference project for Project Transform
- The procurement process
- The impact on waste collection authorities
- The involvement of waste collection authorities

Members asked a range of questions about the content of the presentation and were informed

- That there was confidence that if there is a shortfall in supply of residual waste from domestic collections any shortfall could be made up from commercial waste or waste which would otherwise have gone to landfill
- Transportation of waste was an issue. Bidders were not limited to use of the site in Coventry but if that site was used road was the most likely means of transportation. Rail may be an option though use of canals was thought unlikely.
- Autoclaving is the sterilization of waste with steam in order to remove biodegradable elements
- The business plan does not currently factor in use of commercial waste
- Recycling rates varied between Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. The figures in the business plan were based on an average 51% recycling rate across all three authorities
- The project provides a long term solution to the disposal of residual waste

- The project may lead to the establishment of a sub regional waste disposal authority
- A seminar would be held in the near future for members on Project Transform and regular update reports would be made to the Waste Partnership

The Chair thanked John Daley and Andrew Walster for the presentation.

7. Waste Management Statistics for 2008/09

The Partnership considered a report on the quantities of waste arising in each District area and handled by each Council during 2008/09. Members were informed, inter alia:-

- The overall recycling and composting rate was over 43% and it was anticipated that this would soon reach 47%.
- Total household waste reduced by 2.23% from 2007/08 to 2008/09.
- Warwickshire was the most improved shire council in 2008/09 in terms of recycling and composting with overall performance increasing by 7.81 percentage points. This was mainly due to the new arrangements introduced in Warwick District.
- There had been a further 16.7% diversion of biodegradable municipal waste away from landfill reducing the amount landfilled to 95,107 tonnes.
- A further increase in recycling rates would take place when North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth Councils moved to fortnightly waste collections. Both Councils did not currently collect kitchen waste for composting
- The Ufton site would be able to take all the waste from Stratford, Warwick and Rugby from 9th October 2009

Following questions from members the Partnership was informed that in connection with the Warwick scheme the County Council had invested £1m on equipment for recycling and £0.5m on waste transfer. The County also paid for composting costs. The Council was also seeking any available funding that could be used to support waste management.

Resolved the report be noted.

8. Local Area Agreement – Review of Waste Target

The Partnership received details of proposed new targets for the indicator used to monitor the performance of Waste Management under the Local Area Agreement. Due to the improved performance by most councils in Warwickshire, the current target for performance indicator NI 191 was no longer challenging. It was therefore proposed that new targets be set and that, through the Public Service Board, the Government Office of the West Midlands be informed of the new targets as part of the annual LAA refreshment process.

Resolved that as part of the annual refreshment of LAA targets, the existing waste management targets be replaced by those detailed in paragraph 2.2 of the report submitted.

9. Business Waste Recycling

The Partnership received a report on progress made in promoting the recycling of business waste.

In May 2008 the County Council had received funding for a Business Resource Efficiency & Waste funded project to enable the county and districts to facilitate the recycling of trade waste. This money had been made available to local authorities because of the recognised shortage within the county of recycling infrastructure for business recyclates and the role that local authorities could play in overcoming this. Many businesses wanted to recycle but had difficulty securing a service. The report detailed the schemes which were operating in each of the District and Borough Council areas and the role of County Council those recycling centres which accepted trade waste.

Members welcomed the report and stated that the issue of business waste recycling was a significant concern for residents who saw a disparity between the requirement to recycle domestic waste and the lack of initiatives for business to recycle. Business needed to be shown the financial benefits of recycling and it was acknowledged that increases in land fill costs were encouraging greater participation.

Members were reminded that business waste recycling was not a statutory function of the County Council and whilst the Council was keen to promote recycling it needed to ensure that any schemes were cost neutral.

Resolved that the action to-date on promotion of business waste recycling be endorsed and the work to consolidate and expand the activities be supported.

10. Update on Joint Committee.

The Partnership received an update on the creation of a joint committee. Members were informed:

- The Heads of Terms had been developed into a full Waste Partnership Agreement, including a set of standing orders
- The Partnership can be fully operational from the date of the final approval from every Partner.
- The full agreement is ready to be sent for final comments, with an accompanying model report, following this meeting.
- The Budget and Business Plan had also been revised and updated.
- The possibility of appointing a Partnership Manager had been postponed for the time being

- The only financial contribution to be made by any Partner is £740 from each district and borough and £3700 from the County;
- The joint committee arrangement provided a platform on which joint working can be built gradually and by consensus.
- There will be six Members of the joint committee, each with a substitute and one vote. Each Partner must appoint its Waste Portfolio holder.
- The joint committee would operate at meetings in a similar manner to existing Council committees and the access to information rules are similar.
- The Waste Partnership Agreement and the Business Plan promise that the Partnership will consider the possibility of joint scrutiny in due course. In the meantime, scrutiny will operate within each Partner.
- With minor adjustments, it was now possible for the Waste Partnership Agreement to be approved by the Leader or Cabinet of the County Council without reference to full Council. The same may be possible in the districts and boroughs as well, so long as the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy is not part of their Policy Framework reserved to their full Council. If so, this would expedite the approval process, making agreement by the end of the calendar year a realistic prospect.

Resolved that the report be noted.

11. Any Other Business

None

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

Tuesday 29 September 2009

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Chair of Partnership

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.