

The **WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**
met at Shire Hall, Warwick on 14 June 2011 at 2.00pm

Present:

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor Hayden Phillips
Officer Bernard Woodhall

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Officer Brent Davis

Rugby Borough Council

Officer Sean Lawson

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Officer Olly Scholefield

Warwick District Council

Councillor Dave Shilton
Officer Becky Davies

Warwickshire County Council

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Chair)
Councillor Jeff Clarke
Councillor Ray Sweet
Councillor John Whitehouse

Officers

Kitran Eastman
Glenn Fleet
Adam James
Tamalyn Goodwin
Ian Marriott
Richard Maybey
Martin Stott
Laura Vesty
Louise Wall
Matthew Williams

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Michael Doody, Councillor Bill Sheppard and Councillor Mike Brain.

2. Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor John Whitehouse declared a personal interest having made a charitable donation to Friends of the Earth.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2011

(a) Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Partnership meeting held on 8 March 2011 be approved and be signed by the Chair.

(b) Matters arising

Councillor John Whitehouse confirmed that the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be considering how to address the issue of litter on roadsides at its work programming workshop later in the month.

Councillor Dave Shilton stated that better working relationships were needed between the councils and the Highways Agency. Glenn Fleet agreed to write to the Highways Agency seeking clarification of their litter arrangements and to open discussions about how the working relationships could be improved.

4. Future Waste Disposal Plan

Tamalyn Goodwin introduced the report, which sought the Partnership's acknowledgement of the work undertaken to identify a future waste treatment solution following the cancellation of Project Transform. The report also sought agreement to develop a high-level strategic document should the legal requirement for a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy be abolished.

Tamalyn explained that an Industry Day would take place on 17 June 2011, at which County Council officers and Councillors would assess the different waste treatment options available. A Task & Finish Group, led by County Councillors, would then scrutinise the options and offer its feedback and recommendations prior to the publishing of the OJEU notice of tender.

Glenn Fleet confirmed that the intention of the Industry Day is to seek as much information as possible from potential providers. Warwickshire is seeking procurement now, even though a new solution is not needed until 2013 at the earliest. This is because a number of other authorities are also seeking procurement, and approaching the industry while there is still capacity in the marketplace offers the best opportunity of procuring a flexible solution, which can adapt to changes in waste volumes.

In response to questions, officers confirmed that:

- Warwickshire can utilise the current site at Coventry until 2018 if required, but more affordable options may exist with another provider
- District and borough representatives may attend the Industry Day to observe the presentations, but they would not be able to attend the confidential one-to-one sessions

- The government's intention is to leave discretion over the collection of waste with the Local Authority, rather than impose directives on weekly/alternative cycles

Sean Lawson asked that any potential cost savings achieved by a new waste-disposal solution are balanced against any extra cost required for transportation to the new treatment sites.

- Kitran Eastman acknowledged the importance of this balance, and stated that tipping points had been factored into the brief for the Industry Day
- The Chair confirmed there was a commitment from the County Council to work closely with the districts and boroughs to ensure the most cost-effective use of public money

The Partnership agreed the report recommendations

5. Waste Initiatives Update – brief update from each authority

The Partnership considered the report of the Officers' Group, which provided an update on waste initiatives from each partner authority. The following comments were noted:

North Warwickshire

- It is important that recycling promotion is maintained in all areas, as results show that participation rates go up in areas where campaigns are run, but go down in areas where no campaigns are undertaken
- The political change in the administration at North Warwickshire Borough Council will not affect the focus on encouraging recycling

Nuneaton & Bedworth

- There is a need for continued education about how the public can dispose of their food waste
- Officers have been soft-testing the market about treatment options for food waste (i.e., mingled with green waste or separate) with a view to rolling out schemes in Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire
- To assess the differences between co-mingled and segregated recyclable collections, it was agreed that a report of Warwick District Council would be circulated to the Partnership (sent via email on 16 June 2011)

Rugby Borough Council

- Clarity was sought over the charging arrangements for collecting school waste across the county and whether these could be unified by more transparency of prices
- Sean Lawson stated that some schools use private contractors, so there is commercially sensitive information involved. Publishing prices could allow these contractors to undercut the councils' collection service
- Arrangements may change in September, so that schools can be charged for recyclable collections (which are currently free). However, this may create a disincentive for schools to increase their recycling rate

Warwick District Council

- The Partnership will be kept updated on the Guide Dogs for the Blind textile recycling scheme, which has gained national recognition
- There are still properties on weekly sack collections, but there is a phased approach to moving these across to the grey bins
- A slimmer collection vehicle is needed for some streets, and this will be part of the new contract arrangements

Stratford District Council

- Food waste collection is being promoted by the contractor, who operates both the collections and the treatment facility
- Collections from charity shops have now been approved by the district's Cabinet

Warwickshire County Council

- The proposal to open Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) seven days a week, albeit under reduced opening hours, was welcomed
- There are currently two haulage contracts out to tender, one for bringing the HWRCs in-house and the other for moving residual waste from the north of the county to the new W2R facility, scheduled to open in 2013
- All elected members will be informed via email of the changes to HWRC opening times
- The majority of hazardous waste is taken out of county, and a more joined-up approach with neighbouring counties is being pursued

The Partnership noted the reports and requested further updates at the next meeting

6. Sub-regional working

Sean Lawson offered a verbal update on the progress of sub-regional working, stating that partners across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull are working well together and savings will hopefully be achieved in the near future.

The sub-regional work to date has focused on the following 3 workstreams:

1. Procurement – the fuelling of waste collection vehicles is a major area of spend, which is escalating as fuel prices rise. It will be interesting to see if the results of the route optimisation work in Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire will yield any savings
2. Waste collections – while it is impractical to achieve a standardised system of collection for general waste across the region, there may be scope to standardise clinical waste collection as there is currently a large variation in cost depending on location
3. Agency staff fees – as changes in legislation take effect there may be large fee increases for contracted staff. The sub-region may be able to mitigate this by setting up its own agency. There is also a large cost

involved in the training of refuse drivers, which could be reduced via a sub-regional approach

The Partnership noted the update and requested further updates as and when appropriate

7. 2010/11 Waste Data

Laura Vesty circulated the report, explaining that while it contained only provisional data, it should provide a good indication of the final expected data.

The Chair requested that, in the future, this type of data report should be circulated to the Partnership in advance of the meeting to give members sufficient time to consider it fully.

It was noted that:

- The provisional data suggests that residual waste collected by some of the collection authorities has increased slightly apart from in North Warwickshire and at Household Waste Recycling Centres where waste has reduced. The net effect is a reduction in municipal waste in Warwickshire
- Recycling is thought to have increased slightly
- The winter weather had an impact on the number of collections completed in December and January
- It is difficult to judge if economic conditions have an effect on waste volumes, but this will continue to be monitored
- Despite rising household numbers, the report states the same number of households as the previous year. It was explained that this is due to the household figures being provided by central government. Consequently, the figures may not offer a truly accurate reflection of current waste production

The Partnership noted the report

8. Using the results of the 2010 Waste Study to improve recycling in Warwickshire

Laura Vesty introduced the report, highlighting the efforts made to improve the rate of food waste capture and bring more consistency to the collection rate of dry recyclables. Joint campaigns are in progress, such as “Slim Your Bin”, and food composting equipment is available to buy at a reduced price.

In response to questions from members, it was noted that:

- Warwickshire is promoting the use of compostable (corn starch) bags for food waste, as opposed to degradable or bio-degradable bags
- Public information on which bags to use and where to buy them will be published through the campaigns in each region

The Partnership noted the report

9. The Warwickshire Waste Partnership Business Plan – update

Kitran Eastman provided an update on the status of the Business Plan, and received its endorsement from Councillor David Shilton on behalf of Warwick District Council.

The table below details the members and officers that were assigned to oversee the short-term objectives of the Business Plan for 2011/12.

Objective	Member leads	Officer leads
Update the Municipal Waste Management Strategy following the release of the updated guidance from government	Cllr Helen Walton	Kitran Eastman, WCC
To assess the best way to monitor the sustainability of Warwickshire's municipal waste management	Cllr Alan Cockburn	Kitran Eastman, WCC
Review the Partnerships position on the delivery of recycling and waste collections, and road map its future delivery	Cllr Dr Mark Williams	Sean Lawson, RBC
To work sub-regionally to improve value for money on joint procurement either as a whole partnership or in clusters	Cllr Dr Mark Williams	Sean Lawson, RBC
Reduce the amount of municipal waste produced in Warwickshire to 530kg per head. With no more than 265kg per head of residual waste	Cllr John Whitehouse Cllr Alan Cockburn Cllr Helen Walton	Becky Davies, WDC WCC officers (TBC)

10. Waste Core Strategy

Adam James delivered a PowerPoint presentation on Warwickshire's Waste Core Strategy, with a focus on the consultation on emerging spatial options.

While Warwickshire's predicted treatment gap (the shortfall in treatment capacity to meet minimum landfill diversion targets) can in theory be met by various planning permissions, a framework is needed to cater for potential unmet capacity.

Five spatial options for new facilities have been consulted on, with 60% of responses in favour of Option 5 (“a settlement hierarchy option based on areas of higher population and/or existing waste management capacity”). This option is likely to be taken forward to the next stage of consultation. It is also the best option to address the needs of Coventry in terms of the location of facilities and access to transport routes.

The Partnership noted the presentation

11. Visit to Material Recycling Facility site, Ettington

Members reported on their recent visit to the PURE recycling facility at Ettington. Observations included:

- The grading equipment that separated the waste onto different belts was very impressive
- The extent of the separation it was able to achieve was quite amazing, with only minimal manual separation needed
- There are some issues over whether transporting waste from Maidstone to Ettington is the most environmentally friendly option
- There is debate about whether street-side separation is more efficient versus the cost of this facility
- This is not a new solution; similar technologies have been used in Europe for many years

Officers stated that:

- There is a planning application to Stratford District Council for 24x7 operation at the site. This includes a noise assessment
- While the solution may not be new, the plastics-separation technology is state of the art
- The facility will soon be used as a learning centre for schools to promote recycling awareness

12. Agenda item suggestions for next meeting

Updates from each authority on their waste initiatives (standing item)

13. Confirmation of future meeting dates (Tuesdays, 2:00pm, Shire Hall)

- 27 September 2011
- 6 December 2011
- 6 March 2012

14. Any urgent items

None

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Chair of Partnership

The meeting closed at 4.15pm

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