

**WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at 2pm on 26 June 2012, Shire Hall, Warwick**

**Present:**

**Members**

Councillor Alan Cockburn (Chair)  
Councillor Jim Foster  
Councillor Hayden Phillips  
Councillor Neil Phillips  
Councillor June Tandy  
Councillor John Whitehouse  
Councillor Dr Mark Williams

**Officers**

Brent Davis	Kerry Moore
Sarah Elliott	Olly Scholefield
Graham Folkes-Skinner	Andy Smith
Glenn Fleet	Louise Wall
Richard Maybey	

**Others**

Councillor Barry Lobbett

**1.0 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Lynda Organ, Councillor Ray Sweet (replaced by Councillor June Tandy) and Councillor Jeff Clarke (replaced by Councillor Jim Foster).

**2.0 Disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests**

None.

**3.0 Minutes of the previous meeting, including matters arising**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**4.0 Chair's announcements**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Neil Phillips to the meeting as the new representative from Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council.

**5.0 Review of Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy**

Glenn Fleet introduced the report, highlighting that a 15-year waste management strategy was agreed in 2005. However, Warwickshire's waste volumes have since decreased by around 30,000 tonnes per year and recycling rates have increased (resulting in new targets being agreed). Therefore, the Waste Partnership has agreed to review the strategy and combine it with the waste minimisation strategy – creating one single up-to-date document.

5.1 Councillor Whitehouse asked if the recommendations of the 2011 Residual Waste Task & Finish Group, which were agreed by Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet, would be incorporated within the strategy review – particularly the recommendation about continuing to use multiple technologies. Glenn confirmed that this was now an agreed Council policy, and would be adhered to both within the strategy and any future procurement exercise.

5.2 Councillor June Tandy asked for clarification over the definition of a "zero waste economy" and how the "big society" (paragraph 3.5) would fit within Warwickshire's waste strategy. Glenn stated that there is debate around the definition of zero waste, but Warwickshire's interpretation is that it means avoiding any waste going to landfill. Regarding the "big society", Glenn gave

the example of re-use shops at Household Waste Recycling Centres being run by community groups.

**Resolved**

That the Waste Partnership approves the draft scope for the review of Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy

**6.0 Household Waste Recycling Centre Direct Service Project**

Kerry Moore introduced this report, which provided an update on the project to bring all but one of Warwickshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) under the direct operation of Warwickshire County Council.

- 6.1 Kerry highlighted that recruitment and training of operative and haulage staff has been completed successfully; four re-use shops have been taken over by Warwickshire Community Recycling; two HWRC sites have been taken over fully by Warwickshire Community Recycling; and the implementation of the new opening hours has resulted in only six official complaints.
- 6.2 Noting the reduced traffic and falling waste volumes at HWRCs since the implementation of new opening hours, Councillor Foster asked if there has been any increase in fly tipping. Kerry stated that is no evidence of increased fly tipping, and the reduced waste volumes at HWRCs are mirrored by reduced waste volumes collected by the districts and boroughs. The reasons for this are unclear, but may in part be caused by the economic downturn.
- 6.3 Graham Folkes-Skinner asked if the County Council has any control over the opening hours of the re-use shop at the Cherry Orchard HWRC, as it appeared to be closed on a regular basis – and also if there was any flexibility over the planning restriction that prevents opening over bank holidays. Glenn responded that CAVA are working to recruit more volunteers, which would enable longer opening hours. However, changing the planning restrictions around bank holiday opening would incur a cost.
- 6.4 Councillor Whitehouse asked if the County Council would be assessing the difference in customer satisfaction between community-run sites and Council-run sites. Glenn stated that there would be a small public survey to identify any small changes required at the sites, but also a larger general survey that would be undertaken by the Warwickshire Observatory.
- 6.5 The Chair thanked the Waste Management team for their work on this project.

**Resolved**

That the Waste Partnership notes the updates and achievements of the HWRC Direct Service project

**7.0 Update on Warwickshire Partners' Current and Forthcoming Waste Initiatives**

Each partner authority provided an update on the waste initiatives in their region.

- 7.1 North Warwickshire Borough Council
  - (i) An alternate weekly collection service should be in operation by October 2013, and work is underway to prepare for this

- (ii) Officers are working within schools and the community to promote waste minimisation and increased use of current recycling schemes
  - (iii) Officers are working alongside County Council colleagues to promote food waste minimisation via the Love Food Hate Waste campaign
- 7.2 Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
- (i) The alternate collection scheme, which began in October, is working well
  - (ii) Options are being explored for alternate collections in flats, either as a commingled service (a trial is underway) or a dual-stream service to match the kerbside scheme
  - (iii) A food collection service should be operational in November 2012, prior to which food caddies will need to be bought/distributed; awareness stickers will need to be put on all green bins and an advertising campaign will need to be developed. Green waste collections will be extended to 52 weeks per year to accommodate the additional waste. Stratford District Council stated it had used “luggage labels” on bins to promote food waste collection, however, it advised that large stickers may be more effective
- 7.3 Rugby Borough Council
- (i) Food waste collection is being promoted via community work and stickers on bins (31,000 stickers have been rolled out)
  - (ii) Rogue textile collections are still a major problem
  - (iii) The borough’s own recycling sites are being reviewed, given the availability of other recycling facilities and the increase in fly tipping at these sites. Stratford District Council is also reviewing its sites, and agreed to talk with Rugby colleagues to share knowledge etc
- 7.4 Warwick District Council
- (i) Rogue textile collections are also a major problem in Warwick District
  - (ii) The Council department has been restructured to include parks and open spaces, and has been split into strategic and operational teams
  - (iii) A new waste and recycling contract should be let in April 2013, which may include mixed plastics
  - (iv) Alternate weekly collections have been rolled out to a further 900 properties, and there are now very few properties that can be moved off weekly sack collections due to narrowness of roads
  - (v) Following a trial on 40 complexes, commingled recycling will be rolled out further to flats
  - (vi) Targeted letters are being sent to students to reduce the amount of waste they leave when vacating rental properties. Action 21 is collecting re-usable items, such as kettles and toasters
- 7.5 Stratford District Council
- (i) Following a review of its recycling centres, two have been closed. This is due to the good kerbside recycling provision that residents have
  - (ii) Options are being looked at for a new waste and recycling contract, which could include WEEE and textile collection. Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council offered to share information regarding a recent WEEE collection trial, and stated that WEEE collection banks are well used
  - (iii) Data provided by PURE regarding the contamination of recycling has been inconsistent, so the use of an industry standard is being explored

- 7.6 Warwickshire County Council
- (i) A pre-qualification questionnaire is ready to be distributed for the Recyclables Framework tender
  - (ii) The new digital waste data system requires the contractor to input more data, which will yield more accurate and informative results. Districts and boroughs will be consulted about how they will need to use the system
  - (iii) The street sweepings contract is up and running, and the Waste Management team has been commissioned to perform another tender exercise on behalf of a different group of local authorities

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership notes the work being undertaken in each partner authority

**8.0 Review of Warwickshire's Love Food Hate Waste Christmas Campaign**

Glenn Fleet introduced the report, noting the cost of the campaign was approximately £70,000, but the estimated benefit would equate to around £70,000 per year. This was calculated on the increased number of households participating in food waste collections, which would equate to a reduction in residual waste volumes of around 1,000 tonnes per year.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership notes the progress of the Love Food Hate Waste campaign, and its contribution to the reductions in food waste being produced

**9.0 Full Year Estimated Waste and Recycling Data**

- 9.1 Updated data was circulated to members. Glenn Fleet highlighted an 18kg per household reduction in non-recyclable waste. The overall recycling rate was 1.1% below the previous year, possibly due to economic conditions. The composting rate was also down, however there are fluctuations in the monthly data. Waste sent for energy recovery is down compared to last year, due to existing contracts that commit a certain tonnage into landfill.
- 9.2 Brent Davis noted the WRAP estimate of 120kg of food waste per person (if correct) accounts for around a quarter of all waste produced, therefore there is huge potential to reduce overall waste volumes via food waste minimisation.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership notes the data for Q4 and the full-year estimates

**10.0 Agenda item suggestions for next meeting**

A report on apprenticeship opportunities within waste management

**11.0 Confirmation of future meeting dates**

- 18 September 2012
- 4 December 2012

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Chair

The meeting closed at 3.30pm