

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2013, Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:

Warwickshire County Council

Councillors: Mike Brain
Richard Chattaway
Jeff Clarke (Chair)
Jenny Fradgley
Philip Johnson

Officers: Graeme Fitton – Head of Transport & Highways
Glenn Fleet – Group Manager, Waste Management
Tamalyn Goodwin - Waste Projects Officer
Kerry Moore – Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager
Paul Spencer – Democratic Services Officer

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor Hayden Phillips
John Rhodes – Waste and Transport Manager

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillor Roma Taylor
Brent Davies – Director of Assets and Streetscene

Rugby Borough Council

Sean Lawson - Head of Environmental Services

Stratford on Avon District Council

Olly Scholefield – Streetscene Manager

Warwick District Council

Councillor Dave Shilton
Graham Folkes-Skinner - Waste, Policy and Performance Officer

Other Councillors in attendance

Councillor Keith Kondakor (Warwickshire County Council)

1. Apologies

Councillors Lynda Organ (Stratford on Avon District Council) and Dr Mark Williams (Rugby Borough Council).

2. Disclosures of interests

None.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. A verbal update was provided by John Rhodes on the survey by North Warwickshire Borough Council, to check that larger capacity wheeled bins provided to bigger households previously, were still required.

4. Waste Strategy Update

Glenn Fleet presented a report which reminded of the decision in June 2012, to update key elements of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy and the rationale behind that decision, rather than carrying out a formal review. Since that time, partner authorities had worked together to update the Strategy and the final document was submitted for approval.

An overview was given of the updated Joint Municipal Waste Strategy. Key aspirational targets and the consultation undertaken on the updated draft Strategy were reported, together with the feedback received. The next steps were to seek approval of the updated Strategy and its adoption by partner authorities, publication of the Strategy and production of the Annual Report, all within the next twelve months.

Councillor Dave Shilton spoke about the successes in domestic waste reduction and he asked what could be done to encourage businesses to reduce trade waste. Glenn Fleet responded, explaining the work undertaken to date to encourage small businesses to participate in waste minimisation initiatives. Councillor Shilton asked if the County Council could lobby the Government on this issue. Councillor Richard Chattaway agreed that large companies should be required to look at reducing packaging waste and recycling. The Chair noted the points raised, which he would pursue as the County Council's Portfolio Holder for Corporate Business & Environment.

Brent Davis suggested updating a section of the Strategy about North Warwickshire commencing their alternate weekly collection and this was agreed. With regard to provision of smaller residual waste bins, he commented that this was a matter for each local collection authority to consider and felt the document should be amended to reflect this. Councillor

Kondakor suggested the issue of smaller waste bins for new developments and it was noted this was not presently the policy of some local authorities.

It was confirmed that the target for adoption of the Strategy was January 2014.

Resolved

That the Warwickshire Waste Partnership:

- (1) Approves Warwickshire's updated Municipal Waste Management Strategy (subject to the reported amendments above).
- (2) Authorises the process for adoption of the Strategy by individual partner authorities.
- (3) Publishes the updated Strategy and makes it available on the Warwickshire Waste Partnership webpages

5. Waste Strategy Implementation Plan

It was reported that the Implementation Plan provided detail on the activities to be carried out, in order to meet the objectives and targets within the updated Waste Strategy. The key strategic areas were reported, comprising waste reduction campaigns, improving the re-use of items, recycling and composting activities. Communication and awareness raising, monitoring the carbon impact and solutions for residual waste were further areas, together with commercial recycling, increased partnership working and lobbying. The next stages were approval of the Plan and implementation of the updated Waste Strategy. A schedule was circulated showing each key objective, targets/ actions and indicators for measurement.

There was discussion about "junk mail" and how this could be stopped at source, through the mail preference service or be discouraged through letterbox notices. Provision of a dry recyclable service to those living in flats was a further issue raised and this was being discussed by officers. It was noted that recycling 'bring' facilities were also available, but the Waste Partnership could review proposals to provide a service to those living in flat accommodation.

Reference was made to the recycling initiative to re-use items like furniture and clothing, which were then sold through charity shops. Storage capacity was proving an issue and additional temporary storage had been provided, but was insufficient in some locations. Discussion took place on the potential for additional storage containers, the lack of space at some locations for such storage and the potential to redistribute surplus items to other areas of Warwickshire.

Councillor Chattaway noted there were a lot of actions in the circulated document for the County Council. As Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, he proposed to include this subject on the Committee's work programme, to monitor implementation and to hold officers to account. There was a need to monitor this area closely, given the high costs of waste disposal.

Brent Davis sought an estimate of the amount of officer time that would need to be devoted to achievement of the Implementation Plan. Kerry Moore added that the Plan needed targets and outcomes to determine this and then a steer from the Partnership could be sought on priorities. Councillor Chattaway pursued this, as all the areas listed were desirable, but the officer resources were finite.

Resolved

That Members approve the draft Implementation Plan as submitted.

6 DEFRA views on co-mingled collections and Technical, Environmental and Economic Practicability (TEEP) Report

A report was submitted on anticipated changes to collection requirements for recyclable materials. Guidance was awaited from DEFRA, but uncertainty had been created by a letter from Lord de Mauley, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for natural environment and science to local authorities.

Background was provided on the previous reports to the Partnership, a subsequent judicial review and guidance issued by the European Commission. The interpretation of TEEP was being considered by DEFRA and the publication of their guidance had been delayed as a result. Appended to the report was a copy of the presentation slides from a DEFRA briefing provided to local authorities in June 2013. The key issue was that local authorities had to justify the reasons for co-mingled collection. The letter from Lord de Mauley and one from the Local Government Association (LGA) were also appended to the report.

The implications for the Waste Partnership were reported. Waste collection authorities can continue with co-mingled collections after 1st January 2015, provided that they could demonstrate that their collection system and sorting arrangements were producing high quantities of quality material and that introducing separate collections would either not improve this quality, or it was not practicable to do so.

Obtaining legal advice was discussed. This could either be through the LGA or by the County Council taking the lead for Warwickshire, so that the implications could be considered further by the Partnership. It was established that most district and borough councils had substantial periods remaining on their current collection contracts. The contamination from glass shards in co-mingled collections, its impact on the quality of recyclable materials and the

risk of a legal challenge about the method of collection were further points raised. An opinion was expressed that the quality of output was the key aspect, irrespective of the method of collection. It was suggested, given the uncertainties, that this topic be revisited at the March meeting.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership notes the contents of the report and the views expressed regarding the implications of Technical, Environmental and Economic Practicability, and that this subject is revisited at the Partnership meeting in March.

7. Waste Partners Report

North Warwickshire Borough Council

John Rhodes reported that the collection arrangements allowing food waste mixed with green waste were going well, with no contamination issues to date.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Brent Davies spoke to a circulated report, particularly about the 'Binfo' application for smart phones, which had been well received, with 400 residents now using the application.

Rugby Borough Council

Sean Lawson reported that the recycling 'bring sites' had now been withdrawn totally, due to the fly tipping and other issues raised at the previous meeting. He added that the Borough Council's Household Waste Service Task Group was undertaking a review about the future waste operation.

Warwick District Council

Graham Folkes-Skinner referred to his written report, highlighting the resident survey of perceptions of the local environment and the awaited analysis of results by the Keep Britain Tidy Group.

Stratford District Council

Olly Scholefield spoke to a circulated report. He explained that the bulky waste collection service was being rebranded as a re-use scheme. A review was underway of the communal collection facilities for residents of flats and houses in multiple occupation. Another area being examined was the disposal of some low risk clinical waste, through the residual waste collection service, where this was appropriate and this would realise significant savings.

Warwickshire County Council

Glenn Fleet reported on progress with new County Council tenders for waste disposal. He spoke about the potential income streams from textile recycling, the necessity to comply with European tendering rules, due to the scale of some tenders and work on future disposal facilities.

In response to members' questions, there was further discussion about the future disposal arrangements, particularly the County Council's involvement in a local authority waste disposal company, its board composition, minimum tonnages and the comparative disposal costs. Another aspect raised was the location of an incinerator and travel costs for waste collection authorities to use this incinerator.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership notes the contents of the report and acknowledges the work being undertaken by each partner authority.

8. Waste Data Overview for Quarter 2, 2013/14

The Partnership received the data overview for the second quarter of 2013/14. This included a provisional estimate of waste and recycling figures at both disposal and collection authority level, for the period. Glenn Fleet took the Partnership through the appended data, advising that overall, the waste figures had reduced, but were projected to rise again for the year ahead.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership notes the contents of the report.

9. Any urgent items

None.

The meeting closed at 15:35

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Chair