

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2013, Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:

Warwickshire County Council

Councillors: Mike Brain
Richard Chattaway
Jeff Clarke (Chair)
Jenny Fradgley
John Holland (substitute for Councillor Philip Johnson).

Officers: Glenn Fleet – Group Manager, Waste Management
Tamalyn Goodwin - Waste Projects Officer
Kerry Moore – Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager
Louise Wall – Head of Sustainable Communities
Janet Purcell – Democratic Services Manager

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

Stratford on Avon District Council

Olly Scholefield – Streetscene Manager

Warwick District Council

Nick Gray - Contract Supervisor
Jodie Angold – Sita Education Officer

Other Councillors in attendance

Councillor Philip Johnson (WCC) attended for part of the meeting.

1. Apologies

Councillors Lynda Organ (SDC), Dave Shilton (WDC) and Dr Mark Williams (RBC).

Councillor Phillip Johnson (WCC) had sent his apologies but was able to attend for part of the meeting.

An apology was also submitted on behalf of Richard Dobbs, officer from NWBC.

2. Disclosures of interests

None.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Waste Strategy Update – Review of Objectives and Finalisation of Targets and Indicators for the Waste Strategy update

Glenn Fleet gave a presentation on the current development of the Waste Strategy Update (appended to these minutes). The Partnership had agreed to focus on the two key areas of 'reduce and reuse' and 'recycling and composting'.

The following targets had emerged from the Waste Conference and public consultation and been discussed at the previous meeting:

- 1) Aim to achieve to reduce household waste to **320kg per person**, per year, by the end of the strategy period (2020)
- 2) Aim to achieve countywide recycling and composting targets of **70%** by the end of the strategy period (2020)

The following proposed revised targets were put to the meeting:

- (1) Aim to reduce residual waste to 311kg per household, per year, (NI191) by the end of the strategy period (2020).
- (2) Aim to achieve countywide reuse, recycling and composting targets of 65% (NI192) by the end of the strategy period (2020).

Glenn explained that the revision was proposed as it was estimated that there was potential for reducing residual waste further. There are currently wasted resources (58,000 tonnes at the kerbside, 6,000 tonnes at household waste recycling centres). He anticipated a saving of up to £4.3 million if every item in the grey wheelie bin could be recycled. £682,250 could be achieved in recycling credits alone and there is currently 5,400 tonnes of kerbside

recyclable material arriving at HWRCs. It was recognised that there may need to be some investment in capital infrastructure to assist in this.

It was proposed to target households to minimise waste through a range of initiatives (including composting, reusable nappies and wood chipping) but to also encourage reuse (e.g. of furniture) which in turn creates jobs. The encouragement of home growing also helps to reduce waste, particularly if combined with composting, and reduces packaging. Glenn listed the 'big winners' for recycling for both collection authorities and household waste sites, including recycling of bigger items such as mattresses.

It was recognised that there remained some work to do on marketing initiatives and encouraging changes in behaviours and that there was continuing need to explain the benefits both in savings for the individual but also for councils, the environment and brought social and economic benefits through job creation and raising funds for good causes. The focus at the HWRCs will be to ensure people know what they can recycle, to 'meet and greet' to ensure recyclable items are taken out and an 'open bag' policy so staff can sort items.

The meeting discussed the problem, particularly for those in flats, of storage of recycling containers. This was a concern raised by Councillor Brain but was an issue across the County.

Brent Davies reported that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council had surveyed flats to assess what number and size of containers would be possible and now knew what to provide but there was a capital cost to be met. John Rhodes, North Warwickshire Borough Council, added that this was also the case in North Warwickshire where new containers were required for those who had limited space but there was an initial capital cost that was difficult to meet. Nick Gray advised that this was being tackled in Warwick District.

Councillor Fradgley asked whether encouraging reusable nappies was a realistic proposition and whether there was much to gain. Glenn Fleet explained that, realistically, this was likely to be something that parents may opt to do for part of the time (e.g. whilst at home) and was unlikely to remove the use of disposable nappies for most of the time. The service had found that it was necessary to offer free trial packs to encourage use. This had been done in the past through childrens' centres. Somerset County Council had taken this approach and this had led to an 80% take up.

Councillor Clarke welcomed the approaches set out in the presentation and added that it could be helpful for continual liaison with Public Health on some of the initiatives.

The Partnership agreed the two revised targets set out above. Glenn Fleet explained that the next stage would be to produce the updated strategy. Two tables were circulated. One set out the key objectives (that were already agreed and could not change) with the updated targets and actions. The other

document set out the draft strategy implementation plan which included initiatives, identified lead authorities, measures and targets for each. These would be reflected in the updated strategy for consultation and would be brought back to the Partnership meeting in December.

Resolved

That the following revised targets be agreed.

- (1) Aim to reduce residual waste to 311kg per household, per year, (NI191) by the end of the strategy period (2020).
- (2) Aim to achieve countywide reuse, recycling and composting targets of 65% (NI192) by the end of the strategy period (2020).

5. Waste Partners Report

North Warwickshire Borough Council

John Rhodes reported that from 21 October 2013 the new bin system would start allowing food waste in with green waste. Some 26,000 bins were being rolled out to all households, including providing to flats.

Public communication had been widespread and included meetings with the communities and the feedback had been positive. A survey of homes had been undertaken to identify where there was additional bins. Approximately 1000 additional bins have been issued over the past years and it was proposed to have these removed once the new scheme was implemented.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Brent Davies reported that they were looking at recycling for flats. They had a mobile phone application with information on the recycling service. It was noted that Sarah Elliott, their recycling officer, leaves the council in October and a new officer will be appointed.

Rugby Borough Council

Sean Lawson referred to his written report and explained that it had been necessary to remove the recycling bring sites due to flytipping, contamination and textile bags being taken. He added that the resources freed up from removing the sites will assist in core refuse/bio waste collection which was stretched as a result of new housing units. The move of the tipping point from Ling Hall to Whitely Coventry had also resulted in collection rounds having further to travel.

Warwick District Council

Nick Grey referred to his written report and highlighted the success in moving a further 350 properties to alternate week collection (AWC) making monetary and logistical efficiencies. There is also potential to move some of the collections from flats to AWC.

Stratford District Council

Olly Scholefield reported that the weekly kerbside collection of small items of WEEE, textiles and batteries was going well and invited members to contact him if they wished to see how the vehicles operated. The vehicles have a small cage inside which is put onto a wheeled bin for collection. The vehicle adaptation had involved a small capital cost absorbed by the contractor. The temporary recycling bins in Bancroft Gardens had been well received and helped increase knowledge of recycling. It was envisaged that this would be available for use at temporary events in future.

Olly Scholefield added that there had been an increase in fly tipping across the district since April and that officers were investigating whether there has been a trend across the country. He undertook to report to the next meeting if it appeared there was a widespread problem.

Warwickshire County Council

Kerry Moore reported on the areas listed in the written report. It was noted that the contract for plasterboard was out to tender again. The position on other tenders is as set out in the report. Lower House Farm opened in June and work was going forward with Biffa with the transfer station due to open in December.

The meeting was advised of home composting workshops that were being held for the public (who would be offered free composting bins). Glenn Fleet explained that this was also being run for elected members and asked whether members would welcome this in each district area. It was agreed that sessions be held in each area, with all councillors in the area being invited (including towns and parishes). Councillor Richard Chattaway welcomed this proposal and encouraged members to promote the sessions through their community forums. Partners were invited to let officers know of venues within their area that would be appropriate for composting workshops.

In response to a question from Councillor Jenny Fradgley, Glenn Fleet confirmed that there were composting schemes in schools to reduce waste and also teach children about composting. This was a good way of gaining interest of young people and their parents.

6. Waste Management Statistics for 2012/13

The Partnership received the statistics on waste management which showed the total tonnes of waste and recycling for the county and for each authority and a national comparison.

The following key headlines were noted:

- Overall household recycling and composting has increased from 48.6% in the previous year to 52.5%, due mainly to wet summer weather.
- Total household waste reduced by 592 tonnes in 2012/13
- The amount of household waste sent to landfill reduced by 10,669 tonnes (11.6%) –in part due to inert waste going to reuse.
- Total household waste reduced from 471kg per head of population to 461kg with residual waste decreasing by 22kg per head to 219.5 kg per head.

The report highlighted some variances across authorities but noticeably recycling rates increased in Nuneaton and Bedworth and Warwick. Nuneaton and Bedworth had also seen the largest decrease in total household waste from 393kg to 369kg per head. Warwick had the lowest residual waste per head of population and North Warwickshire the highest.

Municipal waste had also decreased by 1% with a small increase in tonnage sent to energy from waste. Total waste to landfill reduced by over 14% and biodegradable waste totalled 50,763 (within the 75,596 LATS allowance).

Warwickshire has moved from second to top quartile nationally for the percentage of waste reused, recycled and composted. Whilst being in second quartile for performance in relation to energy from waste, household waste landfill, amount of residual household waste (moved up from third) and municipal landfill, Warwickshire is in the bottom quartile for the total amount of waste per head (424.91 kg). However it was noted that there had been an increase in green waste.

Councillor Richard Chattaway asked whether it was possible to see any correlation between investment and results and was advised that this is difficult to measure although officers were aware that areas such as Oxfordshire (which was highest performer) did invest more.

It was agreed that officers would seek to provide some data on 'cost per head' for the next meeting. An indication of possible impact of population change would also be useful for the next meeting.

7. Waste Data Overview for Q1 2013/14

Partners noted the provisional estimates for the first quarter (April-June 2013). This indicated an increase of possibly 1.5% in municipal waste. The meeting noted that the figures should be treated as provisional as data may change

until all authorities data is approved by the EA and DEFRA through the Waste Date Flow System.

10. Any urgent items

None.

The meeting closed at 15:40

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Chair