

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2014, Shire Hall, Warwick

Present:

Warwickshire County Council

Councillors: Richard Chattaway
Jeff Clarke (Chair)
Philip Johnson
Wallace Redford

Officers: Glenn Fleet – Group Manager, Waste Management
Tamalyn Goodwin, Waste Strategy and Commissioning Officer
Ann Mawdsley – Senior Democratic Services Officer
Kerry Moore – Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager
Mark Ryder – Head of Economic Growth

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor Hayden Phillips
Richard Dobbs – Assistant Director (Streetscape)

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillor Neil Phillips
Brent Davies – Director of Assets and Street Services

Rugby Borough Council

Andy Smith – Works Services Manager

Stratford on Avon District Council

Councillor Mike Brain
Tony Perks – Head of Technical Services
Olly Scholefield – Streetscene Manager

Warwick District Council

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

Also in Attendance

Councillor Keith Kondakor

1. Apologies

Councillor 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 18 June 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Government Inquiry into Litter

Andy Smith introduced Sean Lawson's report regarding the call for evidence from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, resulting from Government's recognition of the fly-tipping blight that local authorities had to deal with on a daily basis. He noted that Mark Pawsey, MP for Rugby and Bulkington had expressed an interest in receiving submissions from all local authorities in Warwickshire. Reference was made to a YouTube clip setting out the call for evidence and Andy Smith undertook to share this with the Partnership members.

During the discussion that followed these points were raised:

1. Concern was raised at the short timescales for responding.
2. The following challenges were highlighted
 - The possible link with the high numbers of travellers and fly-tipping of landscaping and tree waste and tarmac.
 - City centres and take-away packaging. There was a broad discussion about the need for additional regulation to enforce food outlets to take more responsibility for their waste. There was a discussion about the possibility of rolling out the practice by MacDonaldis in North Leicestershire, of printing car registrations on receipts. The Chair suggested that members and officers should contact their own local franchise to discuss this.
 - Sixth form colleges and the need to education young people about littering. It was noted that enforcement agencies were not able to take action against young people under the age of 18.
 - Lorry sheeting not done correctly.
3. Highways Agency (HA) had responsibility for mowing verges on trunk roads and District/Borough Councils had responsibility for de-littering trunk roads. It was agreed that working together to ensure these activities were co-ordinated was important, but it was suggested that the responsibility would be better placed with the HA, which had happened in a small number of cases. Richard Dobbs noted that there was some co-ordination between the HA and local authorities, but journey time was the main priority for HA and this made it difficult to co-ordinate.

4. Notices could be served on businesses and private land owners, but not on statutory owners of land such as Network Rail, Ministry of Defence and Crown Land. It was agreed that greater powers were needed to require statutory undertakers to clean their own land. Graham Folkes-Skinner pointed out that this was not always the case and Network Rail was sympathetic to this issue.
5. It was suggested that an officer group should be set up to look at street cleaning, as fly-tippers did not stick to local authority boundaries and local authorities needed to work together to share good practice and information. Graham Folkes-Skinner reported that Warwick District Council had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Environment Agency, and the new area officer was keen to work with local authorities.

Resolved

1. That a response be prepared by Rugby Borough Council, taking into account the suggestions of all the local authorities, which would be emailed to the committee for comment before it was submitted. This did not need to include the data that was already reported through 'Fly Capture'.
2. Councillor Richard Chattaway would explore the possibility of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertaking a task and finish group to look at waste and recycling in greater detail.

5. Trade Waste

Graham Folkes-Skinner introduced the update document which had been circulated to the Committee. Graham highlighted the different approaches to trade waste across the county, and the barriers and potential solutions to improve recycling for Small Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

Kerry Moore highlighted that a trade waste service had been offered for many years at the two HWRC, and that by 5 November 2014 commercial waste would have been introduced at eight of the nine waste recycling centres in Warwickshire, and discussions were taking place with the ninth centre.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were noted:

1. There was a financial benefit from recycled waste, but small businesses faced difficulties in segregating waste in terms of staff to manage the process, limited storage space or limited amounts of some of the waste.
2. It was noted that in Stratford District this service was commissioned out, and it was agreed that this approach was acceptable providing there was a competitive market.
3. Commercial waste that was not separated all went into either landfill or energy from waste. There was some concern that this negated what was being done on recycling for residents.
4. The waste market was difficult to manage, with high variability of price, making it difficult for local authorities to pitch costs. Local authorities also

had to compete against commercial companies who were able to 'cherry-pick' lucrative contracts, and there was a broad discussion about whether it was appropriate for local authorities to focus on areas they were not required to.

5. Richard Dobbs outlined some of the challenges in North Warwickshire, including their limited fleet and the problems with glass collections. He added that they would wait to see the outcomes of the TEEP assessment in North Warwickshire before making any changes or decisions.
6. Concern was raised that businesses were not being encouraged to recycle and it was suggested that this should have a similar focus to residential waste.
7. A suggestion was made that offering incentives for recycling such as a charge for non-recycled waste and free collection of income-generating waste such as paper and cardboard, would encourage businesses to change their behaviour.
8. The issues faced by District/Borough Councils in having the appropriate vehicles to collect recycled waste were acknowledged.
9. The drive for business was cost implications, and it was agreed that if they were required by law to recycle there would be a far greater obligation to do so.

There was a brief discussion about the Separate Collection duty that would come in in January 2015, making it the responsibility of the collection person to extract recyclables on behalf of the client. It was agreed that the issue of trade waste could be included in the task and finish group work referred to in the previous item.

The Committee voted unanimously to hold Item 6. In private session.

6. Wheeled Bin Review

Glenn Fleet introduced the report giving an overview of the current provision and outlined the possible options for the future.

Glenn Fleet invited the District/Borough Councils to contact him if they were interested in participating in any pilots to test possible options.

It was agreed that the District/Borough Councils would hold discussions with their Councils and a further private report would be brought to the Waste Partnership in the summer 2015, following annual meetings, to discuss the way forward.

7. Waste Partners Report

North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC)

Richard Dobbs, Assistant Director (Streetscape) reported that NWBC had engaged a consultant to carry out a TEEP assessment. This would be reported to the Community and Environment Board in October and was expected to be completed by the end of November. He added that this was starting to inform some of their activities.

North Warwickshire's recycling rates were now above the mid-50s, but this had come with a significant cost increase, and the alternative week collection had not delivered the expected savings.

Current activities included a review of their fleet, engaging with businesses on recycling and a review of the containers that were currently being used. The waste analysis carried out by the County had identified a high percentage of paper and cardboard in the residual waste. Consideration was being given to the trialling the introduction of 140l bins for paper/card to see whether this would be beneficial. Discussions would be held with Glenn Fleet to consider options that could finesse the service.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (N&BBC)

Brent Davies, Director of Assets and Streetscene gave a verbal update to the Partnership. He reported that N&BBC would be using the same consultant on the TEEP assessment, which could bring some economies of scale.

In terms of the recycling scheme, the Contracting Department had reported increased levels of contamination (13-16%) with films, plastics and plastic bags, which was an educational issue. They were also finding paper and cardboard in the normal bins, which was dirty and could not then be recycled. Consideration was being given to providing households with a high percentage of paper/cardboard with separate lidded bins.

It was noted that the data feedback was able to identify areas where there were problems and Brent Davies noted that members of his team would be going out with the collection teams to confirm this data.

Rugby Borough Council

Andy Smith introduced his report, included with the agenda. He added that the Recycle in Rugby campaign leaflets were now being delivered.

Warwick District Council

Graham Folkes-Skinner, Waste, Policy and Performance Officer reported that most students were now in residence and a lot of work had been done with both students and landlords.

Stratford District Council

Olly Scholefield – Streetscene Manager updated the Partnership on the new Stratford fleet, and noted that from August 2015 all vehicles would have a 360° camera and in-cab technology, which would improve safety, efficiencies and the recording of rates of recycling and participation. This would enable the collection of more sophisticated information and officers were looking at what benefits they could achieve, including working with South Staffordshire

Council who used this technology. He added that in four to five years this would be standard for all collection vehicles.

Warwickshire County Council

Kerry Moore, Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager reported that consideration was being given to repeating the waste composition. They were looking to go out to tender for delivery in late February to end of March 2015. She asked the District/Boroughs to contact her if there were any problems with them collecting and delivering the waste for analysis as in previous waste sorts.

Kerry Moore updated the Partnership on the recent county nappy service event, noting that there was now a waiting list for the service.

Glenn Fleet reported that Rugby Borough Council had asked if the Household Waste Recycling Centres could be reviewed. It was agreed that the County would bring back a revised report based on the report produced in 2010. All District/Boroughs were invited to participate in this review.

Councillor Dave Shilton congratulated Glenn Fleet and his team for being shortlisted in the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Service Awards 2014 in two categories -Best Public / Public Partnership Working Initiative and Best Service Team Waste Management & Recycling.

Resolved

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

8. Waste Strategic Review Report

Mark Ryder introduced the report presenting the outcome from a strategic waste meeting on opportunities for enhancing performance, customer satisfaction, income and joint working. He outlined the seven proposed work areas that had been agreed at that meeting.

During the discussion that followed, it was noted:

1. There had been a strong focus on operational issues and where economies of scale and consistencies around fleet could be achieved.
2. DEFRA had put a pot of money out for bidding in relation to weekly collections. It was suggested that some pilots discussed earlier in the meeting could be used to bid for this.
3. There was more potential to find efficiencies of scale with fleet maintenance than procurement. It was noted that Coventry was discussing the possibility of a 24/7 workshop and jointly owned spare vehicles and there were potentially large savings to be made with this approach.
4. Moving to standard bin sizes and types could bring savings.

Councillor Shilton recorded his disappointment at not having been informed of this work earlier.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership notes the contents of the report and receives updates on the initiatives as they progress.

9. Waste Management Statistics for 2013

10. Waste Statistics from Quarter 1

Glenn Fleet introduced the reports giving a final overview of waste data for 2013/14 and the waste statistics for Quarter 1 of 2014/15. He highlighted that Warwickshire Partnership was one of the few authorities making an increase in recycling last year in outturn for performance, despite a growth in waste. Although this was only a small increase of 0.9%, the direction of travel was good.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership notes:

- the overall increase in waste during the 2013/14 year and the individual tonnage changes in the various types of waste
- the provisional data for the 1st quarter of 2014/15 – April to June 2014.

11. Dates of future meetings

The dates of future meetings were agreed.

12. Agenda Item suggestions for next meeting

The Committee agreed to receive a TEEP update to the next meeting, including a copy of the final letter.

13. Any urgent items

Glenn Fleet requested that the 18 March 2015 (agreed under Item 11.) be used to hold the Annual Waste Conference. He suggested this could be held at the Stockingford Allotment Pavilion.

Resolved

That the Annual Waste Conference be held on 18 March 2015 at the Stockingford Allotment Pavilion.

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Chair

The meeting closed at 16.05