

## WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

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

#### Present:

##### Warwickshire County Council

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

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

##### North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor Hayden Phillips  
Richard Dobbs – Assistant Director (Streetscape)

##### Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillor Neil Phillips  
Sue Cummine - Waste Reduction and Compliance Officer

##### Rugby Borough Council

Councillor Sally Bragg  
Sean Lawson - Head of Environmental Services

##### Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Councillor Mike Brain  
Tony Perks – Head of Technical Services

##### Warwick District Council

Graham Folkes-Skinner - Waste, Policy and Performance Officer

##### Also in Attendance

Councillor Keith Kondakor

#### 1. Apologies

Councillor Dave Shilton (Warwick District Council) and Brent Davies (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council).

**2. Disclosures of interests**

None.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. Richard Dobbs was invited to give an update on the delivery of the Sub regional strategic Waste group following an officer meeting the previous week. It had been identified that there were areas where cross border / joint working and sharing good practice would be beneficial. Mr Dobbs agreed to circulate the minutes of the meeting and action plan.

**4. To note the appointment of an elected representative for Rugby Borough Council**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sally Bragg following her appointment to the Waste Partnership as the elected representative for Rugby Borough Council.

**5. Government Inquiry into Litter**

Sean Lawson, Head of Environmental Services at Rugby Borough Council spoke to a circulated report regarding the oral evidence session of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee meeting on litter and fly tipping held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The report included an executive summary and responses to the following question areas:

- What problems do litter and fly-tipping create for local communities - is the situation improving or deteriorating?
- How effective are the actions of those responsible for managing waste in the local environment? What more should local councils, the Environment Agency, and Government funded bodies such as WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) do?
- Does the current statute, regulation and guidance set an effective framework to minimise litter and fly-tipping. What, if any, further changes are required?
- What roles do and should the private citizen and campaign and action groups have in tackling litter?

Mr Lawson gave a verbal update. This was a 1 hour question and answer session and it was clear that the MPs were well briefed. Officers were

questioned on the causes of fly tipping and litter, the potential for taxation to deal with issues such as chewing gum and cigarette stub removal. The next oral evidence session was scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> January and would involve representatives from the McDonalds food chain and tobacco manufacturers amongst others. The Select Committee intended to finalise its report before the end of the current Parliament and its findings would be considered after the General Election. Mr Lawson agreed to forward a link to the minutes of the session.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

1. The difficulties of removing litter from the major road network, together with enforcement.
2. Drivers of vehicles that released litter due to their load not being secured properly are committing an offence.
3. Previous joint enforcement exercises have been effective to prosecute those with vehicles that are overladen, not roadworthy or where the load is not secured effectively.
4. There is a Government consultation about the seizure of vehicles, in cases of fly tipping. However, it is understood that seizure powers are already available to local authorities.

### **Resolved**

That the Warwickshire Waste Partnership notes the report.

## **6. Waste Partners' Report**

### North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC)

Richard Dobbs, Assistant Director (Streetscape) gave a verbal update. NWBC had recently received its interim report on the implications of the TEEP regulations, which required the separation of recyclables, unless there were technical, environmental, economic or practical reasons why this could not be achieved. In the New Year, the Borough Council would be renewing most of its refuse collection and recycling fleet, with vehicles that were capable of meeting the changing demands for the collection of recyclable materials. Improving the collection arrangements for waste paper was a particular objective, with an emphasis on educating residents to maximise the quality and value of collected paper.

### Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (N&BBC)

Sue Cummine, Waste Reduction and Compliance Officer reported on a circulated report. The Borough Council was undertaking an audit of recycling activity, to gather information on the amounts and types of materials being

collected for recycling and contamination of recyclables. The survey would run for a period of six weeks.

#### Rugby Borough Council

Sean Lawson presented a report. This gave an update on the promotion of recycling arrangements for apartments and flats in the Borough. Information was being circulated to letting agents, to remind them of their obligations to inform new tenants of the refuse and recycling arrangements and the potential for enforcement action against the agent. Glenn Fleet asked if the same powers were available to the County Council, but this was not the case.

The County Council had funded a 'door stepping' campaign. The feedback from the campaign was positive and Officers from the Borough Council had since followed up requests for further information and replacement / additional recycling bins. A display was planned at Rugby Art Gallery, to promote the 'Recycle Right for Rugby' campaign. A further point was the need to replace bin stickers that advised residents of the recyclable items to be placed in each bin.

#### Warwick District Council

Graham Folkes-Skinner, Waste, Policy and Performance Officer presented the update. Door to door canvassing was taking place in areas where levels of recycling participation were low. Recycling and refuse collection calendars would be circulated before the end of 2014. It was noted that the District Council's Executive was to receive a report on the implications of the TEEP regulations.

#### Stratford District Council

Tony Perks, the District Council's Head of Technical Services, reported on the roll out of Stratford's new waste and recycling collection fleet, planned reviews of bulky waste and communal waste collection arrangements and the circulation of information and kitchen caddies to new residents. Work was being undertaken to produce the authority's assessment in response to the TEEP regulations. Updates were also provided on kerbside collections of recyclables and canvassing as part of the County Council's 'door stepping' initiative. Mr Perks explained that radio advertising was being used to promote recycling. Councillor Jenny Fradgley commented that the Authority's bin stickers were faded and unclear.

#### Warwickshire County Council

Kerry Moore, Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager reported on communication activities, procurement activities and other activities since the

last Waste Partnership meeting. Three sets of radio adverts had been placed, to publicise the commercial waste collection service, to encourage residents to place food waste in the compost bin and to promote recycling at Christmas. Following the earlier comments about bin stickers, she advised that replacements were being bought, which should have stronger adhesive and be longer lasting. It was confirmed that the door stepping campaign had been very successful, there only being one minor complaint to date. The recycling of Christmas trees was discussed and these could be taken to household waste recycling centres or placed in the compost bin.

### **Resolved**

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

## **7. Waste Statistics from Quarter 2, 2014/15**

The Partnership received the provisional waste management data for the second quarter of 2014/15. This included a provisional estimate of waste and recycling figures at both disposal and collection authority level, for the period.

Glenn Fleet, Group Manager, Waste Management at WCC took the Partnership through the report. He advised of the increased levels of recycling, due mainly to the amount of green waste processed. This caused increased processing costs. Levels of residual waste were continuing to fall across Warwickshire. The recycling target of 54% was on target to be achieved. One area of concern was the increased refuse levels collected from the Borough of Rugby. Sean Lawson felt this was due to the additional residential development in the Borough.

With regard to household waste recycling centres (HWRC), it was noted that levels of recycling at the Judkins facility had increased by 17.6%, but performance was still below the comparative level of other centres. Work was ongoing to secure further increases in recycling levels at the centre, with the data being monitored monthly. The financial benefits to the operator of reducing waste going to landfill through increased recycling, were confirmed. Councillor Keith Kondakor commented that wet weather had a positive impact the levels of green waste collected and this could reduce as a result of a dry summer period.

### **Resolved**

That the Waste Partnership notes the contents of the report.

## **8. Progress against targets in Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy**

Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy was updated by the Partnership in December 2013. As part of the update process it was agreed that the Partnership would publish an annual report highlighting progress against the targets in the Strategy.

A copy of the annual report had been submitted, which summarised the progress made to date. Glenn Fleet commented that the Government's target to recycle 50% of waste had already been exceeded, but it was getting harder to secure further increases in the recycling level. A key objective was to encourage residents to place food waste in the compost bin. Mr Fleet also spoke about e-broadcasting as a way of targeting younger residents to change their behaviour and encourage them to recycle. Sean Lawson added that circulation of free newspapers was reducing. Councillor Kondakor welcomed the report and spoke about the need for stretching targets. He made a comparison to recycling arrangements in Wales. It was confirmed that some Welsh authorities only collected the waste bin every three weeks.

### **Resolved**

That the Waste Partnership approves the draft annual report.

## **9. Verbal update - TEEP**

A verbal update was provided by each authority on the implications of the TEEP regulations. These required the separation of certain recyclables, unless there were technical, environmental, economic or practical reasons why this could not be achieved. There were no major issues reported. The district and borough councils were confident that their current arrangements were broadly compliant with the new regulations and no substantial changes were planned to collection methods at this time. In North Warwickshire, work was being undertaken with the operator of a materials recycling facility (MRF) to make some minor changes and this would be monitored by the Council. In future, it would be possible to compare data from different MRFs. For some authorities, the detail of the consultant reports was still being considered, whilst for others they would shortly be submitted to their Cabinet or relevant portfolio holder for sign off. The Environment Agency required that all TEEP assessment reports be submitted to it by the end of March 2015. It was suggested that a report be provided to the June meeting of the Waste Partnership to give an overview of the findings from the TEEP assessments.

### **Resolved**

That the Waste Partnership notes the contents of the report.

## **10. Dates of future meetings**

The dates of future meetings were noted as 18th March (Annual Conference), 17th June, 16th September and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

**11. Agenda Item suggestions for future meetings**

It was noted that the next meeting was the annual conference, which would be held in Nuneaton, the theme for the conference being reuse. It was suggested that a tour of the Judkins HWRC could take place after the conference.

For the June meeting, it was suggested that the agenda include community protection notices (powers for management of waste at premises), the report from the Parliamentary Select Committee on waste and fly tipping and the consultant reports on the each authority's TEEP assessments.

**12. Any urgent items**

None.

.....  
Chair

The meeting closed at 3.05pm