

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2018 at Shire Hall in Warwick

Present:

Warwickshire County Council

Councillors: Richard Chattaway
John Horner
Dave Reilly (Chair)
Andy Wright

Officers: Ben Patel-Sadler – Democratic Services Officer
Ruth Dixon – Waste Compliance Manager
Phil Evans – Head of Community Services
Tamalyn Goodwin – Waste Strategy and Commissioning Officer
Andrew Pau – Waste Management & Partnerships Group Manager

Observers: Councillor Keith Kondakor

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor Margaret Bell
Councillor Les Smith
Richard Dobbs – Assistant Director (Streetscape)

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillor Jill Sheppard
Glen McGrandle

Rugby Borough Council

Dan Green

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Angela Lloyd
Craig Bourne

Warwick District Council

Councillor Moira-Ann Grainger
Katy Wild

1. Apologies

Councillor Mike Brain, Councillor Jenny Fradgley and Councillor Lisa Parker

2. Disclosures of interests

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting, including matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

None

4. Exclusion of Public

Resolved

‘That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for item 5 below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972’.

5. Joint Working Opportunities

Phil Evans – Head of Community Services introduced the report which was the latest in a series of reports presented to the Partnership on this topic and informed the Partnership that some joint working arrangements had been made in relation to collection routes.

Phil Evans stated that at the last meeting officers had tabled a proposed scenario for the waste services across the county based on modelling work carried out by a consultant. The scenario was weekly food waste collections, 3 weekly residual waste collections and chargeable garden waste (dry recycling to remain the same). Discussions were held and some elements of the scenario were subsequently not supported by some of the members of the Waste Partnership.

Members noted that the scenario which had been tabled sought to benefit each member of the Waste Partnership by offering a package of activity that would ensure that savings were distributed evenly throughout the Partnership.

The main difficulty was the delivery of the full scenario across all members of the partnership. Equal efficiency savings for all partners was the primary aim of future joint working arrangements.

The Waste Partnership expressed a view that it would be difficult to agree on a ‘one size fits all’ approach due to the various different current arrangements in place at each district and borough. However, members agreed in theory, that a one system

approach across the county would ultimately deliver efficiency savings. It was the challenges in moving away from current arrangements that were proving difficult.

The implementation of another new system could also prove to be difficult in terms of behaviour changes from members of the public.

Members noted that at this point in time there was no agreed way forwards in terms of a definitive agreement around joint working.

Members noted that the ultimate aim of joint working was to align waste collection and disposal arrangements across the county.

At the previous meeting of the Partnership, it was noted that Rugby Borough Council were the only Warwickshire District/Borough Council currently charging for garden waste collection and were therefore considered as being best placed to test the full modelled scenario. Dan Green committed to following up the discussion with Councillor Lisa Parker (Rugby Borough Council) to seek the views of the RBC Cabinet as to whether there was an appetite to consider a pilot of the other elements of the modelled scenario. The outcome of this discussion would be brought back to a future meeting. Dan Green agreed to make further contact with WCC by 31st July 2018.

Members noted that issues of waste collection and disposal were always sensitive and were often the service which residents judge the success of a local authority on.

The Waste Partnership noted that if no agreement could be formally reached then the current arrangements would not be sustainable in the medium and long-term.

District and Borough representatives informed the meeting that they would discuss this issue further with their respective colleagues and would provide Phil Evans with further information in relation to how joint working opportunities might operate in the future.

Phil Evans informed the Partnership that a pilot of a potential joint working scheme would be tabled at the September 2018 Partnership meeting.

Phil Evans would circulate the report and presentations produced by external consultants (previously presented to the partnership) that outlined the potential scenarios for joint working which would make savings to the Councils and improve service performance.

Resolved

That the Warwickshire Waste Partnership acknowledge the work that has taken place to date regarding joint working opportunities and the potential to make significant shared savings through changes in working practices.

6. Plastic Waste

Ruth Dixon – Waste Compliance Manager introduced the report and informed the Partnership that there were several ways that plastic usage could be reduced within Warwickshire.

The Waste Partnership noted that Warwickshire had seen an increase in the tonnage of recycled plastic during 2017/18 which was positive. Members noted that the Government's 25 year Environment Strategy sought to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by 2042 (this included encouraging producers to take more responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products and rationalising the number of different types of plastic in use).

Members of the Waste Partnership expressed a view that there should be no plastic cups available in local authority buildings.

Andrew Pau – Waste Management & Partnerships Group Manager informed the Partnership that facilities which are able to sort different plastics collected in the same batch can be installed, but they can be expensive. Andrew Pau informed the Panel that simple behavioural changes from the public could further increase the amount of plastic being recycled – the Partnership noted that currently, some residents continued to dispose of plastics in their general waste bins.

Phil Evans – Head of Community Services informed the Partnership that a training event for members of the Partnership concerning plastics and relevant waste information such as current arrangements and other waste campaigns would take place at 13.00 on 12th September 2018.

Resolved

That the Warwickshire Waste Partnership recognises the good recycling services in place for the wide range of plastics in Warwickshire.

7. Schools Recycling

Ruth Dixon – Waste Compliance Manager introduced the report and informed the Partnership that there was currently a significant number of schools in Warwickshire who were receiving recycling collections from their respective local councils.

Members of the Partnership noted that it was not compulsory for schools to sign up with their respective local authority to undertake the collection of their recyclable materials – some schools placed a strong emphasis on recycling whilst others did not. Ruth Dixon informed the Partnership that officers did make efforts to contact schools to talk about the waste campaign offer available.

Resolved

- 1) That the Warwickshire Waste Partnership acknowledge the contents of the report and use the information to facilitate a discussion on schools recycling services; and

- 2) That the Councils work together to try and estimate the tonnages of recycling from schools.

8. Waste Data Overview for Q3 2017-18

The Waste Partnership considered the report and noted the provisional data for the third quarter of 2017/18 – October to December 2017.

9. Waste Data Overview for Q4 2017-18

Andrew Pau – Waste Management & Partnerships Group Manager introduced the report, with the members of the Waste Partnership noting that:

- Although the recycling, composting and reuse estimated rates were down, this was the case for many authorities across the country.
- The recycling/reuse rate was up which was positive.
- The composting rate was down which could be attributed in part, to the green waste charges implemented at Rugby Borough Council.
- The landfill rate had increased.
- Waste going to Energy from waste facilities was down.

After noting the above points, members of the Waste Partnership expressed a view that although there were valid reasons for a decline in performance (different strategies adopted by partners, etc) it would be important for performance to improve going forwards – less waste going to landfill and an increase in food and dry recycling rates specifically.

A discussion took place amongst the Partnership around green waste, where the following points were noted:

- It was possible that charging for the collection of green waste from the kerbside as an isolated service change could lead to an increase in waste going to landfill (with residents choosing not to pay and simply disposing of green waste via their household waste bins) this would impact performance and disposal costs.
- If the Partnership agreed to implement a charge for collecting green waste at the kerbside across the county, then the approach and delivery would need to be coordinated and well planned to take into account any

unintended consequences on cost and performance. Mitigating actions may need to be taken.

- Members acknowledged that additional costs related to waste disposal and collection would never be popular with residents.
- The Waste Partnership acknowledged that the construction of thousands more houses in the county in the coming years would place additional and significant pressures on the existing waste/recycling collection and disposal services.

Members noted that significant events (such as the 2018 World Cup) resulted in a marked increase in the amount of glass and plastic collected across the county.

Andrew Pau – Waste Management & Partnerships Group Manager informed the meeting that on average, each household was producing 1038kg of waste per year. Members noted that the current target of residual waste generated per household in Warwickshire was 311kg per year. This target was unlikely to be achieved, as the current figure stood at 488kg.

In relation to the performance of each district and borough, all members noted their figures for 2017-18. The Partnership acknowledged that differences in collections, geographical differences and differences in residential demographics would result in figures being varied across the county. Specific points raised by members included the excellent recycling figures at Stratford and an increase in household waste at Rugby (most probably due to the implementation of charging for the collection of green waste at the kerbside). Challenges existed in Nuneaton in terms of decreasing their household waste figures. Representatives from Warwick acknowledged the importance of educating the population around the importance of recycling.

The Chair expressed a view that he would like to consider the performance figures in relation to waste as the first agenda item at each subsequent meeting.

It was agreed that performance figures would be brought to each future Partnership meeting for consideration.

The Waste Partnership considered the report and noted the provisional data for the fourth quarter of 2017/18 – January to March 2018 and the provisional data for the year April 2017 to March 2018.

10. Waste Partners Report

Each partner authority provided a written update which was included in the report.

The following specific points were raised by partners in addition to their written submissions:

- Rugby Borough Council was in its second year of charging for the collection and disposal of green waste. Residents had responded reasonably well to the scheme, although some problems had been encountered due to an increase in collections. Rugby would be procuring a new fleet of vehicles during 2019.
- Stratford has commenced preliminary work on their waste collection contract which expires in 4 years.

Resolved

That the Warwickshire Waste Partnership acknowledges the updates on the various waste initiatives taking place in each area since the last partnership meeting in March 2018.

11. Any urgent items

None

12. Agenda item suggestions for next meeting

None

12. Dates of future meetings

The Waste Partnership noted the dates of future meetings:

- 12 September 2018, 2.00 pm, Shire Hall, Warwick
- 19 December, 2018, 2.00pm, Shire Hall, Warwick
- 20 March 2019, 2.00 pm, Shire Hall, Warwick

The meeting closed at 16.10 pm

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Chair