

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2018 at Shire Hall in Warwick

Present:

Warwickshire County Council

Councillors: Jenny Fradgley
John Horner
Bill Olnier
Dave Reilly (Chair)
Andy Wright

Officers: Shirley Round – Interim Democratic Services Officer
Phil Evans – Head of Community Services
Andrew Pau – Waste Management & Partnerships Group Manager
Ruth Dixon – Waste Strategy & Commissioning Manager
Tamalyn Goodwin – Project 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

Richard Shields

Rugby Borough Council

Councillor Lisa Parker
Shaun Barnes

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Tony Perks
Craig Bourne

Warwick District Council

Councillor Moira-Ann Grainger
Gary Charlton

1. Apologies

Councillors Richard Chattaway (substitute Bill Olnier), Jill Sheppard and Mike Brain

2. Disclosures of interests

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting, including matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

None

4. Waste Management in Warwickshire

Andrew Pau, Waste Management and Partnerships Group Manager, gave a presentation to the Partnership (slides appended to these minutes) and a brief discussion was had with Members:-

(1). Collection & Disposal Authority Roles

Members were advised that Warwickshire County Council (WCC) was the Disposal Authority and the District and Borough Councils are the waste collection authorities in Warwickshire.

WCC is responsible for disposal of waste arisings, and works with the Borough and District Councils who are responsible for its collection.

It was acknowledged that changes at the disposal or collection authority can impact the overall cost of the waste service across the County. For example the location of a disposal point can impact on the cost of waste collection. Partners need to work together to keep waste service costs across the County to a minimum.

Some discussion also took place regarding the current market for recyclable materials and the difficulties of recycling certain material types including black plastics. Waste Resources Action Programme has been investigating the use of a blue dye instead of black which could help with the sorting of black plastic and may therefore improve its recycling.

(2). The Waste Hierarchy

The Partnership was advised that, in terms of costs, the cheapest option is to minimise the generation of waste in the first instance. A query was raised on why any material is disposed of to landfill and it was explained that was the only option for some material - for example hazardous waste. There is a cost to recycling, but this is generally less than the cost of disposal to landfill. The collection authorities are currently provided with resource in the form of recycling credit payments per tonne of materials recycled by the disposal authority. This is a payment designed to encourage recycling and reflects that the disposal authority is not meeting the cost of the material being disposed of. It was explained that in some instances the recycling credit did not cover the service cost for the recycling service provided by the Borough or District. However Borough and District Councils can increase their income on top of the credit payment in some instances by selling certain materials such as paper and cardboard in order to gain an income. There was some

movement in the value of recyclate which generally reflected changes in the economy.

A significant cost of disposal is landfill tax, a tax which is paid by the Council for every tonne of waste that is disposed of to landfill. This payment goes to central government. A small amount is then used to provide community group funding for projects.

(3). Household Waste Recycling Centre Provision

The HWRCs around the County are Warwickshire County Council's 'shop front' for the waste service. Members were advised of the products/materials that could be recycled at the centres and also where in the county they are. There had been 1.48 million visits made to the County's HWRC's in 2017/18.

It was acknowledged that there have been some issues recently relating to the temporary closure of some of the sites, largely as a result of plant failure and vehicle breakdowns as well as staff shortages and sickness. It was noted that closing sites was always a last resort and the County Council is working hard to increase the resilience of HWRCs across the County. Funding of the HWRC service impacts the level of service that can be delivered and that there are longstanding issues at some of the sites relating to layout and access arrangements.

A particular issue was raised around operatives advising the public to put potentially recyclable items into the landfill container. This was not ideal and it was agreed that this could damage the public's perception of the service. On occasions with exceptionally high demand, it was noted that recycling was 'sacrificed' to keep a facility from reaching capacity and closing. Members were reassured that this only happened as a last resort.

It was agreed that it was important to use the term Household Waste Recycling Centres, rather than 'tips' or 'dumps', as this properly reflects the service on offer.

(4). Collection Schemes

Members were provided with information showing the different kerbside collection services run in the County by each of the Borough and District Councils.

Currently only Rugby Borough Council are making a charge for the collection of organic waste. Rugby Council's representative stated that the rationale for this was to charge those producing the waste, which should ideally be composted at home in line with the waste hierarchy.

There was some discussion regarding flats recycling and the lack of service for some people who live in flats. The main issue with flats recycling is the lack of accountability which can result in excessive contamination. There was also considered to be differing attitudes relating to waste and recycling.

Options for waste management and recycling in the future would be brought to a future meeting of the Partnership.

(5). Behaviour Change

Richard Dobbs (Assistant Director, Streetscape) presented information to the Partnership on the campaigns and education items that the communications team were currently working on.

It was explained that at present 30% of the waste placed in the kerbside residual waste bin was food waste and that this could be put into the organic or 'green' waste bin. This is a matter of educating the public to change their behaviour in this regard and a series of campaigns and promotional work are underway to do this for example:- Slim Your Bin, In to Win. A promotion to encourage use of compost bins and food digesters is underway and the details shared.

The communications team for Waste Management is 2.5 Full Time Equivalent staff with a small budget for promotion and projects. The Partnership discussed various options to encourage and promote good recycling practice, accepting that changing culture was a long term approach.

Members requested a breakdown of the costs for the campaigns.

It was noted that some of the participation figures for these good campaigns were low and how this could be improved should be looked at.

Richard Dobbs sought members support for all the campaigns and in particular requested that they sign up to the newsletter and the online Slim your Bin campaign and, if using social media, to 'like', 'comment on' and 'share' the social media promotions. It was agreed that the information would be sent to all Borough and District Councils to share with their members to get the message out more widely.

(6) The Future of Waste – Drivers for Change

The Partnership was provided with a number of areas which would have an impact on Waste Management in the medium and longer term. These included:-

- An increase in new and more challenging performance targets
- Changes in technology
- Effects of recycling markets
- Decreases in the level of funding available

There was some discussion with members around market forces and how the Council may be able to gain better/higher financial rewards by being smarter in its business approach.

It was agreed that an understanding, of the challenges going forward at the Waste Collection Authority level faced would be useful. North Warwickshire Borough Council offered to provide such a presentation to a future meeting.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership note the information presented to it on Waste Management and continue to promote and encourage good recycling/composting practice with the public and colleagues.

5. Waste Management Performance Data

The Provisional Waste Management Data for Quarter One 2018/19 was presented to the Partnership which showed that the level of green waste collection had been higher than expected. The recycling, composting and re-use rate compared favourably with the national picture but the aim was to continue to increase this further and to keep residual waste low.

Members expressed concern at the drop in performance in seven of the Household Waste Recycling Centres. It was noted that there were issues regarding the age of some of the plant machinery at the sites and transportation issues and that the locations of the sites are historic and, as the County has grown, some sites required review in terms of capacity and location. Phil Evans, Head of Community Services, advised that it was an area of the service that needed review in relation to the cost of the service, versus the quality of it.

Members suggested that S106 monies could be used to provide new sites given the increases in population resulting from the new development in the County. It was agreed that the members would, for the next meet, seek information from their Councils to see if anything had been included in their Infrastructure Plans in this regard.

The members considered the data relating to the waste collection at a district level and made comments as follows:-

North Warwickshire Borough Council –

- Performance remains steady even though there has been an increase in the level of new development locally
- There is a need to consider how figures can be improved on whilst having reduced resources available.

- The Council may need to consider return to carrying out bin collections at the weekend.

Rugby Borough Council –

- The green bin charge introduction has gone well with 23,000 people signing up
- The residual waste has remained steady which suggests that there could be limited green waste in the residual bin.

Stratford on Avon District Council–

- There has been an increase in composting
- Reduction in residual waste
- Increased income for the District

Warwick District Council–

- The service is doing OK
- Local Household Waste Recycling Centre service performance is more concerning at present

It was agreed that officers would provide some longer term trend data and the kg of residual waste per household for each district.

Resolved

- (1) That the Waste Partnership note the performance data including provisional data for the 1st quarter of 2018-19 (April to June 2018) and a projection for 2018-19
- (2) That Members provide information on any provision for HWRCs contained within the Infrastructure Plans for their districts to the next meeting
- (3) That longer term trend data and the KG of residual waste per household for each WCA will be reported at the next meeting

6. Plastic Waste

The Partnership received a report which provided an overview of the local recycling facilities and corporate waste management within the County Council.

Members requested additional information on the amount of paper purchased by the Council to ascertain whether the percentage recycled was a positive figure.

Rugby Borough Council will seek assistance from Ruth Dixon, Waste Strategy & Commissioning Manager, regarding schemes aimed at a reduction in the use of plastic within the Council.

Warwick District Council had replaced a lot of plastic, but looking to reduce this further and would share a recent report on plastic reduction with the Partners.

Stratford District Council reported that reusable water bottles had been purchased for staff.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership acknowledges the contents of the report and continues to share best practice.

7. Waste Partners Report

The Partnership received a report to update them on the various waste initiatives that each of the authorities was undertaking currently. The following points were highlighted:

North Warwickshire Borough Council - The trial of bags referred to in the report had commenced on 12 September and would be ongoing for the two months to November 2018.

Rugby Borough Council – There has been 23,000 subscriptions to the green bin collection scheme in 2018/19 which is approximately 600 more than in the previous year.

Warwick District Council -

- Tassimo have reported that the trial will not continue, its impact was limited with only 580 participants delivering 836 kg.
- Promotion in schools including explaining the impact of litter on animals.
- Paper to Council to increase the number of litter bins across the district
- There have been a number of extra collections from HMOs
- Rugby continue to provide WDC's enforcement service, concentrating on key areas and the arrangement was considered successful
- Students are returning now so the Council had been trying to engage them in campaigns at the universities and colleges
- The Council have undertaken some small media campaigns with clean up Britain regarding street cleansing of chewing gum and would be happy to share these with Partners

Stratford on Avon District Council – The Council has been promoting their dry recycling services and had made anti-littering a local priority during the tourist season.

Members suggested that fly tipping and the number of prosecutions taken across the County may be a topic of interest for inclusion on the work programme at a future meeting.

Warwickshire County Council – The Council has been in contact with a community group called Rubbish Friends regarding an event taking place at Morrisons in Stratford on Sunday 30th September. (Rubbish Friends have been involved with several community litter picks and promotions).

Members requested that a report be prepared for a future meeting on the Repair Café in Sydenham, Leamington.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership acknowledge the updates on the various waste activities taking place in each area since the last partnership meeting in June 2018 and requested further reports on fly tipping prosecutions and the Repair Café for inclusion on the work programme.

8. Verbal Update

This item had been covered in the presentation slide – ‘The future of waste, drivers for change’ (item 4 (6) above).

9. Exclusion of Public

Resolved

That members of the public need not be excluded from the meeting for item 9 below as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

10. Joint Working Opportunities

Phil Evans, Head of Community Services, reported that he had visited four of the five waste collection authorities with the Chair since the last meeting, to discuss and share challenges within the waste service. The meetings have been productive and have resulted in a number of lines of enquiry specific to each individual waste collection authority.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership note the report.

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:

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

The meeting closed at 4.00pm

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Chair