

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2019 at Shire Hall in Warwick

Present:

Warwickshire County Council

Councillors: Neil Dirveiks
John Horner
Kate Rolfe
Heather Timms (Chair)
Andy Wright

Officers: Ruth Dixon – Waste Strategy & Commissioning Manager
Tamalyn Goodwin – Project Manager
Tom McColgan – Senior Democratic Services Officer
Andrew Pau – Waste Management & Partnerships Group Manager

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Glen McGrandle

Rugby Borough Council

Councillor Howard Roberts
Dan Green
Jim Perkins

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Councillor Ian Shenton
Craig Bourne
Angela Lloyd

Warwick District Council

Councillor David Norris
Gary Charlton

Environment Agency

David Hudson

1. Apologies

Councillors Bell, Smith, Kondakor and Fradgley sent their apologies. Richard Dobbs and John Rhodes also sent their apologies.

2. Disclosures of interests

There were none.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting, including matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Ruth Dixon confirmed that the number of households had been confirmed following the last meeting and were up to date on the provisional performance table.

Andrew Pau stated that a heat map showing expected development across the county had been produced and he would circulate it to members before the next meeting of the partnership.

Andrew Pau stated that the County Council was pulling together information about the previous initiatives around black bag waste at household recycling centres and best practice from other authorities before determining how best to proceed.

Dan Green stated that Rugby was coming to the end of the procurement exercise to secure a provider for a waste app. The app would provide a similar feature set to those already offered by other authorities with push notification reminders for collection days and information about what items go in what bin.

The Chair noted that a collective waste partnership response to the Government's consultations on their waste strategy had been submitted and was available online: <https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cmis5/Calendarofmeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/4641/Committee/594/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

4. Waste Management Performance Data

Andrew Pau presented the performance data report which was a standing item.

In response to Councillor Rolfe, Andrew Pau stated that unfavourable growing conditions over the summer in 2018 led to a decrease in the amount of green waste collected which had caused the decline in composting performance seen in the data.

Councillor Shenton noted that year on year performance was fairly stable at just above 50% recycling, composting and reuse and asked how the partnership was going to reach the 65% target it had aimed to achieve by 2020. Councillor Shenton stated that while it was good to have challenging targets they also needed to be realistically achievable.

The Chair stated 65% was an aspirational target and it was clear that it was not going to be reached. The Chair stated that with the upcoming review of the Warwickshire Waste Strategy and the Government's new waste strategy there was a chance for partners to review internal targets and take a fresh approach to driving up recycling and composting rates.

Councillors Horner and Dirveiks both stated that they supported maintaining a challenging target as the Government's consultations on their new waste strategy

showed that there may be new ways of working around single use plastic and packaging that would drive performance.

Andrew Pau stated that there had been a fall in performance nationally as strategies had matured and some fatigue had set in. Even the best performing authorities were not meeting the Warwickshire targets. Jim Perkins noted that the Government had originally threatened fines for authorities that did not meet the national 50% target for composting, recycling and reuse however the threat of fines had been withdrawn and performance had dropped off.

In response to Councillor Rolfe, Craig Bourne stated that while Stratford did do a lot of work to promote recycling and composting through social media the differential between the district's performance and the Warwickshire average could be largely explained by the size of the average garden in Stratford. Larger gardens in the Stratford area meant that green waste made up a larger proportion of waste collected by the council which increased the recycling, composting and reuse rate.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership note the provisional data for the year 2018-19.

5. Warwickshire Waste Strategy

Ruth Dixon provided an update on the Government's recent consultations. The response submitted on behalf of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership can be found online:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/Calendarofmeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/4641/Committee/594/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

Andrew Pau said the timetable for reviewing the Waste Strategy and targets would align with the expected announcements from Government on the national waste strategy in 2020.

A strategic review of waste is taking place at the County Council. Once complete there may be some actions arising from the review.

In response to Councillor Shenton, Ruth Dixon stated that the County Council carried out an annual composition analysis. This analysis provided a snapshot of residual waste composition and the last analysis had shown that around 50% of the county's residual waste could be re-used, recycled or composted using existing systems either at the site or at the kerbside. Ruth Dixon stated that about 25% of residual waste was food waste which could be collected in green waste bins. Councillor Horner noted that if all waste was correctly disposed of Warwickshire would be able to comfortably achieve the 65% reuse, recycle and composting rate discussed under the previous item.

In response to Councillor Roberts, Ruth Dixon stated that extended producer responsibility would only cover the cost to local authorities of waste correctly disposed of and wouldn't cover the additional cost of clearing illegally disposed of items.

Councillors Fradgley and Shenton both expressed support for extending producer responsibility for packaging to encourage producers to reduce the size and amount of packaging they were using.

Jim Perkins stated that income generated by extended liability charges would not be a reliable source of funding for local authorities; producers would seek to reduce their liability by reducing packaging and thus the amount paid to local authorities would fall. Councillor Horner also stated that if there was an additional levy on producers it would be passed on to consumers which would have a disproportionate impact on low income households; functioning as a regressive tax.

Councillor Norris noted that the idea of a deposit return scheme for plastic bottles had been suggested for a number of years but had never taken off in Britain as it had in other European countries. Councillor Norris asked what the barriers to implementation had been. Andrew Pau responded that there was a very high initial cost to install the infrastructure necessary to run a deposit return scheme which had proved too high a hurdle for previous schemes.

Councillor Rolfe asked if businesses bought into the local authority collection and disposal regimes for commercial waste.

Craig Bourne responded that Stratford Business Improvement District had identified Coventry City Council as its preferred bidder for commercial waste and would be highlighting this to its 400 members. Andrew Pau added that the County dealt with around 5000 tonnes of commercial waste per year which amounted to a very small percentage of the waste produced by Warwickshire businesses. Glen McGrandle also clarified that business had a duty to follow the waste hierarchy when disposing of waste but that they could use any supplier to fulfil these responsibilities.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership note the report and agree the proposed actions and indicative timescales.

Actions

1. Update on National waste strategy to be provided at the next meeting.
2. Update on WCC strategic review to be provided once available.

6. Waste Partners Report

The Chair invited the partners to provide an update of activity in their area.

Rugby

Dan Green stated that Rugby BC had awarded a new two year contract with the option to extend for a maximum of further 2 years to Casepak for the onward transport and processing of recycling. Less favourable market conditions meant that this contract was significantly more expensive than the previous one. Rugby would also shortly begin a programme of education and enforcement aimed at reducing contamination of recyclable materials.

Rugby was continuing with its reorganisation of collection rounds (including trade). Rugby is beginning a consultation with residents around moving to a kerbside only collection regime and so letters had been sent to residents with long driveways or those receiving alley collections. Rugby had also agreed the specification for new vehicles and hoped to be able to purchase vehicles in the near future.

Warwick

Gary Charlton stated that Warwick DC is working with WRAP to look at different collection options including food waste and additional recyclable material. The work would help inform a new waste collection contract. A review of bring sites was also taking place due to fly tipping issues, further updates would be provided once residents have been consulted.

Warwick DC also welcomed Warwick University's commitment to pay for additional waste collection targeting the waste generated by students leaving the Leamington Spa area after term ends. Gary Charlton stated that his team was also working closely with colleagues from across the council to manage the waste generated by events in Warwick and Leamington.

Stratford on Avon

Craig Bourne reported that waste and recycling services had received good feedback from the recent customer satisfaction survey carried out in Stratford. Stratford DC had been visiting local business to remind them of their duty of care and assess their waste provision. Additional enforcement activity had also been taking place around fly tipping with fixed term penalty notices being issued.

Nuneaton & Bedworth

Glen McGrandle stated that 6 new refuse vehicles were in use in the borough and in-cab technology was in the final stages of design and would provide a direct link between vehicles and customer services so information could be easily passed onto customers. Over 17,000 households had subscribed to green waste collection. NBBC had led four community litter pick up events as part of Keep Britain Tidy's Spring Clean campaign. Glen McGrandle also report that after some initial teething problems the enforcement contract with 3GS was now running smoothly.

Warwickshire County Council

Andrew Pau stated that the County Council was persisting with online education campaigns such as the waste newsletter and slim your bin and elected members had also taken up the campaigns promoting them through parish newsletters. The County was also selling home composting equipment at a discounted rate online.

Resolved

That the Waste Partnership acknowledge the updates on the various waste activities taking place in each area since the last partnership meeting in March 2019.

7. Verbal Updates

David Hudson provided an update on the work undertaken by the environment agency in Warwickshire. The Environment Agency was responsible for regulating waste in the county; he noted that Household Waste makes up approximately 15% of all waste with construction waste being the single largest component. David Hudson reported that there were high rates of recycling construction waste and Warwickshire in general was performing well in terms of the amount of illegal waste being dumped in the area.

In response to Councillor Rolfe, David Hudson and Andrew Pau both confirmed that mattresses were difficult to dispose of as they were bulky to transport and there was a limited recycling market which makes them more costly to deal with than other materials. The mattresses were disposed of to landfill currently.

In response to Councillor Norris, Andrew Pau stated that he would welcome producer responsibility being extended to items that are hard to dispose of for example mattresses and carpets.

Councillor Norris stated that elsewhere in the country recycling of construction materials had been encouraged through targeting residents wanting materials for DIY projects rather than just looking to commercial entities and suggested this as an area for Warwickshire to explore in the future.

Councillor Shenton raised concerns about the amount of waste going to incineration especially given the Government's recent announcements concerning emissions and air quality.

Andrew Pau stated that energy recovery through incineration was preferable to landfill in terms of environmental impact and commitments to energy recovery were fairly long term but the County would look to government for a steer about how energy recovery should be approached in the refreshed Warwickshire waste strategy.

8. Any Urgent Items

There were none.

9. Agenda Item Suggestions for Next Meeting

There were none.

10. Dates of Future Meetings

The Waste Partnership noted the dates of future meetings:

- 25 September 2019, 2.00 pm, Shire Hall, Warwick
- 11 December 2019, 2.00 pm, Shire Hall, Warwick
- 18 March 2020, 2.00 pm, Shire Hall, Warwick

The meeting closed at 4 pm

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Chair