

AGENDA ITEM No 3

CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Wednesday 12 December 2007 at Frenchfield Pavilion, Penrith at 1.00 pm.

PRESENT

Mr I Stewart (Chair)

Mr M Holliday – Eden District Council
Mr S Standage – Allerdale Borough Council
Mrs B Woof – South Lakeland District Council

Also in Attendance: -

Mr P Carrigan – Neighbourhood Development Officer, Carlisle
Ms J Carroll – Copeland Borough Council
Mr N Christian – Cumbria County Council
Mr E Davidson – Allerdale Borough Council
Mr R Denby – Cumbria County Council
Ms S Henderson – Environment Agency
Ms B Jones – Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership
Mr M Gardner – Carlisle City Council
Miss M Graham – North West Waste Forum
Mr R Kitchen – South Lakeland District Council
Mr I Laird – Barrow Borough Council
Mr C Pickering – Corporate Director – Client Services, Cumbria County Council
Mr J Shatwell – Environment Agency
Miss K Tye- Cumbria County Council
Mr R Watson – Government Office North West
Mr A Yates – Eden District Council

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr B Metz (Eden District Council), Mr D Roberts (Eden District Council), Mr D Roberts (Barrow Borough Council), Mr G Blackwell (Copeland District Council), Mr R Bloxham (Carlisle City Council), Mr G Harrison and Mrs W Ferry (Cumbria County Council).

11. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mr Stewart declared a personal interest in all items on the Agenda relating to South Lakeland District Council as he was Chair of South Lakeland District Council.

Mrs B Woof declared a personal interest in all items relating to SLDC as she was a Member.

Mr M Holliday declared a personal interest in all items relating to Eden District Council as he was a Member.

Mr S Standage declared a personal interest in all items relating to Allerdale Borough Council as he was a Member.

12. MINUTES

AGREED, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Wednesday 31 October 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

13. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 4 – Cumbria Strategic Partnership

Members asked for clarification regarding how many representatives were needed from the Waste Partnership on the Cumbria Strategic Partnership. It was suggested that the Chair and Vice-Chair represent the Waste Partnership. This would be brought to the next meeting.

Minute 5 – Minutes of Officer Group Meeting

Members highlighted that the previous Minutes needed to be amended so that they read *“Mrs Woof was concerned that South Lakeland’s contract for recycle ended in February 2009 and in order to get a new contract ...”*

Minute 7 – WDA Top Up Funding and WPEG for 2008/09

The Partnership were informed that as the WPEG funding was now appearing as part of the mainstream funding, it could very easily be lost. There was uncertainty over how the funding should be paid to the Districts. The Partnership were briefed that Carlisle’s funding had been paid directly to the District as a support grant.

Members were reminded that as Partners of the CSWP, each District had agreed to pool their funding and agree jointly on how it should be spent. In previous years this funding went directly to the centre, however with changes to the way in which WPEG funding was allocated (directly to Districts) it was important for all Partners to note that this funding would need to be paid from their own WPEG funded budgets. There was a concern that this funding could be lost altogether.

Members asked that their concerns be expressed to the LAA regarding the new method of funding. It was also suggested that each District and the County put their own contribution into the funding and that it be treated separately to any other grant for clarity.

Mrs Woof asked that a letter from the CSWP be sent out to each District explaining the new arrangements and requesting the funding to be sent to the central 'pot' and that each funding amount would be agreed and finalised as in previous years.

14. MINUTES OF OFFICER GROUP MEETING

Ms Jones presented the Partnership with the minutes of the Officer Group meeting held on 7 November 2007 in Penrith. Members noted the minutes and no issues were raised.

15. WASTE STRATEGIC SERVICE PARTNER UPDATE

The Corporate Director – Client Services gave a verbal and confidential update on the situation regarding the Waste Strategic Service Partner.

16. WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Mr Christian, Waste Management Officer gave Members an update regarding Waste Management. The report updated the CSWP on work carried out on a range of issues since the last meeting. Members noted the information on county waste performance statistics as at the end of September 2007 and the performance for the first six months of the existing LAA and plans for the refreshed version.

The Partnership were asked to endorse the Climate Change Strategy relating to waste. The strategy was discussed and Barrow Borough Council were congratulated for receiving a national award for Barrow Park.

Members were informed that Barbara Jones would be leaving the Partnership after two years in her role as CSWP Project Officer to take a position at Allerdale Borough Council. Members expressed their thanks to Barbara for all her hard work and invaluable contribution to the Partnership. They wished her every success in her new role.

Members felt that the post was now well established and **AGREED** that the CSWP Project Officer post be made permanent in future and that the job description be enhanced to reflect the current needs of the post.

It was discussed and **AGREED** that in the first instance the funding for the post should come from the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant.

17. ROTATE SUPPORT FOR RECYCLING REPLACEMENT SCHEME

Ms Jones, CSWP Project Officer gave a verbal update regarding the November meeting with Rotate. A timeframe had been set up for January – March 2008.

Representatives would attend the next Officer Group meeting and a decision was expected in April 2008.

18. FOOD WASTE COLLECTION

The Partnership received a presentation from representatives from WRAP and Eunomia regarding Food Waste Collection on behalf of Eden District Council. The presentation gave a summary of the research carried out in Eden in order to assist officers and members in the understanding of the likely costs and performances of different approaches to the collection of food waste.

Mr Yates stated that he was pleased with the results and felt that the research should be carried out across the county. The research provided members with a list of different collection approaches for food waste. These were to collect on a separate round; to collect mixed with garden waste; to collect alongside dry recyclables and to collect alongside residual waste. Each option was considered in the context of weekly and alternate weekly residual collections. Mr Kitchen thought that there were great advantages to having a commingled garden and food waste collection in South Lakeland. It was highlighted that each method would not necessarily be applicable to each District.

It was discussed that should food waste be mixed with other wastes (e.g. garden waste), the end product would be used differently. Food waste has a higher nutrient content and different structural characteristics to green waste.

Issues regarding transportation of waste and collection facilities were brought up and discussed. It was suggested to trial the collection of food waste from one area in Eden (e.g. Penrith) and transport it to one facility. The results of this would build upon existing research and determine whether this was a practical option. Further discussions would take place regarding this issue at a future meeting.

19. COMMERCIAL WASTE APPRAISAL

The Partnership received a presentation from Barbara Jones, CSWP Project Officer regarding the Commercial Waste Appraisal. Key recommendations and the Executive Summary were distributed for information.

The review of Commercial Waste Services in Cumbria took on 2 stages: service review and the option identification and appraisal. It took into account the issues of LATS allowance costs and costs of each option. A feasibility study would be carried out in each of the Districts regarding commercial waste levels. It was understood that there was no 'one size fits all'. '3B' was suggested as the 'preferred option', to develop commercial waste recycling and to use MBT treatment for residual waste. However, it was agreed that there was need for further discussion and to carry out the feasibility studies in each District.

20. GOVERNMENT OFFICE NORTH WEST UPDATE

Richard Watson, Government Office North West updated the Partnership on issues that had arisen since the last meeting as follows: -

- The North West recycling rates increased at a higher rate, almost 5%, than the national increase of 4% for 2006/07. The Northwest were in 5th place in regional ratings. Allerdale were in the top 10 English districts with the largest percentage decrease in waste total per head.
- The Communities and Local Government consultation process was due to end in December.
- The 2006/07 LATS Review was published. An Operational Review has been carried out with the final report expected in December.
- A separate advisory group had been set up regarding trading. Members included volunteers from different authorities.
- The Environment Agency and WRAP were carrying out work regarding home composting. There were delays as the WRAP representative had left his post.
- There is a proposal to permit five Local Authorities to pilot household financial incentives to improve recycling in the Climate Change Bill currently at committee stage.
- The Waste Infrastructure Development Programme was establishing a PR campaign to develop public awareness of the disposal of residual waste, reducing and recycling efforts and landfill. It would start in January with the second strand of the programme developing a local authority toolkit.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Seminar – Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership – The Next Five Years

Members felt that the seminar was beneficial to the Partnership and added to the unity of the group. The Partnership agreed to continue this format.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were reminded for information that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place as follows: -

Date: Wednesday 23 January 2008

Time: 1.00pm (lunch from 12.30pm)

Venue: Frenchfields Pavillon, Penrith

The meeting ended at 4.30pm