CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on Wednesday 28 May 2008 at 1.00 pm at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Penrith.

PRESENT

Mr R Bloxham - Carlisle City Council
Mr G Nicholson - Eden District Council
Mr S Standage - Allerdale Borough Council
Mr I Stewart - Cumbria County Council
Mrs B Woof - South Lakeland District Council

Also in attendance:-

Mr A Allman - Cumbria County Council
Mr M Battersby - Carlisle City Council
Ms C Bradshaw - Cumbria county Council
Mr M Gardner - Carlisle City Council
Mr G Harrison - Cumbria County Council
Ms S Henderson - Environment Agency
Ms B Jones - Allerdale Borough Council
Mr R Kitchen - South Lakeland District Council
Mr I Laird - Barrow Borough Council
Mr C Moore - Cumbria County Council
Mr A Yates - Eden District Council
Mr R Yeoman - NW Waste Forum

Members welcomed Colin Moore to the meeting who had recently been appointed Interim Director of Client Services.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

AGREED, that Mr R Bloxham be elected Chair of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership for the ensuing year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

AGREED, that Mr I Stewart be elected Vice-Chair of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership for the ensuing year.

3. FOOD WASTE TREATMENT – ITALIAN STYLE
Mr Allman, Waste Prevention Manager, Cumbria County Council gave a presentation on the trip he had made with the Composting Association to Milan, Italy to look at methods of composting and food waste management. Visits had been made to two sites and conclusions had been:

- Composting/AD sites reliant on an efficient segregation system
- Composting on this scale requires a large site area and a market for the huge amount of product
- Energy produced in AD powers the process but little residual for re-sale and digestate still requires further treatment
- EcoDeco plants very clean and look almost new despite a number of years service

Mr Allman explained that the key to determining the right treatment system was to make it suit the locality. The potential for the Natural Energy from Waste system (NEW) was exciting but is this what Cumbria is looking for? He felt that Cumbria was probably looking for a combination of factors and that the technology currently being considered is right for Cumbria. Mr Allman explained that any system of this type could be at least 5-10 years away and whilst it might eliminate some problems it could create others.

Mrs Woof felt that the idea of using biodegradable bags for food waste was very positive and it was AGREED that this could be discussed further at the next meeting. Some discussion followed on the methane extraction that was already being carried out at both Flusco and Hespin Wood. Electricity was also being produced at Hespin Wood.

The general feeling was the methods for food waste treatment were interesting but that there were complexities.

Mr Allman was thanked for a very interesting presentation.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Watson, (Government Office Northwest); Mr D Roberts, Ms M Graham (Mr R Yeoman attending) and Mr E Davidson.

The Chair asked if a letter could be sent to Mr Watson explaining how valuable his attendance was at meetings of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership and asking if he could attend future meetings wherever possible.
5. MINUTES

AGREED, that the minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on 16 April 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

Notes of Seminar

AGREED, that the notes of the seminar held on 5 March 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

Arising from the Minutes

Minutes 50 – Household Waste Recycling Centres – Update

Mrs Woof commented that problems were still occurring in the South Lakes area with opening times at some sites remaining unclear. It was AGREED that an update be provided to the next meeting offering a full explanation of the current position.

6. CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP OFFICERS GROUP

The notes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officers Group held on 9 May 2008 were received.

On paragraph 12.3 it was noted that around £35,000 of WPEG money had been carried forward from the previous year and that there would be further discussions on the use of this at the next meeting of the Officers Group.

On paragraph 14.2 (page 5) was pointed out that the joint meeting to be held with CCRN organisations and the Partnership to explore better ways of working to address Waste minimisation in the County had not yet been arranged. It was AGREED that Mr G Nicholson would establish what progress had been made towards setting up the joint meeting.

7. WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Mr Harrison presented a paper providing an update on work carried out on a range of issues since the last meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership. This included an update on the 2008/11 Local Area Agreement Targets and an update on Envirolink’s work on two significant commercial waste projects in Cumbria. A paper containing the latest Cumbria Household Waste Statistics 2007/08 was tabled.

Mr Harrison announced that in addition to the appointment of Mr Moore as Interim Director of Client Services, Mr Phil Davies had been appointed as project director for the strategic service partner procurement.
The Board also received an update on various matters relating to the contract with Shanks, in particular whether re-cycling should be re-instated in the contract. Mr Harrison said that this was an option for Districts to think again about the recycling element and that he would be grateful for any views on the proposal. Members agreed that this was an important issue that needed to be debated within the officer group with a representative of Shanks in attendance. It was also agreed that this should be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

Consideration was then given to the targets proposed for national indicators 191 and 195. National indicator 191 was residual household waste per household and the targets proposes were:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Target (Kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>830 Kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/9</td>
<td>702 Kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>694 Kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>687 Kg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National indicator 195 was for improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti, litter, detritus and fly posting). Mr Laird circulated a paper containing data on the new NI 195 which had replaced BVPI 199. The paper explained the main differences between the two indicators and the requirements to set targets for the next three years which required work on the current levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting in the County. Work had been carried out by the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officers Group and suggested target values from the Districts together with suggested three year targets were set out in the report. Mr Laird explained that the GONW was seeking confirmation that the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership was in agreement with the figures.

The Chair commented that this was an extremely detailed paper and was concerned that members had not had sufficient time to look in detail at the figures. Target values from the Carlisle District had still to be included in table 2 but given the work that had already been carried out, Members were satisfied that the targets only required final determination and it was agreed that this task could be delegated to the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group. The Chair and Vice also asked to be contacted by e-mail with an assurance that the Officer Group were satisfied that these figures could be achieved.

Mr Harrison then presented the latest Cumbria Household Waste Statistics. Members found the figures extremely encouraging and felt that it was important to be able to release the information to demonstrate Cumbria’s achievements. It was clarified that there was nothing to prevent the statistics from being released and suggested that in future, all papers to the meeting could be marked as embargoed until the close of the meeting at which time the Partnership could determine whether it wished to release certain information.

AGREED, that the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership

(1) note the issues raised in the paper;
(2) the targets suggested for NI 191 be agreed and the targets for NI 195 be agreed in principle with the final determination of targets for NI 195 be delegated to the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group;

(3) the option to re-instate re-cycling in the contract with Shanks be debated within the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group, with a representative of Shanks in attendance, and a report be made back to the next meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership.

8. SCHEDULE 2 WASTE

Ms Jones tabled a paper which provided an update to that circulated with the agenda on work carried out on the re-classification of schedule 2 Waste – the term used for chargeable household waste. This category of waste was generated from camp sites, educational establishments, prisons, charity shops, hospitals and religious establishments and village halls.

Ms Jones explained that a Working Group had been set up to try and establish a consistent classification for household waste and harmonise the way in which a service for schedule 2 waste is provided in Cumbria involving officers from each of the Districts (with the exception of Barrow). Information had been gathered from around the County to compare/contrast the way each waste collection authority writing Cumbria reports and implements a charge for schedule 2 waste. The report reflected the range of differences between the various authorities and likely difficulties in getting a consistent price structure.

Another two meetings of the Working Group were planned with the object of obtaining a consistent approach as the first step.

Members agreed that this had been a very interesting report and looked forward to receiving the final report from the Working Group.

AGREED, that

(1) the progress made on the re-classification of schedule 2 waste be noted;

(2) the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership acknowledge there is an inability to gain a uniformed charging policy with regard to schedule 2 and other waste services either due to variations in collection charging policies currently in place in the districts, and the differences incurred in costs for collections made from rural and urban areas;

(3) Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership acknowledge that the standard weight established to calculate commercial waste as a result of earlier agreement is used to calculate the proportion of

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chargeable household waste (schedule 2) from non chargeable household waste.

9. PROPOSED REFUSE ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

Mr Gardner, Carlisle City Council, explained the reasons for enforcement policies being applied where there was no adherence to the limits being placed on amounts of refuse that could be collected. The application of the legislation to enforce the collection policies had been subject to scrutiny and ridicule by the media, however, enforcement was important and without sensible enforcement of policies waste would undoubtedly increase. Mr Gardner stated that a Waste Enforcement Group was now operating involving the Districts and explained the role of the group and its links with the Environment Agency. It was hoped that funding would become available for a full time waste enforcement officer for the project.

Members supported this approach and some discussion followed on the problems of fly tipping in Cumbria and what measures could be taken by Councils to clamp down on fly tipping. Covert surveillance would be an option but clear legal guidance would be required on what powers existed in relation to prosecutions.

AGREED, that the establishment of the Waste Enforcement Sub-Group be noted.

10. ANNUAL REVIEW

Barbara Jones circulated the Draft Annual Review Report which highlighted the considerable achievements made by the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership over the last 12 months. This was the first draft of the report and members were invited to submit any views prior to the next Officers Group meeting. It was noted that some amendments were required to the page numbering.

AGREED, that the draft version of the Annual Review Report be endorsed and the final version be produced subject to any comments submitted by Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership members.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm.