

Gloucestershire Waste Partnership

1st December 2010

Venue: Environment Training Room, Shire Hall



Notes of meeting

Present

Cllr Stan Waddington (SW) (chair) Tony Childs (TC) Andy Pritchard (AP) Cllr Martin Quaile (MQ) Rachel Capon (RC) Cllr Steve Morgan (SM) David Sutton (DS)	Cllr Mark Tufnell (MT) Ralph Young (RY) Cllr Libby Bird (LB) Cllr Kay Berry (KB) Chris Bosley (CB) Cllr Roger Whyborn (RW)
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Apologies for absence

Rob Bell (RB) Jo Walker (JW) Cllr Jim Mason (JM)	Karen Toole (KT) Carlos Novoth (CN) Roger Garbett (RG)
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1. Notes and actions of last meeting (07.09.10)

- Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be correct.
- TC reported that Staffordshire disposal costs are low due to them having sold their holding in the Local Authority Waste Disposal Co. and fixed their gate fee through this process until 2016. It is likely that there will be a step change increase in their costs after this date.
- Follow up discussions have been held with Recyclebank. No further actions are required at this stage, but Recyclebank options will be considered when the timing is right in the future.
- A response to our letter to MP's has been forwarded from Lord Henley via Neil Carmichael MP. This confirms receipt of the letter.

Action : SW to issue a copy of the letter for circulation to GWP members.

2. Joint Waste Programme update

RY provided a brief overview of progress made since the last GWP meeting. Moving forward, service delivery planning between Cotswold, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury is underway, with a Memorandum of Understanding being agreed for operational service delivery. Governance arrangements are being developed for a target completion date in February. The next SJWB meeting on the 3rd December will include a presentation by Somerset Waste Partnership. RY confirmed that this part of the meeting was open to all interested members and officers.

3. Future Performance Targets

TC gave an overview of the current context of performance targets. It was widely agreed that targets for 2011/12 would be useful. TC proposed that due to the current uncertainties regarding the outcomes of the national waste policy review, local joint working arrangements and future NI requirements we should maintain targets for 2011/12 at their current level and review them next year for 2012/13 onwards.

This was accepted as a sensible approach.

MT asked where Gloucestershire is compared to other authorities. TC outlined our general position as being much improved, and with the new Gloucester and Tewkesbury services it is anticipated that as a county we should be in the second quartile of 2010/11 performance.

Action : TC to present more detail of our relative position in performance terms at the next meeting. CB to feed information on district level performance into this analysis.

4. County Council 'Meeting the Challenge'

SW outlined the current position with the County Councils 'Meeting the Challenge' programme. It was clarified that there are no ring fenced / protected areas, and that some departments would need to manage significant growth pressures within the future budget constraints. The programme will involve centralising waste communications within the corporate centre. CB voiced concern that this could affect the efficiency of communications work. TC stated that we still need to determine how best to organise and deliver future communications activity.

5. Residual Waste Project update

SW provided an update on the status of the Residual Waste Project, which is currently carrying out a strategic review. The withdrawal of PFI credit funding for this project was also reported. Letters are being sent out to stakeholders asking for their views on the future project options. A decision on how to proceed will be made by cabinet in February.

RW reflected that a financial driver to reduce landfill still exists and stressed the importance of avoiding the need to import waste into the county to supply any new facility. SW agreed and reminded GWP that this was already a stipulation. RW also stated that we should be mindful of the great potential for achieving much higher recycling rates in the future, and the sizing of new treatment facilities should take this into account. SW acknowledged this, but highlighted the difficulties in making accurate predictions about future performance and residual tonnages. KB stated that she would not want to see recycling being sent to a residual waste treatment facility. SW confirmed that this was not the purpose of a facility, but that there may be scope for allowing commercial residual waste into the system.

KB asked if Anaerobic Digestion would be considered as a residual waste solution. SW replied that this on its own was not a suitable treatment solution for residual waste, but could be utilised as part of an integrated MBT (Mechanical-Biological Treatment) solution. However it is possible to successfully treat source separated food waste this way.

MT asked how many schemes had their PFI funding withdrawn. SW replied that it was 7.

6. Service Development Updates

Gloucestershire County Council

- 310 people have signed up to the Waste Reduction Challenge Week. Thanks was given to all of the district councils that had helped to deliver this campaign. Over 7,500 children have taken part in the accompanying lunchtime challenge.
- Service change marketing support for Cheltenham Borough Council has commenced.
- Participation monitoring and waste composition analysis have been undertaken. Waste composition results have been circulated, and participation monitoring results are expected to be ready in draft by the middle of December.

Tewkesbury Borough Council

- The new collection service is settling down to deliver a 55% recycling rate. The levels of recyclate contamination are very low, although there is a noted reduction in the amount of food waste being captured. This is a common feature of such schemes.

Cotswold District

- MT reported that the kerbside plastic collection trials demonstrated high levels of participation but there were practical difficulties in unloading materials from the vehicles. It has been decided not to procure new vehicles for this at the present time, but will consider it as part of the new service procurement in 2012.
- RY stated that no more service changes were planned prior to the next contract procurement in 2012. However, an improvement in fleet efficiency will be pursued using vehicle fleet tracking devices. It is anticipated that this will achieve £60k annual savings and a reduction in carbon emissions of 380t. General interest in this was shown by other members in the room.

Action : RY to share further information on this device.

Cheltenham Borough Council

- RW reported that Cheltenham were positive about future joint working arrangements with Tewkesbury and Cotswold. Other issues outlined include;
 - Plastic bottle kerbside collections currently cover 83% of the town, but rolling out to the whole town is proving a logistical and practical challenge.
 - The new garden waste service which starts in February has now been launched. Cheltenham are now ready to receive subscriptions to this new service. There is some concern about the potential for reduced levels of participation in the garden waste scheme.
 - Planning for the new food waste and AWC residual collections is well underway and on target for an April start.

Stroud District

- Discussions on the options for future service development are ongoing with the contractor. It is hoped to be in a position to move forward with

changes during the next financial year. These may be in the form of food waste collections and co-mingled recycling.

Forest of Dean

- MQ reported that cabinet agreed to a new waste collection strategy on the 16th September. This will comprise weekly food waste collections, charged-for garden waste, AWC residual waste & recycling. The next 18 months will be used to maximise community interest in this scheme in preparation for high levels of participation.
- RC is in the process of developing FAQs to support this new strategy and will be seeking to learn from experiences in other districts.
- Work on a high profile textile campaign and schools support are ongoing.
- MT asked if cardboard and additional plastics would feature in the new service. RC replied that this was not affordable in the Forest of Dean, but MQ pointed out that bring banks for these materials were available and that they were capturing quite high tonnages.

Gloucester City

- SM stated that food and improved recycling collections for the cities flats was now underway. It is early days and no results are available yet.
- Sacks have been issued to a number of terraced properties. These will be used for residual waste and will avoid the problems caused by manoeuvring wheelie bins through properties or having them left on narrow pavements.
- DS stated that the recent waste composition analysis showed more work needed to be done to drive up participation in food, paper and card recycling.
- Proposals for introducing a charged-for bulky waste service will be considered by the council in February. It is anticipated that more work will also be done to signpost people to charity collection schemes in order to reduce the amount of bulky waste sent to landfill.
- Proposals for introducing charged-for garden waste collections will also be considered by the Council in February.

LB asked how food waste was being collected in flats. SM stated that this varied depending on the nature of the property, but that kerbside caddies and larger communal bins were generally in use.

Further discussion was held regarding the issues that may affect food waste capture rates. CB stated that Tewkesbury were willing to take part in WRAP research on this issue.

7. Government Consultation on Schedule 2 Waste

AP outlined that DEFRA are consulting on changes to schedule 2 waste charging arrangements. It is proposed that free waste disposal for schedule 2 premises (hospitals, schools prisons etc) will cease next year.

Action: AP to circulate link to DEFRA consultation website.

8. Future GWP meetings

Proposed dates for 2011 meetings will be circulated shortly.

SW suggested that an additional meeting could be held at the end of January to focus on the residual waste project proposals that will be considered by cabinet in February.

Action: AP to circulate proposed dates and confirm with members.