

## Gloucestershire Waste Partnership

9<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Venue: Environment Training Room , Shire Hall



### Notes of meeting

#### Present

Cllr Stan Waddington (SW) (chair) Jo Walker (JW) Tony Childs (TC) Andy Pritchard (AP) Ralph Young (RY) Cllr Mark Tufnell (MT) Roger Garbett (RG)	Cllr Martin Quaile (MQ) Cllr Steve Morgan (SM) David Sutton (DS) Karen Toole (KT) Cllr Jim Mason (JM) Chris Bosley (CB) George Hill (GH)
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#### Apologies for absence

Carlos Novoth (CN) Rob Bell (RB)	Cllr Roger Whyborn (RW) Cllr Libby Bird (LB)
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#### 1. Notes and actions of last meeting (08.12.09)

TC reported that the performance targets for 2011/12 have not yet been decided, but that these will need to be agreed during 2010/11.

**Action: TC to report back to GWP on progress towards agreeing the LAA performance targets.**

RY confirmed that papers for Shadow Joint Waste Board meetings are circulated at least 2 weeks in advance.

AP confirmed that meetings have been held with all GWP partners in order to develop the 2010/11 Joint Strategy action plans. Draft plans have been produced.

#### 2. Shadow Joint Waste Board update

RY presented a brief update on Shadow Joint Waste Board progress.

The Board last met on the 4<sup>th</sup> February and agreed the revised Constitution / Terms of Reference. They also received presentations on the Joint Waste Programme business case and an update on procurement and finance.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> February a members workshop facilitated by WRAP was held. The aim was to better understand the opportunities, benefits, risks and barriers for integrating waste & recycling collection services in Gloucestershire and to address the key issues associated with this.

Common ground was established in a number of areas;

- Joint procurement would offer both financial savings to Councils and improve the customer experience of waste and recycling services by reducing the variation in services provided across Gloucestershire.
- However, the combination of existing contractual commitments and the difficulty of unpicking recent service changes means that a single large joint procurement covering all or most districts appears not currently realistic.
- It would be helpful to establish now a shared view about the future customer experience as a guide to decision making by councils as a prelude to future joint procurements.
- The opportunities for reducing costs by sharing staff and facilities where that is not affected by existing contracts should be explored.

Next steps;

Work on the DEFRA funded work-streams and recruitment of the Programme Manager continues as planned. However, the Programme Team having considered the outcome and feedback from the workshop are scoping a new piece of high-level work to revisit the business case with a view to establishing what could realistically be achieved in the short, medium and long term and the benefits that could be derived. It is hoped that this new work will be presented to the Shadow Joint Waste Board on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. As a consequence, the meeting planned for later today was cancelled.

JM asked that as we will be widening the scope of future benefits assessment, would this be sufficient incentive to persuade all partner authorities to make financial contributions to this process.

RY suggested that we wait and see what the outcome of the study shows.

KT responded by stating that Stroud recognises that they will be paying at some point in the future and understands that they may need to pay in retrospect for benefits received.

### 3. Service Development & Performance updates

TC presented the latest performance data for recycling & composting and for residual waste landfilled.

MQ urged caution on the residual waste data due to the possible effects of the current economic climate.

#### Cheltenham Borough Council

No representatives from CBC were able to attend the meeting. They tendered their apologies and RW provided the following written update which TC presented;

- The main piece of news since our last meeting is that CBC will start collecting plastic bottles from the doorsteps in some areas from cApril19th, with the programme rolling out across the borough through the Spring and Summer. The plan involves reorganising the Swindon Road depot which will save a lot of vehicle mileage, and reduce the

council's carbon footprint by 68 tonnes per year. Members of the public will notice less queuing of vehicles when they visit the recycling centre but the public area of the depot will be moved outside to the open air. Because recycled waste will be taken to the Swindon Road instead of Stoke Orchard, there will be a reduction in the number of lorries carrying recycled waste through the Swindon village and a saving of £27,000 a year will be made.

- The ability to recycle plastic bottles at the kerbside means that with now have the 5 main dry recyclables on kerbside collection, plastic and glass bottles, most card, cans and paper.

### County Council

AP provided the following updates;

- Interim home composting arrangements conclude at the end of March. Sales of home composting bins this year have totalled 3372. Gloucestershire will join the new national support scheme in April. In support of home composting a number of volunteer 'master composters' have been trained across the county. In addition, one-day compost bin sale events are planned for Cheltenham and Tewkesbury during late spring.
- The county council is continuing to evaluate the potential for establishing reuse centres at the HRCs. It was clarified that most sites can only accommodate a modest scale reuse centre, but that the main opportunity would come if Hempsted was to relocate. It could be expected that reuse of serviceable items would contribute 2% to the landfill diversion rates at each site.
- The RFG website is undergoing an audit to determine accessibility by people with visual impairments. This may result in some modifications to the website.
- Campaign plans for Real Nappy week and Home composting week are under development.
- Support of Gloucester City and Tewkesbury Borough service changes in ongoing with a range of awareness raising tactics.
- Residual waste procurement is ongoing with 4 bidders remaining in the process. As each bid is proposing some use of Javelin Park, community forums for residents and businesses in the area are planned.
- HRC opening hours will change on 28<sup>th</sup> March. New year-round opening times will be 9.00am – 6.15pm.
- Pyke Quarry HRC access road is on schedule for completion at the end of March.
- All HRCs are now accepting rigid plastics for recycling.

There was some discussion clarifying the status of compost sales to the public. This will commence soon with a trial at Oak Quarry HRC. There was general support of this, and whilst it is unlikely to be a significant money earner, it will raise the profile of the food waste collection service and demonstrate the benefits of 'closed-loop' recycling. GWP members were interested in how this compost was branded and whether each members logos were being used.

**Action : AP to circulate PDF version of the compost bag design with the minutes.**

DS received clarification on his ability to bulk purchase compost for use on City gardens. TC stated that it possible to obtain a price for bulk purchasing direct from Mark Bennion.

MQ raised the question of whether or not it is possible to process garden waste into compost at the HRCs. This was with reference to some sites in Wales that are said to be doing this. Various reasons as to why this might not be possible were discussed. However, there remained some interest in how sites in Wales were able to do this, and whether or not there was anything we could learn from them.

**Action : MQ to circulate details of which sites in Wales were processing compost to enable officers to follow this up.**

MT questioned whether increased fly-tipping might result from a change in opening hours at the HRCs. TC commented that standardised opening hours should result in less fly-tipping, which traditionally peaks when seasonal openings hours switch between BST and GMT. For waste left at sites gates, operatives will clear this the following morning when the site opens.

#### Cotswold District Council

MT reported on the trial of a new vehicle which was intended to enable collection of all materials on one vehicle. This has proved to be more difficult than anticipated due to very high volumes of cardboard. A further trial later in the year will determine the possibility of collecting plastic bottles at kerbside.

Meanwhile, rezoning of the collection rounds will take place in June. This will bring increased efficiencies to the service.

RY reported on the recent fatality of a Sita crew member. Formal investigations will be ongoing for some time. In the meantime CDC and Sita have been ensuring current operating procedures are robust.

#### Forest of Dean District Council

MQ provided a summary of the recent involvement of the Audit Commission in assessing the status of their contracts. A deed of variation is being undertaken to bring the contracts together. A public consultation will soon be underway (3000 households) which will help to shape any future changes to the waste collection services. In late summer assurance is to be sought that any proposed changes are contractually possible. This will be followed by a cabinet decision to approve any service changes in November.

If accepted by cabinet, preparations for a new collection service will follow (eg vehicle procurement) in readiness for commencing the new service in 2012. A project plan outlining all the above will be produced later in March.

In the meantime officers are continuing to develop a range of waste minimisation initiatives, such as Greencones and textile recycling, all backed up by a programme of education raising.

RG stated that at a recent Health & Safety conference, it was announced that the HSE will be visiting local authorities later this year to assess the status of health & safety liabilities.

#### Gloucester City Council

SM reported on the recent service change undertaken by Gloucester City. The council remain confident that customer satisfaction with the scheme is high. However, it is recognised that there have been some implementation difficulties and that these are being ironed out. In particular, the difference between card and cardboard appears to be difficult to get across to the public. The efforts of front line staff in making the scheme a success were recognised.

A review of the bulky waste service will also be undertaken in the near future.

DS stated that contact centre call rates were very high but were now settling back down to somewhere approaching normal. An additional 5500 recycling boxes have been requested and 80-85 tonnes of food waste per week were being collected. They are currently reflecting on lessons learnt from this scheme change, and are resisting making any public claims of success just yet.

The council have remained steadfast in the message about avoiding the use of caddy liners, but are looking at modifying the scheme in some areas to allow the use of residual waste sacks in place of wheelie bins. The planned roll-out of the scheme to flats is taking place as planned over the coming months.

TC reinforced the message to the whole group to not underestimate the amount of work that is needed when changing services.

#### Stroud District Council

KT provided an update on the position of Stroud District Council. Discussions are ongoing with Veolia in order to develop service ideas and costings, and some progress is being made. It is hoped that this will be sufficiently developed later in the spring in order to engage with members.

Michael Kelly has now left the organisation and is not currently being replaced, so team numbers are consequently reduced.

#### Tewkesbury Borough Council

JM reported that progress towards the new waste collection scheme was on-track for a service change date of 12<sup>th</sup> April. New bins are being delivered to householders and specific flats are being also being addressed. CB added that preferred bidder for the MRF contract will be decided at the end of the

week. A number of areas of financial savings have been identified. These include a reduced fleet size and a large saving on bin prices. Transfer of recyclables will take place at Swindon Road and transfer of food waste will take place at Wingmoor Farm.

TC reported that the Gloucester City Performance Incentive Agreement has been finalised. The Tewkesbury Borough Agreement will be completed soon.

#### 4. Annual Strategy Action Plans for 2010/11

AP reported that draft Joint Strategy Action Plans had been produced by each authority. These required proof reading for consistency prior to distribution and approval.

**Action: AP to circulate Joint Strategy Action Plans to each authority for approval. Once approved, these to be uploaded onto the RFG website. GWP to note this at the next meeting.**

#### 5. Review of impacts of snow on services

JW provided an update on the work of the Adverse Weather Panel. Issues to be addressed include how partners can work together during snow and how resources could be best shared. The panel appreciates that different local arrangements and different specific issues exist.

JW and Highways wish to meet with each district to explore potential opportunities for mutual support, to agree common communications approaches and to share lessons learnt. The following principle points of contact at each authority were agreed;

Martin Quaile	Forest of Dean
Karen Toole	Stroud
Dave Sutton	Gloucester
George Hill	Tewkesbury
Ralph Young	Cotswold
Graham Lewis	Cheltenham (to be confirmed)

#### 6. AOB

There was no any other business.

#### Future Meetings (all in Shire Hall)

Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	Meeting Room 1	2.00–4.00pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2010	Environment Training Room	2.00–4.00pm
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2010	Meeting Room 1	2.00–4.00pm