

# GLoucestershire Waste Partnership

**MINUTES of the meeting of the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership held on Tuesday 14th October, 2014 commencing at 11.00 am at the Council Chamber - Shire Hall, Gloucester.**

**Cheltenham Borough Council**

Cllr Christopher Coleman  
Pat Pratley (officer support)

**Cotswold District Council**

Cllr Sue Coakley  
Cllr David Fowles  
Monica Stephens (officer support)

**Forest Of Dean District Council**

Cllr Martin Quaile  
Peter Hibberd (officer support)

**Gloucester City Council**

Cllr Jim Porter  
Ross Cook (officer support)

**GCC**

Cllr Stan Waddington  
Cllr Ray Theodoulou  
Jo Walker (officer support)

**Stroud District Council**

Cllr Simon Pickering  
Gordon Buchanan (officer)

**Tewkesbury Borough**

Val Garside (officer support)

**Joint Waste Team**

Steve Read  
Scott Williams  
Andy Pritchard  
Rachel Capon  
Roger Smith

**30. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Waddington was asked to take the Chair until the Partnership had considered the proposals at agenda item 5.

**31. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2014 were accepted as a correct record.

The Partnership received information on the following out-standing action:

- a) Bring Sites at local supermarkets – Contact with Tesco locally and at high level had resulted in a noticeable improvement in the environment around the Tetbury site. A meeting with senior representatives of Tesco and the contractor running the sites for Tesco had been arranged to discuss the arrangements which would to be put in place in preparation for the Christmas period when traditionally the banks were more heavily used. The partnership felt that it was still prudent for the suggested letter to be sent to Tesco's senior representatives before the Christmas holiday period.

**Action: Joint Waste Team.**

## **32. COMBINED MEETINGS**

Consideration was given to the proposal to merge the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership and Joint Waste Committee meetings.

It was noted that although the Joint Waste Committee (JWC), being a formal forum was held in public and followed the Access to Information Regulations, arrangements could be made for an informal discussion session to held after each Committee meeting, thus allowing members a chance to share information and ideas.

Confirmation was given that if the proposals were accepted, a formal invitation to both Gloucester City and Stroud District Councils would be made for them to each nominate a co-opted (non-voting) member to the committee.

Having discussed the proposals it was AGREED

That

- a) Following this meeting, separate Gloucestershire Waste Partnership meetings are discontinued.
- b) Gloucester City Council and Stroud District Council are invited to participate, in a non-voting capacity as co-opted members, at future Joint Waste Committee meetings.
- c) Officers be requested to draw up guidelines to cover how the arrangement will work in practice, including consideration of the issues raised by Gloucester City Council, to be presented to the next JWC meeting.
- d) This arrangement will commence at the meeting of the Joint Waste Committee arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and at all meetings thereafter for a period of 12 months, with the process being the subject of review at the Committee's meeting in October 2015.

Members accepted that having agreed to the above proposals Cllr Waddington should remain as the Chairman for the meeting, and that there was no need for the election of a Vice-Chairman to take place.

## **33. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED JOINING FEE FOR STROUD DISTRICT AND GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCILS**

Detailed consideration was given to the issues raised by the view that it was appropriate for new member authorities to contribute on joining at a similar level to that of existing members, with the option to spread payments over three years.

It was accepted that further work was required by the JWT to work with officers from Gloucester and Stroud councils to produce a robust business case for the two remaining authorities to join the formal Committee. This should clearly identify the advantages in terms of shared resources available to all as well as cash savings which could realistically be expected to be achieved, albeit in the longer term.

#### **34. GLOUCESTERSHIRE GREENPOINTS PROJECT**

Members expressed their disappointment over the results of the trial which had not produced the expected outcome of increasing the tonnage of food waste collected.

However it was felt slightly positive in that the scheme had provided a way in which to say thank-you to the committed recyclers.

Although accepting that no further investment should be made into this scheme, members asked that the information provided to residents taking part clearly explain the reasons why the scheme had been closed. Any future projects should focus on motivating rather than incentivising residents to recycle.

#### **35. JAVELIN PARK ENERGY FROM WASTE INCINERATOR**

Members noted that the Secretary of State had recently announced a delay to his decision on the planning appeal. The earliest a decision would be announced now would be 30 November.

Work had continued under the auspices of GCC's Residual Waste Working Group to prepare a report proposing an alternative approach if the UBB project failed.

*Post-meeting note: Shortly after the meeting DCLG announced the decision would be further deferred to on or before 22 December 2014.*

#### **36. FOOD WASTE TREATMENT CONTRACT**

Members were pleased to note that the new contracts for the treatment of food and co-collected garden waste (effective from 1 October 2014) would allow both the production of biogas for electricity generation and a soil conditioner. Mixed food and garden waste from the CDC area would continue to be in-vessel composted at the Rose Hill Farm site at Dymock.

It was confirmed that plastic bags could now be used if wished to line food collection caddies. Once the anaerobic plant had been built and commissioned at Wingmoor, the contractors would seek to recycle any plastic bags removed from the collected food waste.

The need for clear publicity on this issue was emphasised.

### **37. PREMISES WASTE CONTRACT**

Members noted that the review of the GCC premises contract had commenced with the aim of preparing options for the new contract by the summer of 2015.

### **38. PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Performance data on the amounts of different waste collected in the districts over the last four months compared with previous years and against current targets was noted.

Members were disappointed to see an increase in residual waste and the projection that recycling totals would be below target (53%) for 2014/15. It was acknowledged that some of the increase was as a result of growth in the economy and a decline in newspaper readership. These factors were combining to make achieving 50% recycling of quite difficult.

### **39. SERVICE UPDATES**

Information on developments in the various areas of the county was shared with members.

#### **GCC**

Changes to the traffic flow system at Hempsted HRC had been introduced and would be monitored to see if traffic queuing and waiting time reductions were achieved.

#### **Forest of Dean**

A review of the current collection contract had been started with the aim of achieving an improvement in the collections offered at the kerbside while still maintaining VFM; the new contract would start in 2018.

Plastic recycling had been introduced at a number of bring sites across the district (a good geographical spread had been achieved).

The JWT's recycling officer had attended a number of events to promote recycling; good feedback had been received from these events.

#### **Cheltenham**

Following the positive results gained from the three month trial, approval had been given to the permanent introduction of mixed plastic recycling at 12 of the most popular bring sites across the town.

The contract for bulking and sale of materials expired in April 2015. Officers were preparing recommendations for the way forward; UBICO being the preferred option as service provider with the JWT taking on marketing of material.

Consistent guidance documents had been produced across the Cheltenham, Cotswold and Forest of Dean council areas on the requirements for refuse and recycling provision at new developments.

A project to improve the street environment around the St Paul's area by reducing waste had been positively received and had resulted in a noticeable reduction in litter.

### **Cotswold**

Improvements to the facilities offered at bring sites was under consideration. It was hoped that carton recycling could be offered at the kerbside if this could be shown as viable within current financial constraints. The 'Greener Village' initiative sought to work with communities to achieve improvements in their environment. This was being sponsored by UBICO.

### **Gloucester**

Facilities at bring sites were under review. Recycling bins for street litter had been well used in Kings Square. The charge for garden waste collection had remained static but renewal dates would now be aligned to October rather than spread over the year.

It was hoped that a chargeable garden waste paper sack service for hard to reach properties could be introduced in the near future. The trial of kerbside collections of cardboard and cartons in the Longlevens area had been well received. A full review of the waste and recycling services was planned.

### **Stroud**

The new contract due to start in 2016 was recommended (by the Environment Committee) to include a weekly food waste collection, separate garden waste collections, and fortnightly collections of residual waste with the provision of wheelie bins for residents. It was also hoped that recycling facilities for plastic film could be introduced. These proposals would be considered by the Council at its meeting on 6 November.

Following a series of incidents involving cars and collection vehicles and/or operators the county waste health and safety forum (GWASH) would be issuing a press release warning that all further incidents would be reported to the police. The view was expressed that the local Road Safety Partnership may help with driver education in this area.

### **Tewkesbury**

*Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting*

Collection rounds had been reviewed to allow for the equalisation of numbers of properties. The collection of garden waste and assisted collections were the next areas due to be reviewed.

#### **40. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Following the decision taken at agenda item 5 (combining these meetings with meetings of the Joint Waste Committee) it was noted that no future dates were required.

Members took the opportunity to record their thanks to Cllr Waddington for his active support and chairmanship since the Partnership's establishment in 2013.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**