

GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting of the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership held on Wednesday 31st July, 2013 commencing at 1.00 pm at the Members' Room - Shire Hall, Gloucester.

Attendance:

Cheltenham Borough Council

Cllr Steve Jordan
Jane Griffiths

GCC

Cllr Stan Waddington
Cllr Ray Theodoulou

Cotswold District Council

Cllr David Fowles
Claire Locke

Stroud District Council

Cllr Simon Pickering
Ray Figg

Forest Of Dean District Council

Cllr Martin Quaile
Peter Hibberd

Tewkesbury Borough

Cllr Jim Mason
Julie Davies

Gloucester City Council

Cllr Sajid Patel
Gordon Buchanan

Joint Waste Team

Steve Read
Tony Childs

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman of the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership, Councillor Stan Waddington, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from: Councillors Roger Whyborn, (Cheltenham Borough Council); Ross Cook, (Gloucester City Council); Jo Walker, (Gloucestershire County Council), and Andy Pritchard and Scott Williams of the Joint Waste Team.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership meeting on 7 March 2013 were confirmed and agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

4. ACTIONS

The Chairman gave an update on the actions from the previous meeting and confirmed that the following actions had been completed: -

- 1) The action plans for the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy had been agreed, and would be published on the Recycle for Gloucestershire website at www.recycleforgloucestershire.com.
- 2) The collection and disposal of waste in adverse weather conditions would be added to the work plan for consideration at a future meeting. (Please note item 9 of the agenda).

5. JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

In 2008, the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership (GWP) adopted the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS), setting out the county's objectives and targets from which to deliver sustainable waste management and diversion of waste from landfill for the period up to 2020.

In adopting the strategy, the GWP agreed the following targets: -

- a) To increase the county recycling and composting rate to 60 per cent by 2020, and
- b) To reduce residual waste per capita to 228kg (equivalent to 495kg per household) by the same year.

Tony Childs, from the Joint Waste Team, gave a verbal update on the actions in achieving the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy targets. Referring to the attached data performance sheet, he informed members that the county had come along way in reaching the agreed targets, but that there was still a significant amount of work to do to increase the recycling and composting rate from 48 to 60 per cent.

6. PRESENTATION: ROADMAP TO 60 PER CENT

Tony Childs, from the Joint Waste Team, gave an update on the objectives set out in the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) to reduce landfill in Gloucestershire and to increase recycling to 60 per cent.

The following points were made during the presentation: -

- a) At the reporting of information at this meeting, the recycling and composting rate for Gloucestershire had increased to 48 per cent;
- b) Good progress had been made during the early stages of the work undertaken to reduce landfill;
- c) Steady progress continues;
- d) To achieve a 60 per cent recycling, it will be necessary to remove a further 30,000 tonnes of material from landfill into recycling in Gloucestershire;
- e) Several members questioned the decision to measure performance based on reductions in recycling and composting, whilst other members considered how well this measurement met with targets to reduce total waste across the county;
- f) Concerns were raised about the disparities in reductions between rural and urban locations;

- g) The Joint Waste Team would be looking at alternative models to take the target from 48 to 60 per cent;
- h) Members considered whether the current target was possibly a bridge too far and whether the council should consider other targets?
- i) Other options suggested at the meeting included: Cash for Clothes Initiatives; Commercial recycling involving working with supermarkets; Involvement with schools and colleges; supermarket reward schemes; encouraging more home composting;

Throughout the discussion, members acknowledged the need for intensive marketing from which to convey key messages to the local community. Head of Service, Steve Read, stressed the need for greater consistency and suggested the county set its own targets rather than measuring performance against statutory ones. He informed members that there was very little government financial support at present, and that central government generally looked to local authorities to progress the situation.

Councillor Martin Quaile highlighted concerns about fly tipping and said that he was staggered by the amount of fly tipping occurring in the Forest of Dean. As a growing concern and conscious of issues in particular areas, it was suggested that the matter be added to the list of suggested items for consideration at future meetings.

Action by – Joanne Moore

Throughout the discussion, the overarching view was that, whilst useful to have targets from which to measure progress and performance, now was the time to consider adopting a different approach with those members of the public who may be detached from the recycling process. One member questioned why the partnership concentrated on reducing landfill, when it might be more appropriate to consider energy saving initiatives. Another member believed a more meaningful message was required from which to educate the public. It was agreed that whatever marketing tools were used, the channels of communication needed to be easy to interpret and relevant.

7. PROCUREMENT OPTIONS FOR THE TREATMENT OF FOOD AND GARDEN WASTE

Steve Read, Head of Service for the Joint Waste Team, presented information on the procurement options for the treatment of food and garden waste collections in Gloucestershire. The Head of Service informed the committee that the council's current contract for the treatment of food and mixed food/garden waste was due to run out in September 2014. As part of the formal renewal process for the contract, the Joint Waste Team had been called upon to provide a steer to the county council on the various options for the contract. Retaining overall responsibility for the procurement of this service, Gloucestershire County Council was responsible for making the final decision.

In seeking the committee's views, the Head of Service outlined some of the factors the council would need to take into account, including the need to:-

- a) Divert biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) from landfill;
- b) Ensure value for money;
- c) Provide an environmentally sustainable solution from which to respond to the effects of climate change;
- d) Provide a mechanism for the continual improvement of the service;
- e) Ensure the service was available from the start-date of the contract;
- f) Was legally compliant, and
- g) Provided an affordable solution for the management of food and co-mingled food and garden waste in Gloucestershire

The Head of Service outlined proposals relating to i) In-Vessel Composting and ii) Anaerobic Digestion. He informed members that in presenting the information at this meeting enabled him to explain the two stage evaluation process from which the council could make its decision. The first stage included a detailed overview of the recommendations, (to be considered by the Joint Waste Committee at the following meeting), whilst the second stage was to delegate authority to make any amendments to the recommendations.

The Head of Service informed the committee that the proposals had been considered at the Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 23 July 2013, and feedback would inform the recommendations to the GCC Cabinet meeting in September.

The recommendations to the Joint Waste Committee were to: -

- a) Endorse the food and garden waste procurement strategy to deliver treatment capacity (in-vessel composting and/or anaerobic digestion) for food and co-mingled food and garden waste; and,
- b) Endorse the evaluation framework and propose a preferred approach to Gloucestershire County Council to commence procurement and invite tenders for the treatment of food and co-mingled food and garden waste.

A full and in-depth discussion ensued, during which the following points were made:

- a) More encouragement should be given to home composting
- b) A market exists for both options
- c) A short term proposal would allow the council to review its contract in 3 to 4 years time
- d) It was suggested that it might be useful to consider joint working with sewage companies

The Head of Service noted the request to inform the Partnership of the Joint Waste Committee's decision, and said that he would be willing to visit Stroud District Council if it was felt it might be useful to repeat the presentation. Alternatively, he could circulate the cabinet report to partnership members to advise them of the recommendations. **Action by - Head of Service**

8. SERVICE UPDATES

Due to the premature ending of the meeting, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Due to the premature ending of the meeting, no other business was considered at this meeting.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

Following concerns about the overrunning of Gloucestershire Waste Partnership meeting to allow the Joint Waste Committee meeting to proceed, it was suggested that a review of the arrangements for both meetings be made, including a proposal that the first meeting take place mid morning, followed by a short refreshment break before commencing the second meeting the same day. It was agreed that Jo Moore from Democratic Services would circulate an email to all representatives to establish the preferred arrangements. **Action by - Democratic Services Unit**

The suggestions put forward as possible items for consideration at future meetings included: -

- a) Review Terms of Reference
- b) GreenPoint Scheme
- c) Adverse weather conditions

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates were suggested as possible dates for meetings of the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership and Joint Waste Committee for the remainder of the year and during 2014:-

22 October 2013
19 December 2013
11 February 2014
17 April 2014
10 June 2014

CHAIRPERSON

Meeting concluded at 14.15 pm