

## Staffordshire Local Government Association

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2017 AT CIVIC CENTRE, CANNOCK

Present:

#### **Cannock Chase District Council**

Cllr. J. Preece  
Mr. J. Presland

#### **Stafford Borough Council**

Cllr. F. Finlay  
Mr. H. Thomas

#### **East Staffordshire Borough Council**

Mr. P. Farrer  
Cllr. D. Leese

#### **Staffordshire County Council**

Cllr. Mrs. G. Heath  
Mr. C. Jones  
Mr. C. Thomson

#### **Lichfield District Council**

Cllr. I. Eadie  
Mr. N. Harris  
Mr. R. King

#### **Staffordshire Moorlands District Council**

Mr. K. Parker  
Mrs. J. Redfern

#### **Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council**

Cllr. T. Johnson  
Mr. A. Bird

#### **Stoke-on-Trent City Council**

Cllr. A. Dutton  
Ms. C. Gibbs

#### **South Staffordshire District Council**

Cllr. Mrs. M. Bond (Chairman)  
Mrs. J. Smith

#### **Tamworth Borough Council**

Mr. A. Barratt

**Also in attendance:** Ms. K Cocks (Waste Partnership Manager); Mr. J. Lindop (Staffordshire County Council)

**Apologies:** Cllr. A. Forrester (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council); Cllr. Mrs. J. Goodall (Tamworth Borough Council); Mr. D. Heywood (South Staffordshire District Council); Mr. S. Khan (East Staffordshire Borough Council); Cllr. A. Munday (Stoke-on-Trent City Council)

## **PART ONE**

### **Minutes**

27. **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **Matters Arising**

28. With regard to minute Nos. 16 and 17, East Staffordshire Borough Council's Environment Manager informed them that although the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group had not yet concluded their discussions as to how anticipated future deficit positions in the Partnership's Income/Expenditure Account could be addressed, he hoped to be able to report back to the Board in this respect at their next meeting.

With regard to Minute No. 19 (b), the Waste Partnership Manager clarified that data relating to waste contamination rates was already included in the usual Strategic Waste Management Action Plan - Performance Reports made to the Board. Also, highlighting contamination rates separately would present certain technical difficulties and could result in misleading comparisons being made between Districts/Boroughs.

### **Strategic Waste Management Action Plan – Performance Report (schedule 2)**

29. The Board considered a report of the Chairman of the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group regarding progress made towards delivery of the Strategic Waste Management Action Plan during Quarter 2 2017/18.

In presenting the report, the Waste Partnership Manager highlighted that the relevant data from Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council was not yet available. However, from the information which had been received, performance under (i) N191: Residual Household Waste Collected per Household and (ii) % Household Waste Sent for Recycling had improved when compared to the previous quarter, with most Councils having collected less waste and sent more for recycling.

However, with regard to (i) N192: % of Household Waste Sent for Re-use, Recycling or Composting and (ii) % Household Waste Sent for Composting, performance had been less encouraging with only Tamworth Borough Council and Cannock Chase District Council maintaining or improving on their results for Quarter 1.

An officer representative of the County Council referred to the European Union Directive 2008/98/EC on Waste (Waste Framework Directive) which required that all Member States achieved a 50% household waste recycling target by 2020 and informed them that the Partnership were currently recycling approximately 49% of all household waste they collected.

Discussion ensued on how information in the report should be presented in the future. The Member representative of Cannock Chase District Council asked whether performance under the various National Indicators could be quoted in weight rather than in percentage terms. However, the Waste Partnership Manager said that the statistics were provided by Waste Data Flow and therefore limited to what they made available. The officer representative from Tamworth Borough Council also commented on the difficulties in comparing data between Authorities owing to differing assumptions made by each during the recording process. Trends over time rather than raw data gave more meaningful management information.

The Waste Partnership Manager circulated additional information regarding the level of fly-tipping which had occurred in the County since 2015/16 (attached at Appendix 1 to the signed minutes), for information and note.

An officer representative of the County Council referred to the discussions which had occurred at meetings of the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group regarding fly-tipping and said that future publicity campaigns run by his Authority would supplement the valuable work already being undertaken by District/Borough Councils.

30. **RESOLVED** – That the report be received and noted.

### **Joint Waste Projects - Update** (Schedule 3)

31. The Board received progress reports in respect of the following projects from the Staffordshire Waste Partnership Manager:-

- (i) Legal Dispute;
- (ii) Noise Policy;
- (iii) Fly-Tipping Approach and;
- (iv) Strategy Post 2020;
- (v) Transport Officers Group

During her presentation of the report, the Waste Partnership Manager informed them that although the legal dispute was currently on-going, it was hoped that a settlement would be reached in the very near future.

With regard to (ii) above, the meeting which had been called to look into the possibility of adopting a Partnership-wide policy had been poorly attended and therefore the project had been shelved until further notice.

The Transport Officers' Group were to meet in January 2018 at Hako Limited's (manufacturers of industrial cleaning equipment) headquarters, Crick, Northamptonshire where officers were to be given a tour of the factory and a demonstration of new equipment.

32. **RESOLVED** – That the report be received and noted.

### **Holistic Savings for Waste**

33. The Board received an oral report from the Waste Partnership Manager setting out the current position with regard to the Holistic Savings for Waste Project.

Following the presentation given at the previous meeting of the Board, the final report on the results of the further consultancy which had been undertaken on behalf of the Partnership to model potential green and food waste options in Staffordshire had been finalised and circulated to all Partners.

According to the Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP's) existing eligibility criteria, Staffordshire were not now entitled to receive further funding to support of this project. However, there was a possibility of support being made available from the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs in the future and she undertook to keep the Board informed of developments in this respect, as necessary.

34. **RESOLVED** – That the report be received and noted.

### **Staffordshire Waste Partnership – Future Plans**

35. The Board received an oral update from representatives of the County Council regarding the requirements of the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in respect of waste services.

The MTFS 2015-2019 had originally identified savings amounting to £1.5m. However, at the meeting of the Board in October 2015, the County Council had agreed that this target be deferred pending the identification of holistic savings in waste services across Staffordshire and taking into consideration the reduction in payment of Green Waste Recycling Credits during the period to 2019/20 to the level of the Retail Price Index.

The Member representative of the County Council confirmed that the position with regard to the original MTFS savings targets and Green Waste Recycling Credits had not changed since publication of the recent Position Statement. However, the County Council's Commissioner for the Connected and Sustainable County clarified that additional efficiency savings amounting to £600,000 were included in the draft refreshed Strategy 2018-23 to be considered by the Authority at their meeting in February 2018.

In the discussion which ensued Members sought clarification of the proposals, specifically on how they might impact on the provision of Household Waste Centres (HRWCs) in the County. The Director outlined some of the methodology for the review being undertaken and referred to the significant challenges in identifying the savings required. Whilst HRWCs were included, closing sites would not necessarily lead to a reduction in costs. However, he said that no decisions had yet been made and all options were currently open.

The Chairman then asked Partner Authorities to share their views in respect of the recommendations set out in the final report from the Holistic Savings for Waste project, as follows:-

- South Staffordshire District Council – Feedback from Members had been mixed regarding the introduction of a chargeable green waste service. However, whilst no decision had been made and many questions were still to be answered, a report was to be submitted to Informal Cabinet for the Authority to look favourably on the implementation of a new charging scheme.
- Cannock Chase District Council – The Authority’s position had not changed since the previous meeting of the Board in that they were not agreeable to implementing either weekly food waste collections or a chargeable green waste service at this time.
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – The Authority’s position had not changed since the previous meeting of the Board in that they were not agreeable to implementing either weekly food waste collections or a chargeable green waste service at this time.
- Lichfield District Council – The Authority were implementing a chargeable green waste service in January 2018 in collaboration with Tamworth Borough Council. To date approximately 6,000 residents had signed up to receive the new service.
- Stafford Borough Council – Whilst mindful of the need to make holistic savings, the Authority’s Cabinet had decided that they were not in favour of implementing a chargeable green waste service at this time.
- East Staffordshire Borough Council – The Authority’s position had not changed since the previous meeting of the Board in that they were not agreeable to implementing either weekly food waste collections or a chargeable green waste service at this time owing to a manifesto pledge. However, elections were to be held to the Borough Council in 2019, the controlling party were considering removing the pledge from their new manifesto and therefore the issue might receive further consideration in due course.
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council - The implementation of a chargeable green waste service had been deferred until the new financial year.

36. **RESOLVED** – That the report be received and noted.

### **Green Waste Recycling Credits - Update**

37. The Board received a PowerPoint presentation (slides attached as Appendix 2 to the signed minutes of the meeting) from the Waste Partnership Manager updating them on the current position with regard to the payment of Green Waste Recycling Credits (GWRC) in Staffordshire.

During her presentation, the Waste Partnership Manager referred to (i) the progress which had been made to date in terms of identifying significant holistic financial

savings in waste; (ii) the outcome of a meeting of Staffordshire Waste Directors which had been held on 13 November 2018 to discuss various issues including the financial savings targets within the County Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and future payment of GWRC to Waste Collection Authorities; (iii) the outcome of meetings of the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group on 21 November and 11 December 2018 who had been tasked with modelling new calculation methodologies for the payment of GWRC and decide on a preferable option for the Partnership and; (iv) the proposed way forward.

The County Council's Director of Economy Infrastructure and skills sought the views of the Board regarding the process and timeframe for reaching agreement on the future payment of Credits having regard to the dates of forthcoming meetings of (i) the Board; (ii) Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group; (iii) Chief Executives' Group and; (iv) Leaders' Groups and the need to have agreed a way forward by the end of March 2018 at the latest.

During the full and wide ranging discussion which ensued, Members expressed their view that any new arrangements for the payment of Credits should be equitable to all Partners, simple to administer and sustainable given the level of financial savings required. They also emphasised the importance of the role of the board in the decision making process and were concerned that a settlement should not be imposed.

Further concern was expressed by Partner representatives regarding the impact of any reduction in the payment of Green Waste Recycling Credits on Waste Collection Authorities. They also said that reducing Credits was at odds with previous statements by the Board that there should be no cost shunting between partners during their identification of financial savings. However, the Member representative of Lichfield District Council referred to the limited options available to the Partnership for achieving savings..

38. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the presentation be received and noted.

(b) That further discussion on the future payment of Green Waste Recycling Credits be undertaken by the Directors' Group with a view to a report and recommendation on a mutually acceptable way forward being brought to the Board before the end of March 2018, for approval.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

39. **RESOLVED** – That a further meeting of the Board be held in early March 2018 on a date, time to be arranged at County Buildings, Stafford.

**CHAIRMAN**