

Staffordshire Local Government Association

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON 21 JUNE 2018 AT DISTRICT COUNCIL HOUSE, LICHFIELD

Present:

Cannock Chase District Council

Cllr. J. Preece
Mr. J. Presland

Stafford Borough Council

Cllr. F. Finlay
Mr. P. Gammon

East Staffordshire Borough Council

Mr. P. Farrer
Mr. S. Khan
Cllr. D. Leese

Staffordshire County Council

Mr. T. Cooper
Cllr. M. Deaville
Cllr. Mrs. G. Heath
Miss. R. Melvin
Mr. C. Thomson

Lichfield District Council

Mr. N. Harris
Mr. R. King
Cllr. D. Leytham

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Mr. K. Parker

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Mr. A. Bird

Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Cllr. A. Dutton
Mr. D. Parton

South Staffordshire District Council

Cllr. Mrs. M. Bond (Chairman)
Mr. M. Jenkinson
Mrs. D. Roberts

Tamworth Borough Council

Mr. A. Barratt

Also in attendance: Mrs. K Buck (Waste Partnership Manager); Mr. J. Lindop (Staffordshire County Council)

Apologies: Mr. B. Brockbank (Stoke-on-Trent City Council); Cllr. A. Forester (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council); Cllr. T. Johnson (Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council)

PART ONE

Welcome and Introductions

1. The Chairman welcomed the meeting to District Council House, Lichfield and asked Members and Officers to introduce themselves in turn.

They noted that the County Council's new representative was Mr. M. Deaville whose portfolio now included Waste. However, the meeting was also attended by Mrs. G. Heath, the Authority's former Member representative, owing to her knowledge of and experience in the matters included on the Agenda.

Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

2. **RESOLVED** – (a) That Mrs. M. Bond be appointed Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year up to their annual meeting in June 2019.

(b) That Mr. D. Leytham be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year up to their annual meeting in June 2019.

Minutes

3. **RESOLVED** – That, subject to the deletion of (i) Mr. S. Khan's name from the list of apologies and; (ii) "and his Council's support for the implementation of a chargeable garden waste service" from the third paragraph on page nine, the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Garden Waste Recycling Credits

4. The Board discussed the future arrangements with regard to the payment of Green Waste Recycling Credits (GWRC) by Staffordshire County Council to District/Borough Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) in Staffordshire.

Following discussion by the Board at their meeting on 8 March 2018, Partners had pledged to assist the County Council in achieving their £2m p/a savings target from the Waste Disposal Budget from 2019/20 onwards. However, whilst the County Council had proposed a phased reduction of GWRCs over the two year period 2019/20 and 2020/21, the Board were of the view that these new arrangements should be implemented over a four year period ie 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 to enable them to make appropriate adjustments in their own Medium term Financial Strategies.

The matter had been discussed at a meeting of the Staffordshire Leaders and Chief Executives' Group on 12 April 2018 at which agreement was reached for a four year phased delivery of savings. The Leader of the County Council had subsequently written to all WCAs on 5 June 2018 to confirm these new arrangements setting out the levels of GWRC to be paid.

The County Council's former Member representative expressed her view that further discussion on this matter was not required at this stage having regard to the agreement reached by the SL&CHG. She said that the Board should instead focus on (i) implementation of the current Joint Municipal Waste Strategy and; (ii) the development of a refreshed strategy for the period post 2020. She also referred to the importance of waste minimisation in meeting the various national and international targets which had been set.

In reply, the Chairman acknowledged the points which had been made by the Member. However, it was important for the Board to note the agreement reached by Leaders and Chief Executives having regard to the extensive work they had previously undertaken to find significant holistic financial savings in waste.

An officer representative of Lichfield District Council sought clarification of the timeframe covered by the Agreement with his Authority and Tamworth Borough Council who, unlike other Staffordshire District/Borough Councils, were implementing a chargeable green waste collection service. He had understood that only the level of credit for 2019/20 (ie year 1) had been agreed with these authorities rather than for the four year period up to (but not including) 2024. In reply the County Council's Member representative said that a collective agreement had been reached for the four years with all Staffordshire Authorities and stressed the importance of consistency between Partners in this respect. However, the lower level of credit to be paid to Lichfield and Tamworth reflected their new charging policy since it was important local taxpayers were not, in effect, being charged twice for the same service.

The Member representative of Cannock Chase District Council commented that the figures quoted in the above-mentioned letter had not been agreed at the meeting of SL&CHG in April but had been published at the time of the letter. Furthermore, there was little incentive for WCAs to maintain green waste collections given the values which had been quoted. He went on to question whether there was sufficient disposal capacity in the residual waste stream to deal with a potential increase in tonnages from either the introduction of charging for Green Waste collections or the discontinuation of collections should they become financially unviable for WCAs.

The County Council's Member representative spoke of his future role on the Board which he said was to move forward in partnership with the WCAs in a spirit of co-operation in order to deliver positive outcomes for residents of Staffordshire. Furthermore, he was confident he could achieve this with the goodwill of all concerned.

The County Council's former Member representative acknowledged that whilst charging for green waste collections might have led to a reduction in recycling rates, the severe financial pressures being faced by Partners meant that significant holistic financial savings in waste were required and the options for achieving these were limited. The Officer representative of Tamworth Borough Council commented on the implementation of his Authority's new charging policy in terms of communication, marketing and the impact on the volume of waste collected.

An officer representative of the County Council said that he would clarify whether green waste tonnages collected at Household Recycling Centres were included in the quarterly statistics reported to the Board. Whilst there had been issues with the operation of the current contract he hoped that these had now been resolved.

The officer representative of East Staffordshire Borough Council sought clarification of rates quoted in the County Council's letter to his Authority particularly having regard to the gate fee under their current contract which was higher than the year four credit fee.

5. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the agreement reached by the Staffordshire Leaders' and Chief Executives' Group at their meeting on 12 April 2018 in respect of the future payment of Green Waste Recycling Credits by Staffordshire County Council to Waste Collection Authorities, be noted.

(b) That Staffordshire Authorities re-affirm their commitment to joint working in respect of waste matters in the future for the benefit of the residents of the County.

Strategic Waste Management Action Plan – Performance Report (schedule 1)

5. The Board considered an oral report of the Waste Partnership Manager regarding progress made towards delivery of the Strategic Waste Management Action Plan during 2017/18. Copies of the relevant data spreadsheets (Appendix 1 to the signed minutes) were circulated around the table during the meeting.

During her report, the Waste Partnership Manager informed them that the figures for Quarter 4 had not yet been verified and might therefore be subject to minor change. However, since their previous meeting the data for Quarter 3 had been confirmed.

From the information which had been received, performance under (i) N191: Residual Household Waste Collected per Household had been mixed. Six Partner Authorities had increased the quantity (by kg) of waste collected whilst four Authorities (including the one Waste Collection Authority) had collected less when compared to the previous quarter. With regard to N192: % Household Waste Sent for Reuse Recycling or composting, the position had worsened when compared to the previous quarter, with all Councils (apart from Staffordshire County Council who had not yet supplied the required information) having re-directed less waste as a percentage of the total collected

However, Members noted that that according to the figures for “% Household Waste Sent for Recycling”, most Authorities had improved their performance when compared to the previous quarter. With regard to “% household waste sent for composting” significant reductions had been experienced by all Authorities who had supplied the required information, owing to the adverse weather conditions which had been experience during the quarter.

In the discussion which ensued, the Board had regard to the various international national and local targets for waste minimisation and treatment comparing these to current Partnership performance. It was recognised that although progress continued to be a cause for concern, performance was better than had been anticipated.

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

Joint Waste Projects - Update

7. The Board received an oral report from the Waste Partnership Manager setting out the progress which had been made in the following Partnership projects and potential projects:-

- (i) Waste Transport Officers' Group
- (ii) Legal Dispute;
- (iii) Bulky electrical waste collection service;
- (iv) Waste and Resources Action Programme Workshop.

In addition, the Waste Partnership Manager explained that she had received an approach by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and High Peak Borough Council for paid project support. The matter had been discussed at a meeting of the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group who had given their approval subject to the commission not impacting adversely on the work of the Partnership.

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

Fly Tipping

9. The Board received an oral joint report from the Chairman and Waste Partnership Manager regarding fly tipping in the County and the impact of the policy of charging for certain non-household waste at Staffordshire Household Waste Recycling Centres.

The Chairman explained that she had attended a meeting of the County Council's Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee on 4 April 2018 in order to share her experience and any lessons learned since the introduction of the charges in 2017. She informed the Committee that initially Members of the Board had disagreed with the policy on principle owing to concerns that it would lead to an increase in fly tipping. Also, there had been a lack of consultation and communication on the proposals which had resulted in misleading headlines in the local press. In practice, whilst Household Waste Recycling Centres were the responsibility of the County Council, customer services teams at District and Borough Councils had been inundated with complaints from the public regarding the charging scheme.

With regard to the impact of the policy, the Chairman informed them that owing to changes in the method of recording of incidents in May 2016, the evidence supporting a correlation between the policy and fly tipping rates was inconclusive. However, there had been no evidence of an increase in the volume of non-household waste in the residual waste stream.

The County Council's former Member representative on the Board commented that the Committee had given robust scrutiny to the operation of the charging policy and had made recommendations regarding improving communication and publicity which had subsequently been taken on board by the Authority. The County Council's Member representative added that he recognised the importance of effective communication and welcomed the contribution of the Board in ensuring that all Partners and the public were kept updated on policy options under consideration and changes to be implemented, as necessary.

Discussion then ensued on recent cases of fly tipping in Staffordshire Districts and Boroughs and the additional measures that could be employed to help reduce or prevent further issues from occurring. The officer representative of Tamworth Borough Council suggested an approach to the Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the availability of funding for publicity campaigns in respect of fly-tipping and the Member representative of Lichfield District Council emphasised the importance of producing such material in languages other than English.

10. **RESOLVED** – That the oral report be received and noted.

Joint Municipal Waste Strategy Post 2020

11. The Board received a joint presentation from the Waste Partnership Manager and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's Head of Recycling and Fleet Services on the preparation of a Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Strategy post 2020 ie when the existing Strategy was to end (PowerPoint slides attached at Appendix 2 to the signed minutes).

During their presentation the Waste Partnership Manager and Head of Recycling and Fleet Services highlighted (i) some of the history to the existing Strategy; (ii) post 2020 proposals; (iii) the legal and other requirements of the Strategy and its preparation; (iv) the progress which had already been made to date; (v) timescales; (vi) the future of resources management/industry news; (vii) the European Union's Circular Economy Package; (viii) national and international future targets for waste and recycling; (ix) direct charging schemes; (x) deposit return schemes; (xi) producer compliance schemes and; (xii) extended producer responsibility post product life cycle draft options.

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

(b) That work continues on the preparation of a draft Joint Municipal Waste Strategy post 2020 having regard to the various international and national targets, legislation and developments in the waste industry, as necessary, for publication by the end of 2019.

Date of Next Meeting

13. **RESOLVED** – That a further meeting of the Board be held on Thursday 20 September 2018 at 10.30 am, Veolia Energy Recovery Facility, Four Ashes.

CHAIRMAN